

Admission tests DU detects 700 cases of forgery

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University has detected 700 cases of forgery in which students appeared at admission tests on proxy.

Of these, 400 were detected in 'Ga' unit and 300 in 'Gha' unit in admission tests for 2002-2003 session. These results have been cancelled, sources at the DU said.

Test results for admission in the 2002-2003 academic session were published recently.

This year, the authorities detected a new trick adopted by the forgers. Two admission seekers -- one of them giving proxy for a genuine admission seeker -- used the same marksheet, same names and fathers' names. But in the a n s w e r

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BCS exam questions allegedly leaked out

PSC chief terms it rumour, sabotage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The preliminary test of the 24th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations was held yesterday amid allegations of leakage of questions.

Many examinees alleged that questions of the test were leaked out in the city Thursday night and each photocopy of the entire set of questions was sold at Tk 10,000.

A Dhaka University student went to the Ramna Police Station with a photocopy of a hand written question paper to file a general diary at about 2:00pm, one and a half hours ahead of the test, sources said. The test was held between 3:30pm and 4:30pm.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the Ramna Police Station Mahbubur Rahman said a third year student of Dhaka University came to him at about 3:00pm to lodge a complaint against the leakage of preliminary questions.

The student with a 'hand written' copy containing 75 test questions claimed that it was the leaked question paper for the preliminary test that would begin at 3:30pm, he added.

"Since I was not sure whether it was a leaked question paper I did not accept his complaint. I thought the hand written questions were just suggestions made by someone."

He said the Dhaka University student did not tell him where he had found the leaked question

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Rocca due today, may pen accord

BSS, Dhaka

US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Christina Rocca arrives here today on a two-day official visit.

Rocca will discuss bilateral issues including registration of Bangladeshis under the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) apart from matters related to world events and developments in the Middle East, Foreign Ministry sources said.

Bangladesh will also make a plea to be excluded from the list of countries whose nationals are subject to stricter immigration scrutiny in the USA, sources said.

During her visit, she will sign an agreement with Science, Information and Communication Technology Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan to support the science and technology sector.

Science and ICT ministry sources said it would be the first ever agreement to be signed by the USA in this field with any other country of the world.

Armed gang kills cop in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Constable Shaheb Ali of Khulna Metropolitan Police was killed, and four others were injured when they came under attack by a group of armed miscreants on Thursday afternoon at Khalishpur.

The injured have been identified as Mafizur Rahman, 56, Naziur Huq, 40, Shahidul, 23, and Sirajul Huq, 40.

The attack by alleged miscreants took place when SI Rustam Ali of Khalishpur police station along with three constables raided the two-storied building of listed criminal Monir to rescue a young woman, who was beaten mercilessly for filing a rape case on February 24.

It was stated in the FIR that five persons including Monir raped her on the night of February 23 at her house in Khalishpur.

On Thursday morning, the accused in the rape case abducted the woman from her house and took her to the house of Monir. She was beaten up for refusing to withdraw the case. Police entered the house and rescued the woman.

One of the alleged rapists, identified as Khabir, 30, suddenly threw a water-filled earthen pitcher on the head of constable Shaheb Ali. He succumbed to a severe head injury in the KMCH.

Others were injured in the attack when they went to the help of Khabir. The alleged rapists belonging to the 'Monir Bahini' of Khalishpur housing estate. Khabir, the alleged killer of constable Shaheb Ali, was arrested during the operation.

SI Rustam Ali filed a case in this connection.

City to have 11 steel footbridges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has decided to construct 11 steel footbridges at different 'busy and strategic points' from March to June this year.

The ministry of Local Government and Rural Development has approved a Tk 5 crore DCC proposal for the construction, said a DCC official.

The state-owned Chittagong Dry Dock will construct the steel footbridges. It also constructed the Jattrabari footbridge.

The footbridges will be established at Uttara (Near Raj Laxmi complex), Gulshan (Nutun Bazar), Mirpur-1, Mirpur-2, Mirpur-10, Science Laboratory Crossing, Paribagh Intersection, Satrasta (near Polytechnic Institute), Basabo, Kazipara and the BUET.

Earlier, the DCC shelved a Tk 8 crore pilot project to construct 11 footbridges after one of them collapsed at the Science Laboratory crossing on March 14 last year, killing two.

Surma International got the contract and the DCC paid Tk 2 crore to the company for the work.

Officials blame the company for the accident as it did not take adequate safety measures.

"The legal wing of the DCC is taking steps to go for action against the firm," said a DCC official.

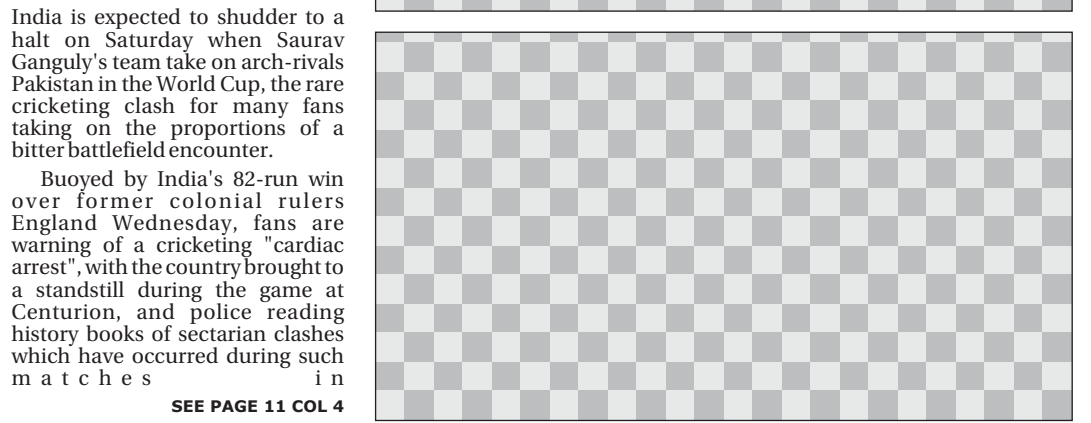
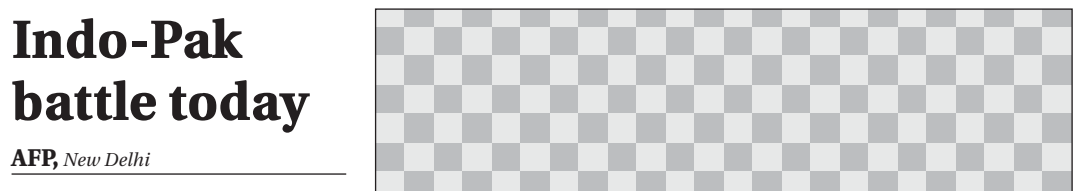
The DCC blacklisted the company following the incident.

Windies need 229

AFP, Cape Town



Wavell Hinds of the West Indies looks back at the wicket after failing to field the ball as Sri lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya sets off for a run during their ICC Cricket World Cup match at Newlands stadium in Cape Town yesterday.



Battle royale of minnows

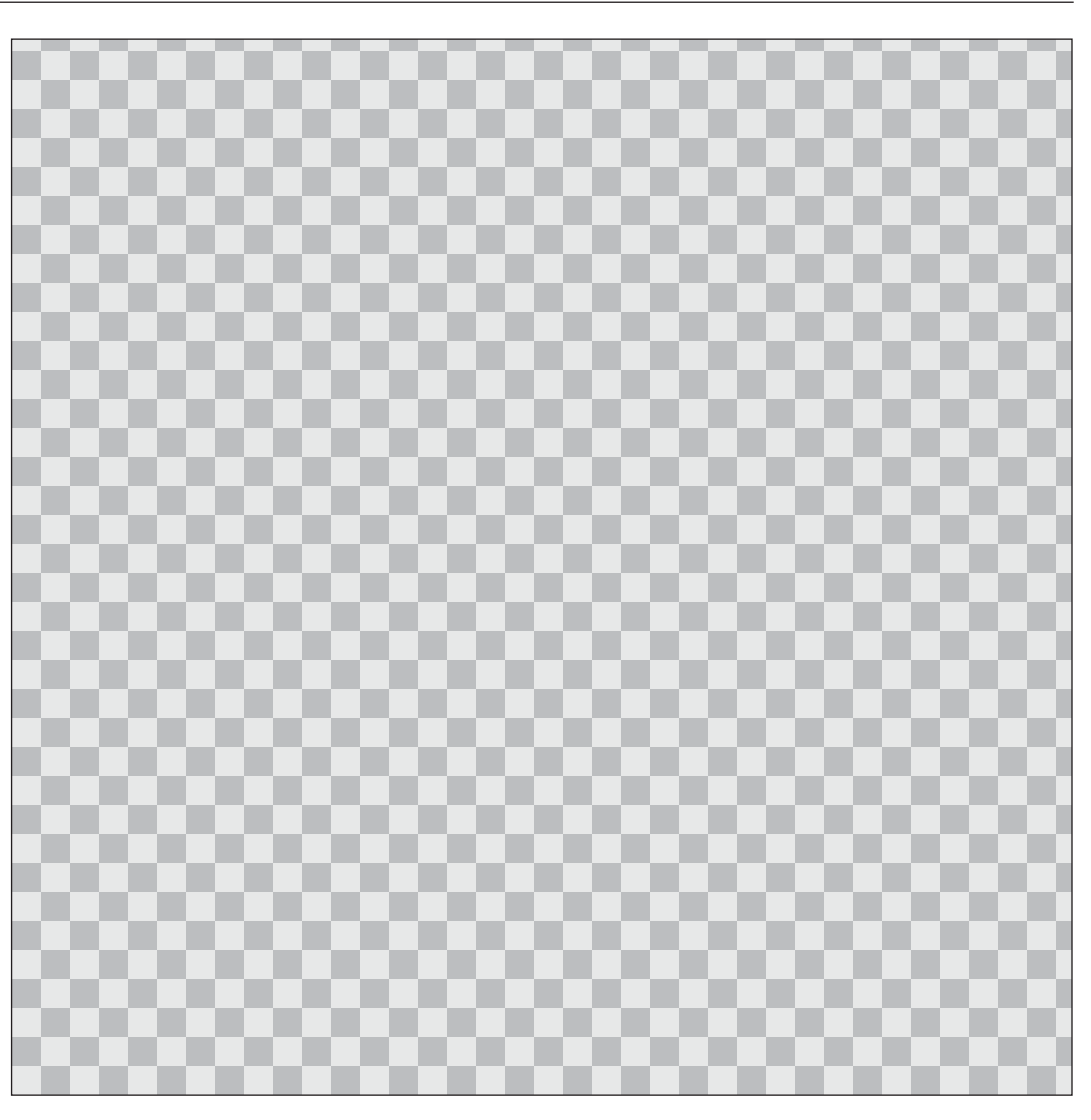
AL-AMIN from Johannesburg

1996 champions Sri Lanka on February 24 in Nairobi.

On the same day another mouth-watering clash will be played out between India and Pakistan at the nearby SuperSport Park in Centurion. Both Asian giants will be looking to secure four points in order to advance to the next phase.

Kenya start the match as overwhelming favourites having won five out of the six previous games since their rivalry started in 1997 with Bangladesh winning the ICC Trophy in Kuala Lumpur.

Al-Shahriar returns to the top of



Relatives mourn Badrunnesa Aziz who was shot dead by robbers in the city's Uttara area yesterday (left); a room of her neighbour's house ransacked by the same gang.

RAT unearths illegal arms factory, 2 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police of Rapid Action Team (RAT) detected an illegal firearm manufacturing factory at Pallabi in the city's Mirpur area on Thursday night.

Acting on information, they raided different places in Pallabi since the afternoon and found the factory.

They recovered three illegally made .22 bore revolvers and arms-manufacturing instruments include a lathe machine. Two persons were arrested. They are Jahur Alam Munna, 45 and Selim Hossain Khan, 37, both residents of Mirpur-11, police said.

RAT also arrested 24 people on various charges from different parts of the city in the last 24 hours.

Robbers kill Petrobangla GM's wife in Uttara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers shot dead a housewife in her flat in Uttara yesterday.

One of the robbers put a revolver into her mouth and pulled the trigger, killing her instantly.

The victim, Badrunnesa Aziz, 50, was the wife of Azizul Haq, general manager (Environment and Safety) of Petrobangla.

Sources said Badrunnesa opened the door of their flat at road No. 1 in sector-6 hearing the calling bell at around 1:45pm, and saw eight robbers equipped with firearms.

"As she screamed the robbers shot and left her dead on the spot," a colleague of Azizul Haq quoted him as saying.

The robbers fled the scene immediately.

Before killing the housewife, the robbers entered another flat and took away two tolas of gold, one mobile phone and Tk 4,000 in cash.

Colleagues of Azizul Haq have expressed their deep shock at the death of Badrunnesa Aziz and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the robbers.

Her body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A murder case was filed with the Uttara police station, but none was arrested till writing of this report at 8:30pm last night.

In a similar incident in Dhanmondi Thursday, armed robbers entered the house of one Abdus Sattar Khan, 85, killed him and took away cash and gold.

A case was filed with the Dhanmondi police station in this connection. Police arrested four suspects from Jigatola area and they were produced before the court yesterday and later sent to

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Baghdad agrees to destroy its banned al-Samoud missiles

US dismisses offer, continues war preparations

REUTERS, United Nations/Washington

The United States dismissed Baghdad's agreement to destroy its al-Samoud 2 missiles and pressed on with its war preparations against Iraq, deploying a sixth aircraft carrier and B-2 stealth bombers.

As UN Security Council members argued bitterly about whether to approve a war with Iraq, Baghdad said it agreed "in principle" to begin destroying its ballistic missiles, which the United Nations said were illegal because their range exceeded limits set in 1991 UN resolutions.

The government of President Saddam Hussein gave its decision on the missiles by letter to chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix as he completed a crucial report to the council that criticised Iraq for giving a "very limited" response to its disarmament obligations.

Blix, in a leaked draft of a report expected to reach council members over the weekend or on Monday, said that results of three months of inspections had been problematic.

"Iraq could have made greater efforts to find any remaining proscribed items or provide credible evidence showing the absence of such items," Blix wrote. "The results in terms of disarmament have been very limited so far."

The Security Council's first meeting since the introduction of a

US-British-Spanish resolution that laid the legal ground work for war erupted into chaos. In addition to known opposition to the resolution by France and Russia, smaller nations demanded the big powers reach a common position.

But no one budged. "There are two propositions," said French Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sabliere. "One says we have to go to war. The other says 'no.'"

The meeting became so divisive

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3 cops shot dead outside US consulate in Karachi

AFP, Karachi

An unidentified man shot dead three policemen and injured seven others guarding the US consulate in Karachi yesterday, police and officials said.

A lone assailant approached a group of policemen at a picket immediately adjacent to the consulate building in downtown Karachi and opened fire when a policeman tried to check him, Karachi police chief Tariq Jamil said.

"A man carrying a weapon approached the picket and when a policeman checked him, he opened fire at the policeman. The assailant then grabbed the policeman's sub-machinegun and opened indiscriminate fire," Jamil told AFP.

"Three policemen were killed," Sindh province police chief Syed Kamal Shah told AFP.

Another seven policemen were injured, another police officer said.

The attack on the police post, established to guard the consulate, happened at 1:45pm (0845 GMT).

A spokesman for the United States embassy in Islamabad said no consulate personnel were injured.

"We have heard that there's been a shooting incident in Karachi and at this point all we know for sure is none of the consulate personnel were affected," spokesman Terry White told AFP.

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UP polls Defeated member candidate shot dead in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Defeated UP member candidate Rustam Ali Matbar, 38, of Fakirhat upazila was gunned down by armed miscreants on Thursday night.

He contested the Naldha Moubhog Union Parishad election as member candidate.

According to police, the miscreants called him out of his house and sprayed bullets on him at about 10:30pm. He died on the spot.