

Admission test results for would-be child specialists scrapped

Allegation of irregularities in exams

NAIMUL HAQ

The academic council of the Bangladesh Institute of Child Health (BICH) in an emergency meeting Wednesday passed a resolution to cancel the recently published admission test results to all post-graduation courses in medicine and surgery.

The council members unanimously resolved that a few candidates appearing in the masters in medicine (MD) admission exams surprisingly obtained very high marks.

Out of total 300 marks, nine candidates obtained between 200 and 250 and some even got close to 300,

teachers said.

But in the last 15 years, the highest score obtained in the multiple-choice MD admission exams was around 180, which is also very difficult to attain.

On the contrary, the highest score recorded in the masters in surgery (MS) admission exams this year was 149 out of 300.

All the members of the faculty of the BICH requested retake of exams. They are also deeply shocked at the clear evidence of cheating in the exams.

At the same time, many meritorious students were

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107 arrested, 26 firearms seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army rounded up 107 people, including 18 listed criminals, across the country over the last 24 hours ending at 8.00am yesterday.

They also seized 26 firearms including three pistols, six revolvers, seven pipe-guns and five shotguns along with 74 rounds of bullets.

The troops have so far arrested 7,875 people, including 1,815 listed criminals, and seized 1,350 firearms and 27,704 rounds of ammunition since the Operation Clean Heart started on October 17. They have so far handed more than 5,500 of the arrested to the police.

In the capital yesterday, a senior photojournalist of The Daily Janakantha was confined for about

two hours at the Ramna army camp. Mir Ahmed Miru, also the general secretary of the Bangladesh Photojournalists Association, was detained after an altercation with an army team over taking photographs in the Mailbagh area at about 2:30pm.

The troops detained him there for a while and then took him to the Ramna army camp. Mir was allowed to go after his colleagues contacted senior army officers and requested his release.

In another incident, an army patrol team roughed up a traffic sergeant near the Tejgaon Police Station just before iftar.

The trouble began when the troops accused the traffic police

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Members of the Filmmaking Forum stand in a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday to protest the production of sleazy films and induction of producers of vulgar movies in the Censor Board.

5 years of CHT peace accord PCJSS threatens to go back to armed struggle

UNB, Rangamati

Three parties in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in separate rallies marking the fifth anniversary of CHT peace accord yesterday expressed determination to advance their conflicting programmes that may jeopardise peace in the region.

PCJSS (Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity) leaders said they were engaged in an armed struggle for a long 24 years and are ready to return to the bush war for securing total implementation of the peace accord.

They threatened to paralyse CHT, if needed, for securing every provision of the peace accord.

PCJSS rally at the Gymnasium ground was addressed by its president Gunendu Bikash Chakma, Goutam Chakma, Chandra Shekhar Chakma, Luxmi Prosad

Chakma, Shaktiman Chakma, Arumita Chakma, Nirmulendu Tripura and Sunity Bikash Chakma.

The tribal leaders referred to the recent statement of BNP leader Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury and said a section of the leadership was seeking to turn CHT into a Muslim dominated region.

They expressed suspicion at the government attitude and viewed implementation of the accord in toto would not be possible without launching a fresh struggle.

Holding a separate rally followed by procession and demonstration, Parbatyia Gano Parishad accused PCJSS of killing 30,000 non-tribal in the Hill Tracts and set on fire the effigy of Santu Larma.

Parishad leaders threatened to retaliate if the government failed to take action against the tribal crimi

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'Resignation of governing body led to VU closure'

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk yesterday said the government had to cancel the permission of Vigarunnisa University (VU) to uphold the Private University Act.

"The university was liquidated automatically after members of the governing body resigned," the minister told The Daily Star.

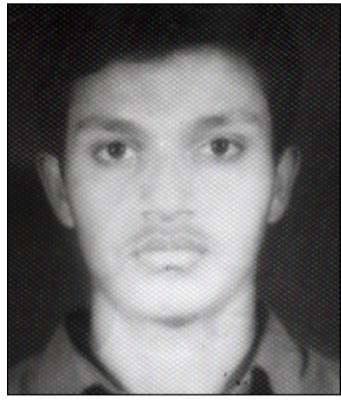
He said flaws were detected in many steps in establishment of the university, from funding to land transfer.

Even the Vigarunnisa Noon School and College (VNSC) from which the university foundation received funds and land lodged a complaint, disowning the university.

Moreover, the university foundation transferred Tk 5 crore in funds to a personal account in breach of the rule that the amount must be kept in a fixed deposit as a guarantee.

The minister said the university authorities produced a deed of five

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Schoolboy missing for 38 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of missing schoolboy Mohammad Emam Jafor Sadik Shifat yesterday alleged that their son was kidnapped and urged the authorities concerned to take proper steps to rescue him immediately.

Shifat was a student of class eight at the BAF Shaheen School in the city and he has been missing for the last 38 days.

His parents alleged that a crimi

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Cancellation of general waiver stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The stalemate at the Chittagong port over the cancellation of general waiver to foreign vessels ended yesterday on a two-month court stay order.

General waiver was cancelled on an order by the director general of shipping on November 25.

It allows foreign vessels operating to and from Bangladesh ports to carry cargo without any 'no-objection certificate' from the government shipping office and despite the availability of national flag carriers, shipping and port officials said.

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Ovi still eludes police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police could not arrest former lawmaker Golam Faruk Ovi despite several raids in the city yesterday.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) believes Ovi, a suspect in the killing of Tania Mahbuba Tinni, a model and actress, is hiding away somewhere in the city.

The CID recovered some CDs (compact discs) in the raids on some places where Ovi had stayed at different times, sources said.

After interrogation of some acquaintances of Tinni, a CID team is now looking for her aunt. Tinni is believed to have gone to her house before she was killed.

The CID team yesterday interrogated Tinni's father Syed Mahbulul Karim, uncle Mahmudul Haq, her father-in-law and Babul Ahmed, organiser of the five-day tour to Bangkok in October.

Political leaders, drama and film artistes and businessmen acquainted with Tinni were also quizzed.

Additional Inspector General of Police (CID) Ashraf Huda told The Daily Star last night that the CID team raided all possible hideouts, especially those in Gulshan.

"We are working on the information extracted from Tinni's acquaintances and relatives, drama and film artistes and Ovi's relatives," he said.

A new revelation came out of interrogation of seven members of a cultural team that went on a tour to Bangkok on October 18.

During interrogation on November 28, Tamalika Karmakar, a drama artiste who signed up for the tour with seven others, kept under wraps the information about her quarrel with Tinni in Bangkok.

But on Sunday, some members told the CID team that Tinni and Tamalika quarrelled over an allegation that Tamalika had stolen two hundred dollars from Tinni's handbag.

"We are now investigating whether Tamalika had any connection with the murder," Huda said.

Keraniganj police recovered the body of Tinni with injury marks from under the Buriganga Bridge on

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A beautician paints mehendi patterns on a woman's hand at a city beauty parlour yesterday on the eve of the much-awaited Eid-ul-Fitr.

Set up separate textbook approval authority

Experts suggest at city workshop

STAR REPORT

Education experts at a workshop yesterday suggested establishment of a separate textbook approval authority to produce quality, error-free textbooks.

They said the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) is not capable enough to maintain the required standard of the textbooks.

The speakers also suggested that the NCTB needed reforms which could be done by establishing three separate entities. These are curriculum research and development wing, textbook approval authority, and printing and distribution wing.

The suggestions came at a workshop titled, "Textbook Approval Authority and Higher Education in Bangladesh of Secondary Education Section". The Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management

(BIAM) organised the workshop in the capital as a part of the 'Education Sector Development Support Program' assisted by International Development Agency (IDA) and sponsored by the Secondary School Assistance Project (FSSAO-II).

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk attended the function as chief guest while Munir Ahmed Chowdhury and Prof. Mohammad Ali, two consultants, presented papers.

The education minister however opposed the idea of establishing three separate entities dissolving the NCTB. He said inefficiencies at the NCTB could be eliminated.

"I don't see any overwhelming reason for consideration for separation of the NCTB other than some irregularities and inefficiencies," the minister said.

Munir Ahmed Chowdhury sug

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HC stays graft case against Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday stayed proceedings against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in a graft case pending before the Divisional Special Judge's Court.

A division bench comprising Justice MA Rashid and Justice Siddiqui Rahman Mia also issued rule upon the government to show cause as to why the graft case against Hasina should not be quashed. The rule is returnable in four weeks.

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Sehri, Iftar timing			
Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
27	3		5-14
28	4	5-02	5-14
29	5	5-03	5-14

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Dec 3		5-11 pm
Dec 4	6-27 am	

Prayer Timings		
Dec 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-14	5-24
Esha	7-30	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation