

Teachers to be appointed soon thru' special BCS exam

BSS, Dhaka

The authorities has been asked to hold special BCS examinations soon to appoint teachers in the government colleges, Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has directed the authorities in this regard, he said while replying to a question from treasury bench member Ali Nawaz Mohammad Khaiyam.

The minister said four thousand posts of teachers have remained vacant since the tenure of the previous government, and a number of posts were filled up through regular BCS examinations.

There would be no vacant posts after appointments through special BCS examinations, he added.

Replies to another question, the education minister said the government was going to take decisions on further development of education sector on the basis of the education commission report.

Committees formed to check fare hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the committee include police and officials of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

The committees would start functioning soon at bus terminals, railway stations, launch terminals and different points on roads and highways to monitor whether any irregularities are taking place.

The meeting decided to take measures to stop toll collection from transport owners and cattle traders and harassment of passengers.

It also decided to introduce special buses, trains and launches to facilitate the journey of home-bound passengers during the Eid.

Nazmul Huda urged the transport owners to keep the fare steady. Increase of fare would not be tolerated, he warned.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, GM Siraj MP, SA Khaleq MP, Communications Secretary Rezaul Hayat, BIWTC Chairman Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas, BRTC Chairman Taimur Alam Khandaker, and BRTA Chairman Mahmud Hasan Monsur were present.

Robbery at city house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted cash and valuables worth over Tk 4 lakh from a house at Seppara Parbata in Kafrul on Friday night.

About eight youths aged between 18 and 25 stormed into the house of KM Haque Kaiser and took his two teenage daughters hostage at dagger-point.

They also tied all six members of the family and took away Tk 20,000, gold ornaments weighing about 35 tolas and other valuables.



12,000 die a year from pregnancy problems

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 12,000 women die every year in the country because of pregnancy complications, said Suneta Mukherjee, UNFPA representative to Bangladesh, at a seminar yesterday.

She said safe motherhood is the right of women who constitute 80 percent of the garment workers.

Suneta urged the ready made garment (RMG) factory owners to respect this right by taking special

reproductive health care for women workers.

The orientation seminar for Garment Factory Owners on Reproductive Health and Gender Issues was jointly organised by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and UNFPA at a city hotel.

"Compared to Sri Lanka and China, productivity of each individual garment worker in Bangladesh is still low," said UNFPA Assistant Representative Nurul Amin.

To face the challenges of quota-free global competition, Bangladesh RMG sector will have to take measures to ensure healthy and productive work forces," he added.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mizanur Rahman Sinha sought continued support of the UNFPA in reproductive health care.

The seminar was informed that to impart first hand knowledge on reproductive health and gender equity, the BGMEA has been running a project for garment workers in collaboration with the UNFPA and government since 1998.

The BGMEA also runs ten clinics for garment workers including three funded by the UNFPA in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Acting President of BGMEA Nurul Hoque and Director Lutfur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

Saraswati Puja today

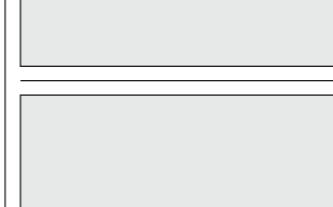
UNB, Dhaka

Saraswati Puja will be held across the country today amid religious fervour and festivity.

Saraswati is the Hindu goddess of knowledge and arts, and mainly the students have arranged the puja in the educational institutions and residences to seek blessings.

In the capital, Saraswati Puja will be held at the Jagannath Hall of the Dhaka University, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka Medical College, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Dhaka College.

A total of 38 puja mandaps have been set up on the Jagannath Hall premises to celebrate the festival. The puja will begin at 9.00am.



No papers published in Khulna

Newsmen observe work stoppage

FROM STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No Khulna-based newspapers were published yesterday as the newsmen downed their tools protesting the killing of journalist Manik Chandra Saha and demanding immediate arrest of his killers.

The media persons observed the 'work stoppage' on Saturday at the call of Khulna Press Club, Khulna Union of Journalists and the local units of Bangladesh Sangbad Patrika Parishad and the Photojournalists' Association.

Newspaper hawkers, however, distributed the dailies published from Dhaka.

Manik Saha, senior staff correspondent of the New Age, died when unknown attackers hurled a bomb at him in Khulna on January 15.

Although 10 days have been elapsed after the killing, there has been no headway in the investigation into Manik Saha murder case. Only three people -- Ananda Bhownik, Ujjal and Monir -- have been shown arrested.

Monir and Ujjal were arrested on Friday night from a room of now-defunct Sundarban Salt Industries at Shingherchar under Rupsha thana after they injured in

explosions of bombs they were making.

They are now undergoing treatment at the prison cell of Khulna Medical College Hospital. Police suspected them as activists PBCP (Janajuddha).

On Saturday night, DB police arrested a youth identified as Majed Shaikh, 22, from Rupsha ferry ghat area when he was pasting posters of Janajuddha in the area, police said.

It gives me immense pleasure in conveying to your excellence our heartiest greetings and felicitations," the president said in a message to Abdul Kalam yesterday.

"We greatly value our relations with India which are marked by close historical and cultural affinities. I am confident that the existing ties between our two neighbouring countries will be strengthened further and consolidated in the days ahead."

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The locals challenged the four while they were moving suspiciously at Kamalbagh with a bag containing the bombs.

The mob also beat up the four -- Selim, 30, Aslam Sarder, 25, Saiful Islam Suman alias Ismail, 22, and Mainul Islam, 31, -- and handed them over to Lalbagh police.

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