

27TH BCS EXAM RESULTS Candidates threaten self-immolation

DU CORRESPONDENT

Candidates of the 27th BCS examinations, who came out successful according to the first-phase results but failed as per the second-phase results, yesterday threatened to commit self-immolation tomorrow if their demand is not met by today.

The candidates continued their fast-unto-death programme for the fifth consecutive day yesterday demanding that the first phase results be declared valid.

Over 100 candidates along with their parents and guardians began the hunger strike programme at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city on Saturday to press home their demand.

At a press conference at the same venue in the afternoon, the hunger strikers alleged that despite their five-day-long hunger strike, the government is yet to fulfill their demand, rather it is trying to overlook the issue.

They urged the caretaker government to fulfill their demand immediately on humanitarian ground.

Mahfuzur Rahman, a candidate, said they would commit self-immolation on the spot after Juma prayers on Friday if the government does not fulfil their demands by today.

Meanwhile, around 60 hunger strikers fell ill and 10 of them received treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital yesterday.

DB inspector arrested over bribe charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An inspector of Detective Branch (DB) was arrested in the city yesterday on charges of taking bribes from an accused in Fahmida murder case.

DB police caught Inspector Shawkat Alam red-handed while he was taking bribes from the accused at his house at East Senpara in Kafrul at around 3:00pm.

Inspector Alam, who was the investigating officer in the murder case, was taken to Kafrul police custody.

Salahuddin Arsek, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kafrul police station, said, "Inspector Alam was arrested by a DB team from the Senpara residence of Titas Gas senior accountant Humayun Kabir, who is an accused in the murder case, and the bribe money amounting to Tk 50,000 was also recovered from his possession."

Humayun Kabir filed a case with Kafrul police against DB Inspector Shawkat Alam last night.

Fahmida was killed at her residence in Mirpur on July 6. Her husband Dr Tozammel Hossain was arrested following the murder.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League Acting General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam inaugurates the distribution of party's nomination forms for the general elections at the party office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.

COMMODORE RABBANI MURDER Sense of insecurity still haunts family

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

A sense of insecurity still haunts the family members of managing director of Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) Commodore Gulam Rabbani, who was gunned down in Chittagong four years ago, as the accused in the murder case have come out of jail on bail soon after their convictions.

One of the accused, who had been convicted by the trial court in April 2005, was acquitted by the High Court in August this year.

Sources said four of the five convicted accused got bail from the High Court (HC) following their submission of appeals in 2005.

An armed gang shot Commodore Rabbani, also a former chairman of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and director general of shipping, in his throat at Muradpur Road in Chittagong when he was going to KEPZ, a sister concern of Korean conglomerate Youngone Corporation Ltd., on April 11, 2004. He succumbed to his injuries at Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok 13 days later.

Chittagong Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal sentenced three accused -- Mohammad Selim, Mohammad Hashim and Abdul Malik Sohel -- to life imprisonment and two others -- former KEPZ general manager Abu Naser Chowdhury and former chief security officer Humayun Kabir Chowdhury -- to five years' imprisonment in the murder case.

All of them filed appeals against their convictions in 2005. Of them, Hashim was acquitted by the High court in August this year. Others were granted bail in 2005. But the hearing of their appeals has remained pending

for long.

Legal experts said if the government had played a proactive role in time, the case would not have been pending for long and the victim's family would have received justice in time.

When contacted, the wife of Commodore Rabbani, however, declined to make any comments.

Senior lawyer Rana Dasgupta said that as the state is the defendant in the case, it can take steps through the Attorney General's Office to ensure justice.

"The state now can submit a 'Leave to Appeal' before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. It can also lodge appeal through the AG office regarding the hearing of cases," he added.

Chinese envoy meets Iftekhar

BSS, Dhaka

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zheng Qingdian yesterday made a courtesy call on Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at the Foreign Ministry and discussed matters of mutual interest.

The ambassador handed over a donation certificate for Iftekhar thanking Bangladesh for the support accorded following the disastrous earthquake in China.

Speaking to the media, the foreign adviser said that they had also spoken about the current situation between Bangladesh and Myanmar on the Bay of Bengal.

Iftekhar said, "I have explained our peaceful intentions to our Chinese friend, and expressed our hope that Myanmar dismantles the installations on the disputed waters."

One arrested with Tk 5 lakh fake notes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested a man with forged banknotes of Tk 500 and Tk 100 totalling Tk 5 lakh, a fake note-making machine and chemicals from an apartment at Adabar in the city early yesterday.

A team of Rab-2 conducted the raid at around 1:30am and caught Humayun Kabir red-handed while he was busy making fake notes, Rab officials said.

Humayun, who hails from Dhapdhapia village in Bakerganj, Barisal, was a contractor of local Roads and Highway Department office.

He started the moneymaking business after he learned the technique to prepare fake notes from one Zaman two years ago.

Rab officials said they also seized a machine, a laptop, five printers and huge quantity of papers for fake notes.

Humayun also told the Rab that he engaged five men in selling the fake notes in the market.

Concern over presence of Myanmar warships

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Convener of National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Electricity and Port Engineer Md Shahidullah and Member Secretary Anu Muhammad in a joint statement yesterday expressed grave concern over the presence of Myanmar warships in the Bangladesh territory and the attempt to explore oil and gas.

They were also concerned over the mysterious movement of Indian warships in the Bay of Bengal.

They said the sea is very important for Bangladesh since it is the storehouse of valuable resources like oil and gas.

Due to lack of farsightedness and failure of different governments in establishing sovereignty in the maritime boundary of Bangladesh, the country is in a vulnerable condition now, they added.

The governments did neither take proper initiatives to demarcate the maritime boundary, nor they placed the demand at any international forum, they said.

Although time and again they have raised the demands, the government didn't pay heed to their suggestions. Instead, the gas blocks were leased out to foreign companies.

They demanded survey by national organisations to scale up oil, gas and other resources.

They also demanded that the rights of the people to the mineral resources be established and political parties pledge to play a significant role to this end.

McCain vows to help Obama

FROM PAGE 1

who was my former opponent and will be my president," McCain said as he conceded the presidency he has sought for a decade.

The four-term Arizona senator added: "These are difficult times for our country. And I pledge to him tonight to do all in my power to help him lead us through the many challenges we face."

Flanked by his wife Cindy and his running mate Sarah Palin, McCain stepped before supporters at the Biltmore Hotel on a rainy Tuesday evening shortly after telephoning Obama to offer his congratulations and concede the race. He implored his backers to fall in line behind Obama and put aside partisan bickering. And, he pushed back on a smattering of boos and shouts of "No-Bamal" and "Reverend Wright," a reference to Obama's incendiary former pastor.

"Whatever our differences, we are fellow Americans," McCain said. "No association has ever meant more to me than that."

After an intensely negative campaign, McCain went to lengths to take the high road in his concession speech and acknowledged the historic nature of Obama's barrier-breaking accomplishment.

"His success alone commands my respect for his ability and perseverance," McCain said, adding that he "deeply admired" Obama for inspiring the hopes of people "who

had once wrongly believed that they had little at stake or little influence" in electing a president.

"This is an historic election, and I recognise the special significance it has for African-Americans and for the special pride that must be theirs tonight," McCain said, adding that the US had moved "a world away" from its racist past by electing the nation's first black president.

He allowed that disappointment was natural but said that starting Wednesday "we must move beyond it and work together to get our country moving again."

"We fought as hard as we could. And though we feel short, the failure is mine, not yours," McCain said.

Also, he praised Palin as "one of the best campaigners I have ever seen, and an impressive new voice in our party for reform."

By McCain's own admission, it was a disappointing end to a quest he began sketching 10 years ago before his first run for president in 2000. He was vanquished that time by George W. Bush in the Republican primaries, but won the affection and respect of many voters who admired his independent streak and dedication to honour and service as a former Naval officer and prisoner of war in Vietnam.

McCain entered this campaign as the perceived GOP front-runner but saw his effort nearly implode in

July 2007 amid staff tension and vast overspending. He was able to rebuild his candidacy by grinding out key wins in the New Hampshire, South Carolina and Florida primaries.

He faced long odds from the start of the general election, running as the GOP successor to President Bush who had become deeply unpopular amid a troubled economy and two wars. But then McCain put the little-known Alaska governor on the GOP ticket and polling shortly after the Republican convention found McCain pulling slightly ahead of Obama.

Then the global financial crisis hit, and McCain's hopes were dashed. Voters usually punish the party in power when the economy tanks, and this year was no different.

In the campaign's final days, the GOP nominee maintained a grueling campaign schedule while being well aware of the odds against him. He stumped across Colorado and New Mexico after a 24-hour cross country journey across battleground states that ended after midnight Tuesday.

But McCain also acknowledged he'd made mistakes in his campaign and that he had let his supporters down.

"I don't know what more we could have done to try to win this election. I'll leave that to others to determine," he said.

Fund raising thru' Net

FROM PAGE 1

extremely broad donor base, which he could keep going back to for money.

So, he rejected federal funding for his campaign and the financial limits that came with it.

ARMY OF HELPERS

With the help of Facebook founder Chris Hughes - who devised an innovative internet fundraising system - the campaign eventually attracted more than three million donors. They donated about \$650m (\$403m) - more than both presidential contenders in 2004 combined.

Obama had the money for four times as many campaign offices as McCain and a vast army of campaign staff and volunteers. They developed and exploited a vast database of information about potential donors and voters in every key state.

Everyone who visited the Obama website was asked to sign up to get more information. Everyone who did so was asked to contribute, or volunteer. If they did, they received several follow-up calls and messages asking for more money, or more assistance.

That fundraising ground campaign left him well equipped for the air war.

TV advertising is the life-blood of a campaign, which has to span some 3.5m square miles (9m sq km) and 300 million people, and Mr Obama had no problem buying airtime.

MASTERFUL OPERATION

In some swing states in the final weeks of the campaign, he was outpacing McCain by a ratio of four to one. His team again tapped into the internet, targeting ads at those online.

They even bought ad-space embedded in video games. Obama could afford to campaign in

Republican strongholds and force McCain to spread his limited resources ever thinner, sucking his resources away from swing states.

At the same time the campaign was masterful at getting out the vote. It ran a huge registration drive for likely Democrats - adding more than 300,000 people to the voter rolls in Florida alone.

Realising that so many new voters could overwhelm polling places on voting day, the campaign made early voting a priority in states where it is allowed. More people cast their votes before election day this year than ever before - more than 29 million in 30 states, according to preliminary data.

All of this worked of course because of Barack Obama's appeal as a candidate. He is a superb orator who can work a crowd in the Bill Clinton tradition.

His image was wholesome; a self-made family man with one house, one car - and one family. It was a contrast to John McCain who divorced the wife who waited for him through the Vietnam war, married an heiress and couldn't remember how many houses he had.

ANTI-BUSH CANDIDATE

Obama was able to connect more deeply with more diverse voting blocks. He struck a chord with younger voters, won over Hispanic and Jewish voters who had been Republicans in the past, and of course got out the black vote like no president before him.

Obama's single, consistent message of change was appealing when almost nine out of 10 Americans believed their country was "on the wrong track".

He could easily position himself as the anti-Bush candidate in a way McCain struggled to do. President Bush had lower approval ratings than the disgraced Richard Nixon, and Obama's relentless campaign

message was that John McCain had voted with him 90 percent of the time.

The polls suggested more people trusted Obama to fix the economy and when the financial crisis struck he was best placed to take political advantage of it.

His persistent focus on how to help those most impoverished by eight years of George Bush's leadership seemed a better fit for the times; a sharp contrast to the kind of tax cuts which were now a central plank of the McCain campaign and would disproportionately benefit the wealthy.

DIFFERENCE A STRENGTH

Ultimately, even Mr McCain's great political strength as a war hero with decades of foreign experience was eclipsed.

Obama's selection of the veteran foreign policy expert, Senator Joe Biden, as his running mate helped close the experience gap.

He insisted too that judgement was more important than experience and over the course of the campaign the political consensus seemed to shift to his ideas.

Obama called for a withdrawal timeline in Iraq, defending Afghanistan's borders by launching raids inside Pakistan when required and talking to America's enemies.

Slowly and quietly even the Bush Administration came to accept those ideas, while John McCain seemed ever more isolated as he continued to reject them.

Barack Obama said he didn't "look like other Presidents on the dollar bill".

Although that was a reference to his colour, he was different in so many ways to the established political aristocracy, that in a year when Americans were craving something new, his differences turned out to be his part of his strength.

JAMAAT'S REGISTRATION War crimes facts finding body terms EC action hypocritical

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War Crimes Facts Finding Committee (WCFFC) said yesterday that the Election Commission (EC) has acted like a hypocrite by registering Jamaat-e-Islami on Tuesday.

"The Election Commission has made their actions opaque and controversial by giving Jamaat certificate one-sidedly though it did not even participate in the hearing on objection from 11 organisations on Jamaat's registration on November 1," the WCFFC said in a press release.

WCFFC criticised the EC for approving the registration "in the darkness of night".

The press release signed by the convenor of the WCFFC said, "The people of the country want to know why the objections stated against Jamaat were ignored and on what basis the party was approved for registration with the EC."

"How would be the Representative of People Order be implemented if right to information is taken away before the election?" the press release asked, referring to the EC's keeping mum on the grounds on which Jamaat was registered.

Biman to get two aircraft

BSS, Dhaka

Two leased Boeing 737-800 aircraft from Pegasus Airlines Limited of Turkey will join the Biman fleet.

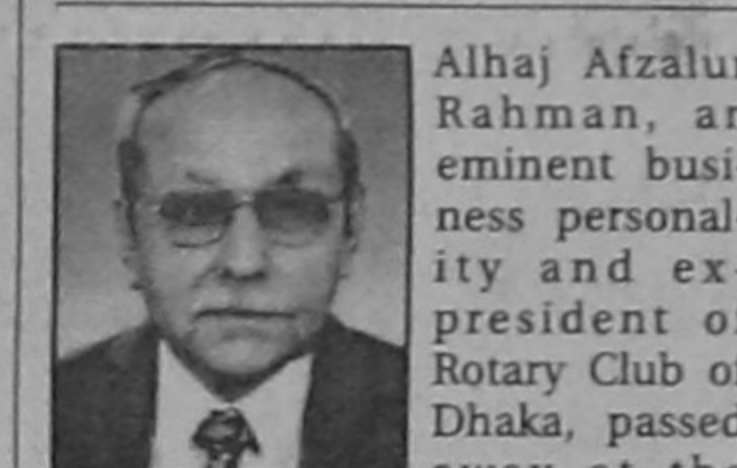
The two aircraft were scheduled to arrive last night, a Biman press release said yesterday.

The newly-procured aircraft, manufactured in 2002, will be used for operations to Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Delhi, Karachi, Kolkata and other short haul flights, the release said.

There is an all economy-seating configuration of 189 seats in each aircraft. Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft is one of the safest aircraft in the world.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Alhaj Afzalur Rahman, an eminent business personality and ex-president of Rotary Club of Dhaka, passed away at the United Hospital on November 3 at the age of 77, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, son, daughter and three grandchildren. His Hulsikhwani will be held at his own Gulshan residence after Maghrib prayers today.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

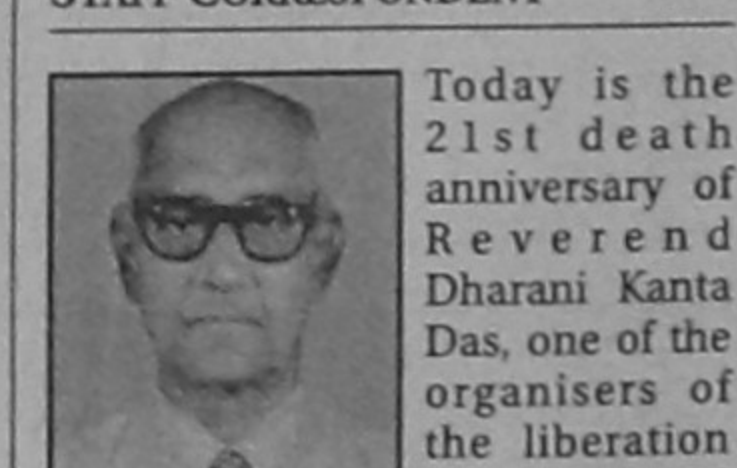


(Buet), will be observed today, says a press release.

Dr Rashid was elected fellow of the American society of Civil Engineers, a trustee of Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok and was chosen as chairman of Commonwealth Foundation. He was honoured with 'Swadhinata Award' posthumously.

Dharani Kanta Das

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 21st death anniversary of Reverend Dharani Kanta Das, one of the organisers of the liberation war and founder of Kulpatak Baptist Mission in Mohanganj, Netrokona, says a press release.

On the occasion, a prayer session, recitation from the Bible and other rituals will be held at his Kulpatak Mission house.

Begum Hafiza Khatoun

METRO DESK



The 15th death anniversary of Begum Hafiza Khatoun, wife of M Asghar Ali, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quankhwani, milad and oca mahfil will be held after Asr prayers. Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Dream of US generations

FROM PAGE 1

Martin Luther King and inspirational president John F Kennedy, Democrat Obama has ignited his country and the world with his message of hope, unity and change.

When he launched what he called his "improbable quest" on the steps of the old state capitol in Springfield, Illinois, in February 2007, Obama was seen as the rank outsider.

But with unflagging energy and verve, he took on the political establishment, defeating former first lady Hillary Clinton in the party primaries, overturned the perception that America was not ready to vote for a black president, and crushed the weight of the Republican attack machine.

Four short years ago, Obama was just a little-known but charismatic Chicago politician with a ready smile, who wowed the 2004 Democratic convention with a dazzling speech.

"There is not a black America, and white America and Latino America and Asian America -- there's the United States of America," he proclaimed then.

It was a message he has used to ignite a new fervor and excitement in a country angered by the economic crisis which has dragged down the world's top economy and sickened by the Iraq war.

In defying the odds, the 47-year-old Illinois senator has reshaped conventional wisdom on how to pay for a successful White House bid by harnessing the Internet as a powerful fund-raising tool.

His campaign also put together a formidable grass-roots organization, especially in key battleground states, which in the end gave him an unstoppable momentum towards the White House.

The son of a Kenyan father and a white mother from Kansas, Obama has sought to rise above the issue of race and project himself as the candidate for all Americans.

But his victory on Tuesday will remain bittersweet for Obama, after the woman who raised him to believe he would be whatever he wanted to be passed away just hours before his crowning moment.

His white maternal grand-

mother, Madelyn Dunham, whom he called "Toot" lost her battle with cancer in her home on Hawaii, never living to see Obama realise the aspirations of generations.

In a rare show of emotion, from a man who has been seen as cool and collected throughout the gruelling 21-month campaign, tears streamed down Obama's face Monday at a North Carolina rally.

His voice thick with grief, Obama said this was a "bittersweet time for me. She is going home."

Obama recapped his grandmother's life from her birth in 1922 and her marriage to his grandfather, their struggles through the Great Depression and with his infant mother through World War II.

"She was one of those quiet heroes that we have all across America," said Obama. "They're not famous. Their names aren't in the newspapers," he said, vowing

to fight for all the country's quiet heroes.

Born in Hawaii on August 4, 1961, Obama's path to the White House has not been backed by the privilege and wealth often enjoyed by past candidates.

His father left when he was just two, and the young Obama later moved to Indonesia with his mother, Ann, when she re-married.

He spent several years in Jakarta, before returning to Hawaii to live with his maternal grandparents when he was in his teens.

After attending Columbia University in New York, Obama went to the elite Harvard Law School, where he was the first black American to be president of the influential Harvard Law Review.

It was while working at a Chicago law firm that he met and then married Michelle, a fellow lawyer, in 1992. The couple has two young daughters, Malia 10, and Sasha, seven.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong division in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 32.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 19.0 degrees Celsius also at Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:16pm today and rises at 6:08am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.1	22.5	73	60
Chittagong	26.3	22.5	95	94
Rajshahi	31.5	19.8	89	80
Khulna	30.5	22.0	83	73
Barisal	29.0	21.5	87	91
Sylhet	31.1	20.9	74	74
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.0	69	88

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop

Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) organises a workshop on 'Manual on hydrological and hydraulic design of bridges' in collaboration with Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet). Venue: Buet Council Bhaban. Time: 9:00am.

Education fair

The inaugural ceremony of the 4th Dhaka International Education Fair will be held. Venue: Bashundhara City, Level 7. Time: 12:00noon.

Dialogue

A dialogue on the election manifesto of the political parties will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Medexpo-2008

The inaugural ceremony of the 6th International Medical Exposition (Medexpo-2008) will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 12:00noon.

Seminar

Office of the Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran organises a seminar on poet Kaiser Aminpur. Venue: RC Majumdar auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 10:00am.

Debate

The inaugural ceremony of the 3rd Ittefaq Stamford National Debate Competition 2008 will be held. Venue: Siddeshwari campus of Stamford University. Time: 3:00pm.

German Trade Show

The inaugural ceremony of the German Trade Show 2008 will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 3:00pm.

Art competition

Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) organises an art competition and cultural programme for children with disability. Venue: Eidgah Math, Mirpur-12. Time: 02:00pm.

Workshop