



PHOTO: STAR

A large number of visitors throng the Book Fair on the Bangla Academy premises yesterday, the day being weekend (right) and Prof Anisuzzaman opening the fortnight-long Ekushey Programmes of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote by releasing balloons at the Central Shaheed Minar.

DAB allegedly rules admission process 162 students get question sheets in advance?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Serious irregularities have been alleged in the process of admission in post-graduate courses in five medical colleges.

According to sources, 3,600 eligible students competed for 216 seats for admission in Master of Surgery (MS) and Doctor of Medicine (MD) courses in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Salimullah medical colleges.

But the ruling party-backed Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) allegedly gave a list of 162 students, who are its supporters, for admission. These students were also supplied with question sheets (multiple choice) in advance so that they could prepare well for the admission test, it is alleged.

The admission test was earlier scheduled to be held on January 25, but the date was shifted to February 1.

Many of the students alleged that the merit list on the basis of the test results was not a properly prepared one. "We want transparency. If required, we will go to court to fight such political game centring medical education," one student said.

The admission test for MS course was held at Begum Badrunessa College and that for MD course at the

Engineering University. The results were scanned by computer at the office of the principal of Dhaka Medical College (DMC) and published the same day.

When contacted, Chairman of the Post-Graduate Admission Committee Prof Tofael Ahmed brushed aside the allegations. He said, "I don't think there was any scope for any irregularities. In fact, to avoid irregularities, we averted manual checking. And how can this happen when we had more than one hundred professors from different medical colleges as invigilators?"

Prof Tofael, who is Principal of DMC, went on, "I had telephone calls from many ministers, secretaries and officials making special requests for admission, but I did not entertain those. To maintain absolute transparency, we had formed a five-member committee comprising principals of different medical colleges. They reviewed the merit list and all other things."

Asked about the change of date and alleged supply of question sheets, he said, "I had decided to shift the date as we did not have the examination halls ready and also had less than the than the required number of invigilators."

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Ekushey fair draws huge crowd

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The month-long Ekushey Book Fair at the Bangla Academy drew a large crowd yesterday.

Hordes of bookworms and visitors flocked to the fair venue, as yesterday was the weekend.

As many as 109 new books, including those by President Dr AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, Dr. Emajuddin Ahmad, Shamsur Rahman, Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Emdadul Haq Milon and Editor of the Ajker Kagaj Kazi Shahed Ahmed, arrived at the fair yesterday.

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Showcause notices on bureaucrats Discrimination raises questions

ZAYADUL AHSAN

The government is likely to be taken to court for its latest move to discipline or fire a section of the bureaucrats on charge of joining the Janatar Mancha organised by the Awami League back in 1996 to topple the BNP government.

The government recently filed departmental cases against 185 officials and served for show-cause notices upon 164 of them for the second time, asking them why they should not be dismissed or discharged.

Three hundred such officials are likely to be dismissed or discharged as per a government decision based on reports filed by an intelligence agency, Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and BNP's unofficial headquarters Hawa Bhaban, sources said. Again, their reports were prepared on the basis of old newspaper reports and videotapes.

But secretariat sources said the list was erroneous. A few officials were first served with show-cause notices under the Government Servants (order and appeal) Regulations, 1985, which allows victims to seek legal aid. Others were given similar notices under the

Government Officials (Special Actions) Ordinance, 1979 that has no such scope.

As the 1979 ordinance was never passed by the parliament, government employees term it 'a black law' that contradicts Article 27 of the constitution. Article 27 says, "All citizens are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of law."

The officials, accused of joining the Janatar Mancha, are planning to challenge the 1979 ordinance. Some of them have already consulted a legal firm and are currently preparing a draft petition.

Meanwhile, the accused officials have officially raised questions about whether some secretaries have the legal and moral rights to serve show-cause notices on them. They said the secretaries themselves participated in the Janatar Mancha, or the anti-government movement, so to say.

They also termed the government move discriminatory.

Secretariat sources said some of the 164 officials served with show-cause notices have already died or retired or did not exist at all.

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Bangladesh Business Awards 2001 today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Business Awards 2001 will be announced today at a function at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the city.

The Daily Star and DHL Worldwide Express introduced the annual awards last year to recognise the contribution of the business community towards the country's development.

The awards are given in three categories -- Business Person of the Year, Outstanding Woman in Business and Enterprise of the year. Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman will give away the awards at 7.00 pm at the ballroom of the hotel.

Through these awards The Daily Star and the DHL hope to create an environment of excellence and competitiveness which will drive the members of the business community to achieve greater heights of productivity, efficiency, financial discipline and modern manage-

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A tribute to the language martyrs

Bus-truck collision kills 11 in Savar

UNB, Savar

At least 11 people were killed and 24 others injured in a road accident on Nabinagar-Kaliakoir highway near BKSP in Savar early yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred when a night coach from Chapainawabganj collided head on with a fish-laden truck at Baroipara at about 5:15 in the morning, killing five on the spot.

Local people and police rescued the injured people and sent them to Savar Gonoshashthya Hospital and other hospitals and clinics.

Of the injured, two succumbed to their injuries at Gonoshashthya Hospital, two at Tangail Kumudini General Hospital, one on way to Savar and another at Rabeya Clinic at Savar.

Two of the dead were identified as Rezaul Hossain, 40, and Aleya Begum, 35, of Baroghoria in Chapainawabganj. They died at Kumudini Hospital.

Nine bodies were brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue.

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