



PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Slum dwellers collect drinking water from a Wasa pipeline in an unhygienic environment at Rayerbazar in the city yesterday. Water crisis is worsening in the area as winter sets in.

## DESA Oikya Parishad programmes postponed

BSS, Dhaka

The Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority Sramik-Karmachari-Karmakarta-Prakausali Oikya Parishad postponed its programmes of November 24 and 27.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Oikya Parishad Engr M Mominul Haque in the chair yesterday.

It was decided after a discussion between the Oikya Parishad leaders, Desa authorities and State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud on November 21.

## NON-GOVT TEACHERS' EXAM BEGINS TOMORROW

# Move to ensure quality education

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Non-government Teachers' Registration Examination is going to be held for the first time in the country on November 25 and 26 with a view to ensuring minimum qualification of the teachers in the private school and college level educational institutes.

About 77 thousand candidates across the country will appear in the two-day long examinations to get qualifying certificate from the Non-government Teachers Registration and Certification Authority (NTRCA) required for contesting for jobs in the private schools and colleges, the NTRCA source said.

According to the newly formulated law titled 'Non-government Teachers Registration and Certification

Authority Act 2005', which came into effect on March 20, a candidate must have the NTRCA certificate to be recruited in the non-government schools, colleges, madrassahs and technical and business management institutions.

The first examination (compulsory) will be held on November 25 and elective examinations on November 26.

An examinee has to sit for a total of 200-mark essay type written examination 100 marks for compulsory examination and another 100 marks for elective examination. The candidate has to pass each examination separately by securing minimum 40 marks.

The examinations will be held in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet.

"I strongly believe that the minimum qualification of a private school or college teacher will be ensured by the examination," NTRCA member (Evaluation and Examination Certification) Prof Shaheda Obaed said.

As per the new law, the owners of the private schools and colleges will be bound to recruit qualified teachers certified by the NTRCA in their institutes, which will also be supportive to boost up the standard of the country's education, she added.

"Aspirants for teachers' posts in the non-government educational institutions also have to prove their enough knowledge on the certain subject what they want to teach the students," Shaheda Obaed, also the chairman of the Dhaka Intermediate and Secondary Education Board, mentioned.

She also hoped that corruption in the teachers recruiting process gradually would come down for the new examination system.

The NTRCA member also thanked the officials and employees of Dhaka Education Board office for giving assistance to the newly formed NTRCA which is severely suffering due to its manpower crisis for arranging such examination.

Meanwhile, while visiting Dhaka Education Board office, candidates were found angry as they have not received the admit cards of the examination yet.

The board office officials, however, said they sent the admit cards to the candidates timely by mail.

## Ban on felling of trees in preserved forests

BSS, Dhaka

Environment and Forest Ministry yesterday decided to impose a ban on felling of trees in "preserved natural forests" until 2010, aiming to ensure afforestation of 25 percent of land in the country.

The ban comes into effect immediately, sources in the ministry said.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the ministry held at its conference room with Environment Minister Tariqul Islam in the chair.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Zafrul Islam Chowdhury, Forest Secretary Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Chief Conservator of Forest M Osman Gani and Director General of Environment Directorate Khan Mohammad Ibrahim

Hossain were also present.

Describing forests as "national resources", Tariqul Islam said the forest officials have to be more sincere in checking felling and plunder of trees in preserved forests.

He also asked the officials to take urgent and effective measures to recover the forest land from the encroachers. If necessary assistance would be provided to recover the forest land that has been encroached with the connivance of a vested quarters," he said and warned that "None would be spared in this regard."

The minister also said stern action would also be taken against corrupt officials.

## IEB elections on Nov 27

BSS, Dhaka

Elections to the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), for 2006-2007 will be held on November 27, instead of tomorrow, due to unavoidable circumstances.

The polling will be held from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm without any break, said an IEB press release.

## Roundtable on Saarc summit today

BSS, Dhaka

A roundtable discussion on the outcome of Saarc summit and the launching of a book "Dynamics of Bangladesh-India Relations" will be held at the conference room of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute in the city, at 4:00 pm today.

Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will attend the roundtable as chief guest.