

### SSC exams Govt plans to remove flaws in grading system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering reforming the grading system in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations in the wake of various flaws in the system, key education ministry officials told a seminar yesterday.

The grading system, introduced in the SSC examinations in 2001 in place of numeric evaluation system, remained non-updated since then.

"There are some problems in the grading system but we will continue with the system by bringing about necessary changes," Education Minister Dr. Osman Farruk said at a seminar.

The seminar titled, "Secondary Education Sector Improvement Project (SESIP)", was organised by the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHSE) in collaboration with the Cambridge Education Consultants Limited (CEC) and held at the Bangladesh SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## US ready to act alone 'within 4-5 months'

### Iraq yet to yield over arms inspection issue

REUTERS, Washington

US President George W Bush made clear on Saturday he would act against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein with or without world support, and was said to be ready to strike within four or five months.

Iraq showed little sign of yielding over the issue of UN arms inspectors, with Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz saying they could return only under a comprehensive deal that would prevent a US attack and lift crippling 12-year-old UN sanctions.

At the United Nations, Arab ministers urged Iraq to avert an attack by complying with UN resolutions calling for arms inspectors to ensure that Baghdad is not developing nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

But the ministers said Arab countries remained opposed to any threats to attack a fellow Arab country, and German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said Berlin too was deeply skeptical of any plan for military action.

Bush, hosting Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi for talks at his Camp David retreat, told reporters Saddam was guilty of serial defiance of UN resolutions.

"He has defied the United Nations 16 times. Not once, not twice, 16 times, he has defied the UN," said Bush, who this week challenged the world body to

enforce its resolutions on Iraqi disarmament. "Enough is enough."

Bush said the United Nations deserved "another chance to prove its relevance" and "show some backbone", but he added:

"Make no mistake about it, if we (the United States) have to deal with the problem, we'll deal with it."

Following his talks with Bush, Berlusconi predicted action would be taken against Iraq early next year if Baghdad continued to bar UN weapons inspectors.

Berlusconi said he had told Bush that Saddam was "a pragmatic man" who, rather than risk a US attack, would give into demands that arms inspectors return to Baghdad.

"However, if I should be proved wrong tomorrow and Iraq does not comply with the UN... then I think one can think in terms of (action) in January or February," Berlusconi said.

In Baghdad, Aziz told a news conference that Iraq was ready for a solution that maintained its sovereignty, dignity and legitimate rights and prevented aggression.

But he said Iraq would bar inspectors if "there is no honest, balanced and credible formula that will take us to the truth."

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### Unscheduled debate over summoning JS session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday had an hour-long unscheduled debate over the validity of the very summoning of the session.

The question of legitimacy of summoning the current autumn session of the House surfaced as Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, who until recently was the acting president, summoned the session as president.

Rising on a point of order, opposition Awami League (AL) lawmaker KM Jahangir observed that the session was summoned 'illegitimately', as Sircar signed the summons notice as president though he was discharging the responsibility as acting president at the time.

After allowing as many as eight senior parliamentarians belonging to both treasury and opposition benches speak on the issue, the chair ultimately dismissed Jahangir's point of order.

However, Leader of the SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Police obstruct a procession of writers, teachers and cultural activists in front of the Public Library in the city yesterday. The procession was brought out, demanding withdrawal of the siege on the Central Shaheed Minar.

PHOTO: STAR

### Verdict in college student Moni murder case at Magura today

OUR CORRESPONDENT Magura

The Verdict in the sensational Moni abduction and murder case will be pronounced here today.

Monirul Islam Moni, 18 a college student and son of Shahida Begum, a teacher of Magura Govt. Girls High School, was allegedly abducted for ransom from Magura town on March 13 2001.

Shahida Begum filed a case with Magura sadar thana the following day.

The abductors strangled Moni and then dumped the body in the Madhumati river.

Police arrested Makrul, the alleged mastermind behind the abduction and murder of Moni.

According to his confession, police with the help of divers recovered the body from the river on March 17.

Investigation officer (IO) submitted a charge-sheet to the court on May 10 2001, accusing ten persons. Fifteen people were shown as prosecution witnesses.

District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Azizul Huq will deliver the judgement.

### Happy yet to be sent to safe custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Central Jail authorities are yet to send Helena Akhter Happy to safe custody even four days after a court order, alleged the Institute of Democratic Rights (IDR).

Happy, a victim of an abduction case, surrendered to the First Class Magistrate's Court, Dhaka after her maternal cousin filed an abduction case against her second husband Khaled Hossain Roni, his father Nabi Hossain and uncle Enamul Hossain on August 5.

According to an IDR statement, Happy divorced her first husband on April 28 and married Roni on August SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

### Fake AC of DMP held with pistol

BSS, Dhaka

Detectives yesterday arrested a fake assistant commissioner (AC) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) from the city's Baramaghbar area and recovered a 9mm pistol loaded with four bullets from his possession.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of DB police led by assistant commissioner (AC) SM Akhtaruzzaman raided Ramna Estate Complex at 124, Baramaghbar at about 7:00am and arrested Ahsan Abdullah, 30, with the firearm.

Police also seized from his house a DMP uniform along with a belt, a cap and some visiting cards identifying him as an AC.

Police said the arrested fake AC was involved in cheating innocent people in the city.

A case was registered with Ramna Thana in this connection.

## JU teachers start non-cooperation from today

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA) begins a non-cooperation movement from today to press home their 11-point demands including holding of all pending and removal of the proctor.

The four-hour emergency meeting of 163 teachers had stormy debates and the two factions of pro-BNP teachers exchanged heated words between them over the dispute of approving the agitation programme yesterday.

JUTA called Sunday's meeting at the university Cafeteria Lounge after their one-week ultimatum to the university authorities expired on Thursday without the demands being met.

JUTA demands include holding of elections of the VC panel, senate, syndicate and deans, removal of Proctor Enamullah Parvez, creation of permanent posts for the teachers appointed on temporary basis and withdrawal of police from the campus.

Addition of two ambulances to the University Medical Centre, introduction of a set of law against sexual harassment, release of arrested students and holding their trial under the university rules are among the other

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## Clash over toll collection One killed, 10 hurt in Fatikchhari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

One person was killed and ten others were injured in a gunfight between two rival groups of criminals over illegal toll collection in Fatikchhari upazila of the district yesterday.

Police and witnesses said four members of Afsar group went to a house at Ratnapur in Shantirhat area at about 9.30 pm to collect Tk one lakh.

Being informed, the criminals belonging to Berek group rushed to the spot and beat up their rivals. They also kidnapped one of the members of Afsar group, resulting in a gunfight between the two groups.

Later, the clash spread to Shantirhat Bazar, leaving one of the criminals of Afsar group dead and ten others of both the groups injured.

During the clash the criminals of Berek group kidnapped a pharmacy owner named Dr Abdul Kalam from the bazar.

Protesting the abduction, local businessmen put up a barricade on the nearby Gohira-Henyako road for four hours. The abducted pharmacy owner was released at about 12-30pm.

Police removed the barricade at 1.30 pm and sent the body of the criminal to hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Man stabs wife to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young man allegedly stabbed his wife to death in the city's Pallabi area yesterday morning.

Nasima Begum, the 20-year-old employee of Banarasi Sari and resident of Section 11, Block C of Pallabi, was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with multiple stab injuries at 7:45am. The on-duty doctors declared her dead.

Hospital sources quoting the victim's relatives said Al-Amin had a quarrel with his wife at around 6:00am and at one stage stabbed her in the abdomen. As Nasima collapsed, the unemployed 25-year old stabbed himself in the chest and hands. Al-Amin is now under treatment at the intensive care unit of the DMCH.

Another source said Nasima had a fight with Al-Amin over some money her mother had borrowed from him.

Meanwhile, Al-Amin's relatives claimed Nasima had committed suicide after the quarrel and her mother had stabbed him following the incident.

Nasima and Al-Amin had an eight-month-old daughter named Anki.

Police have already arrested Al-Amin in connection with the killing, hospital sources said.

### Fish farm owner shot dead in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A fish farm owner was shot dead by unidentified assailants at village Chaitantala in Phullata upazila of Khulna thana yesterday morning.

According to police, a gang of eight sprayed bullets on Mukul Khan while he was fishing in his own gher (enclosure) at about 6.30 am. He died on the spot.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Phullata police station said that Mukul Khan was one of the front ranking leaders of Khulna district unit of outlawed Biplabi Communist Party (BCP).

Police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Victim's father Abdul Gani filed a murder case with Phullata police station.



PHOTO: STAR

Lawyers start a march from the High Court to the Jatiya Sangsad to submit a memorandum with six-point demand to the speaker of the House yesterday.

## Asstt director of Sylhet medical college murdered

### Body recovered from bush

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The assistant director of the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital has been brutally murdered by unidentified men some time during Saturday night.

The body of Dr. Aftab Hossain, 54, a long-time resident of Sylhet, was discovered yesterday morning from a bush in a hilly area near village Ghoshgaon in Golapganj upazila, about four to five kilometres from his private chamber.

His hands were tied together and a rope was tightly fastened around his throat. The body bore a number of injury marks.

Sources said the doctor had gone to his private chamber at Dhaka-Dakshin Bazar in Golapganj upazila on Saturday afternoon as usual. At about 9:00pm, a young

man came to his chamber and urged him to see a serious patient in a remote village. Accordingly, the doctor took the guy on his motorbike and went off to see the patient, but never returned.

The doctor's motorbike could not be located. His mobile phone is also missing. The motive behind the gruesome murder could not be ascertained. Police have taken Dr. Hossain's chamber assistant Jainuddin into custody for interrogation.

Sources said a local gang had been pressing the doctor for toll for the last few months but he declined to pay them. The local UP chairman has been informed about the matter.

Dr. Aftab Hossain hailed from Pakshy, Ishwardi, Pabna. He left SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

### 6-point demand Lawyers' memo to Speaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawyers yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Speaker for implementation of their six-point demand including withdrawal of enhanced court fee and stamp duty.

Their demands also include scrapping of all 'black laws' including Special Powers Act, Public Safety Act and recently enacted Law and Order Disruption (Speedy Trial) Act and formation of a 'judicial service commission' for separation of the judiciary from the executive.

They are also demanding amendment to Section 115 of the Civil Procedure Act to facilitate filing of review petition with district judge's court against lower court's verdict, instead of going to the High Court.

Earlier, the lawyers brought out a procession from the Supreme Court premises and marched towards the parliament complex to hand over the memorandum.

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PHOTO: STAR

The First Labour Court at Katalganj in Chittagong looks deserted yesterday due to a boycott of the court by Chittagong District Bar Association since September 7.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 16		6-01 pm
Sept 17	5-45 am	

  

Prayer Timings		
Sept 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-06	6-10
Esha	8-00	8-20

Source: Islamic Foundation