

## HSC results won't come out today

Exams under NU, PSC postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The publication of the results of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations 2007 and its equivalent exams, which were due today, has been postponed for unavoidable reasons.

Meantime, the National University (NU) and the Public Service Commission (PSC) have cancelled their examination schedule from today.

"We decided to postpone publishing the HSC results on August 23 due to unavoidable circumstances," Prof Manirul Islam, chairman of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Dhaka, said yesterday.

The publication of HSC examinations 2007 under seven education boards, Alim, Fazil and Kamil examinations under Madrasa Education Board and business management examinations under Technical Education Board has been postponed; new date will be announced later, an official handout said.

An NU press note said all exams

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# Over 90pc buildings constructed in Dhaka flouting rules

Bss, Dhaka

Over 90 percent buildings in the capital have been constructed violating the "Building Construction Code-1996", according to a study report of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

Every year, Rajuk officials and employees take around Tk 20 to 25 crore in bribe to approve designs of the buildings, the report published at a discussion at Biam auditorium in the city yesterday.

M Akhter Mahmud, assistant professor of Jahangirnagar University, who conducted the study under Research Fellow Programme of the TIB, said private housing companies, influential people and even government agencies are carrying out construction work violating the building code.

Construction companies are not keeping required distance from roads, not maintaining the height of

buildings as per designs approved by the Rajuk and not taking the problems of people into consideration during construction, Prof Akhter said.

He said 96 percent buildings in Khilgaon and Taltala areas were constructed defying the building code and designs while the rate is 92 percent in Lalmatia and Shyamoli areas, 96 percent in Mirpur, Kalyanpur, Bangshal, Tantibazar, Sabujbagh, Mugdapara and Nikunja-2.

In Gulshan and Banani, 98 percent buildings were constructed violating the building code while 84 percent buildings in Uttara were constructed in an unauthorised manner.

In Uttara Model Town, 86.66 percent markets and commercial buildings have no parking lots.

Prof Akhter said the designs approved by the Rajuk lack measures to implement the Dhaka

Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP). Moreover, the Rajuk cannot check the violation of the building code because of corruption and weak vigilance system.

In his study, Prof Akhter found that an owner of 3-4 katha plot has to give Tk 15,000 to 30,000 to the Rajuk along with usual fee to approve the design of a building.

According to the report, 53 percent people appoint brokers to deal with the Rajuk to avoid unnecessary delay, while 22 percent clients follow the way to get rid of harassment and 13 percent to avoid hurdle.

TIB Executive Chairman Iftekharuzzaman, former chairman of the Rajuk Azizul Haque, chief town planner Showkat Ali Khan and Prof Nurul Islam Nazem of Dhaka University took part in the discussion.

## Girl students can leave dorms at any suitable time

UNB, Dhaka

Girl students of colleges and universities who could not leave their dormitories by 8:00pm yesterday, can stay on and leave at any suitable time.

"If any girl student fails to leave the hall by 8:00pm, she can stay at the hall or hostel and leave at any suitable time later on," Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain told a press briefing yesterday evening.

The government yesterday imposed curfew for an indefinite period, closed all universities in the country and colleges in Dhaka and other metropolitan cities and asked the students to vacate their dorms by 8:00pm.

The government measures came as the campuses were rocked by massive violence for the third consecutive day in protest against Monday's incident on the Dhaka University campus.

## Plight of students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) residential students had to leave the dormitories by 8:00 last night, before the curfew started. The news on vacating dormitories spread at around 5:30pm. Students packed their luggage, got ready and were out of the dorms. But where could they go? They could talk with none, as the cell phone networks were ordered shut. Time was ticking away, deadline running nearer fast.

To make matters worse for thousands of residential students, announcement was blaring out from an ambulance that the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) thinks that students could stay in their dormitories. The announcement got the students all the more confused when both the president and general secretary of Duta denied any such declaration.

On the other hand, Acting Vice-Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider and others were found unsure about the government directive to vacate the dormitories although the TV channels broadcast the instruction.

The government also did not convey its directive to the university authorities. Out of confusion, the acting VC directed all the provosts to tell the residents that if they wish, they can leave dorms. He was heard saying, "I don't know what to do now."

Upon confirmation of the directive, he requested in vain for an extension to the vacating time for residents of dormitories.

By 6:00pm, thousands of students with luggage in their hands were seen pouring out on the roads, not knowing exactly where to go.

A visually impaired DU student, Swapan Choudhary, was going on

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# 14 US troops killed in Iraq copter crash

## Truck bomber kills 20 in Iraqi police post

AFP, Baghdad/ Tikrit

Fourteen American soldiers were killed in northern Iraq yesterday when their Blackhawk transport helicopter crashed during a pre-dawn flight, US command said in a statement.

"Initial indications are that the aircraft experienced a mechanical malfunction. There were no indications of hostile fire," the military said, adding that all four crew and 10 passengers died.

Two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from Task Force Lightning, which operates in northern Iraq, were on the night mission when one of them went down, according to a statement from the unit's headquarters in Tikrit.

The latest deaths took American military losses since the US-led invasion to 3,719, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures.

American forces in Iraq make constant use of a huge fleet of helicopters, and are increasingly dependent on them to avoid the

roadside bombs laid by insurgents and militia fighters along land routes.

The worst single US chopper crash was on November 15, 2003, when two Blackhawks collided near Mosul in northern Iraq, killing 17 soldiers.

In January and February this year there was a spate of crashes, including some shot down by an insurgent cell which deployed anti-aircraft crews north of Baghdad. US forces have since hunted down those gunners.

Meanwhile, a suicide bomber slammed his explosives-laden truck into a police station in the northern town of Baiji yesterday, killing at least 20 people and wounding 80, police and medics said.

Police Captain Saad Noori said the police station targeted was in the centre of a market in Baiji, 200km north of Baghdad.

Doctor Saad Jasim from the Baiji General Hospital confirmed the attack and said the dead included 10 civilians and five policemen.

He said most of the wounded

were civilians and included four children and five women.

Earlier insurgents gunned down a Tikrit police chief in front of his house in Al-Qadisiya neighbourhood late Tuesday, Iraqi police said.

Colonel Othman Chechan, chief of operations for Salahuddin province, north of Baghdad, was walking in the street when unknown attackers opened fire at him, a police official said.

"He was shot dead in front of his house by insurgents in a car, who then fled," the official said, asking not to be named as he is not authorised to speak to the media.

Tikrit is the home town of executed dictator Saddam Hussein and capital of Salahuddin province, Iraq's Sunni Muslim heartland.

Since the US-led invasion in 2003, Iraq has plunged into an abyss of overlapping civil conflicts that have divided its rival religious and ethnic communities, resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands of civilians.

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## POWER-SHARING DEAL

# Benazir demands deal by end-August

AFP, Washington

Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto on Tuesday urged President Pervez Musharraf to present a power-sharing reform package by the end of August, saying her party was becoming jittery with approaching elections.

"I have shared with General Musharraf that my party is getting very upset, because elections are around the corner, and that, by the end of this month, we really need to

know where we stand," she told the American PBS television network.

"We either have a package or we don't have a package," she said. "And if we have a package, well, then, we need the measures that we've agreed upon to come into play."

Benazir, who served as Pakistan's prime minister from 1988-1990 and 1993-1996, offered her view after she was asked by the US network how long it would take for her to conclude that Musharraf was

not serious about sharing power with her.

Leading the highly influential Pakistan People's Party (PPP) from exile in London and Dubai, Benazir met with Musharraf in an unannounced session in Abu Dhabi last month but neither has publicly admitted to the meeting.

The session was aimed at discussing a possible power-sharing deal ahead of presidential elections between September 15 to October

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## Pentagon falling behind in delivering mine-proof vehicles to Iraq

AFP, Undated

The Pentagon expects to deliver only 1,500 mine-proof armored vehicles to Iraq by the end of the year, less than half the number promised a month ago, a spokesman said.

Press secretary Geoff Morrell said the Pentagon will not be able to meet its goal of delivering 3,500 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles by the end of the year.

"If we could get 1,500 to theater by the end of this year that would be a positive development," he said.

Morrell said production of the vehicles will ramp up through December, and the Pentagon still hopes to meet its production target by the end of the year.

But it takes about 50 days to equip and ship a vehicle to Iraq, too long to get the bulk of the newly produced vehicles to Iraq by the end of the year, he said.

"We're trying very hard to condense the time it takes to equip these vehicles and get them to theater," he said.

Morrell initially attributed the

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Collapse of this under-construction building (above) on Mazar Road of Mirpur in the capital led to several casualties yesterday, and rescuers trying to free a person trapped in the debris.

PHOTO: STAR

## Merkel condemns attack on Indian immigrants

AFP, Undated

Chancellor Angela Merkel blasted a small town in Germany's former communist east yesterday for failing to stop a brutal mob attack on Indian immigrants, saying it had hurt the country's image abroad.

Although she declined to explicitly blame the incident on the far right, Merkel told a cabinet meeting that last weekend's violence, and the fact no one had intervened to stop it, was "extraordinarily deplorable and shameful".

"It is not acceptable for people to be hunted or hounded through the streets of German cities and then beaten up," her deputy spokesman Thomas Steg quoted Merkel as saying during the meeting with her ministers.

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Prayer Timing		
August 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-33	6-36
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

# India to be one of top 10 drugs markets

AFP, Undated

India will become one of the world's top 10 drugs markets by 2015 as incomes rise and "lifestyle" ailments such as heart disease become more common, global consultancy McKinsey said Wednesday.

Underpinning the rosy scenario for the pharmaceuticals market is an expected rise in per capita disposable income to 765 dollars by 2015 from 463 dollars now on the back of rapid economic expansion.

"India's pharmaceuticals market will undergo a major transformation in the next decade," Gautam Kumra, the co-author of a report compiled by McKinsey, told AFP.

"Nearly 140 million people will move above the poverty line during the next decade, which should increase spending on basic health care," he said.

The market will more than triple to 20 billion dollars by 2015 from 6.3 billion today, and India will leapfrog

to the 10th ranking globally, up from 14th place in 2005, overtaking Brazil, Mexico, South Korea and Turkey.

India is bracing for a worsening health crisis from chronic diseases, which already claim more lives than infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis.

With growing affluence, Indians are adopting unhealthier lifestyles. Sedentary jobs, poor diets, smoking and alcohol are cited as reasons for the sharp general decline in the nation's health.

"In the past, you only heard about acute infections but now there are more chronic 'lifestyle' diseases like metabolic diseases, diabetes, high blood pressure," Kumra said.

"India already is home to the largest number of diabetics in the world and a big number of cardiovascular cases," he said.

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## US mum after Russia names candidate in IMF race

AFP, Washington

The United States declined to publicly take sides yesterday after the emergence of a Russian-nominated candidate to head the International Monetary Fund, saying it looked forward "to speaking with any candidate."

Russia unexpectedly announced earlier Wednesday it was nominating former Czech premier and ex-central bank chief Josef Tosovsky to stand against the European Union candidate, former French finance minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

The US Treasury did not comment directly on Tosovsky but said it was looking forward to collaborating in the process of finding a successor to IMF managing director Rodrigo Rato.

"We look forward to working with our colleagues at the Fund to select a new managing director who will continue the reform efforts at the IMF and provide leadership to this vital institution," said Ann-Marie Hauser,

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