

## BCS EXAMINATIONS

## Protest against quota system continues

DU CORRESPONDENT

The agitating students of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday continued their demonstrations demanding abolition of the quota system in the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examina-

tions.

Submitting a memorandum to the chief adviser, the PSC chairman and the army chief, the demonstrators under the banner of 'General Students' urged the government to meet their demand by February 14.

In the memorandum, they

said the existing 55 percent quota in the BCS exams, held under the supervision of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC), is neglecting merit in the top competitive examinations.

They alleged that 55 percent

quota is a gross negligence towards majority of the candidates and urged the government to ensure appointments in the civil service on the basis of merit.

In the BCS examinations, 55 percent appointments are made under four quotas, including freedom fighters quota (30 percent), women quota and district quota (10 percent each) and indigenous quota (five percent).

Earlier in the morning, the general students held a rally in front of the Arts Building and chanted slogans against the prevailing quota system.

They said they are not against the "freedom fighter quota" but they protested the system that the majority quota covers only a few number of people, neglecting the majority population.

They alleged because of this system many a deserving candidates do not get chances in the civil service, creating intellectual numbness in all the government sections. They vowed to continue their agitations until their demand is met.

Meanwhile, Muktiyuddho Prajanma, a student platform, alleged that an anti-liberation force motivates the demonstration against the quota system to tarnish the image of the liberation war.

At a press conference yesterday noon, the Muktiyuddho Prajanma leaders said such a demonstration at a time, when a recommendation of the PSC regarding the quota system is under consideration at the Ministry of Establishment, is ill motivated.

"When the people of the country are united for the trial of war criminals, this demonstration is an attempt to dishonour the sacrifices of the freedom fighters in the liberation war," a written statement said.

"We think the decision of the government regarding the quota system will be acceptable to all."

## Heroin worth Tk 80 lakh seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered heroin worth Tk 80 lakh at Poladanga village in Sadar upazila on Saturday night.

Acting on a tip off, a BDR team challenged a man at Poladanga village at around 10:30pm and recovered 800grams heroin kept in a bag, said Operations Officer of 39 Rifles Battalion Captain Syed Abu Hasan.

The suspected smuggler, however, managed to flee.



## President, CA greet Lankan counterparts

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed have felicitated their Sri Lankan counterparts on the occasion of that country's Independence Day today.

Both the leaders, in their messages of felicitation, also wished the Sri Lankan president and prime minister good health and long life and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Sri Lanka.

National Professor MR Khan, third from right, speaks at a workshop titled 'Bangladesh cleft workshop-2008' at Central Hospital in the city yesterday. On his right are Dr Brian C Sommerlad, Dr Jyotsna Murti and Dr MA Quasem and on his left are Prof Matior Rahman and Prof AJM Salek. The Smile Train-Central Hospital Cleft Project organised the event.

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