

Step up cooperation for best parliamentary practices

President tells C'wealth team

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday emphasised further strengthening the cooperation among the Commonwealth nations for promoting best parliamentary practices in the member-countries, many of them still learning the rules of the game in a democracy.

The president made the remarks when an 11-member delegation of the Common-

wealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) from the United Kingdom, led by John Austin MP, called on him at Bangabhaban.

Welcoming the delegation, Zillur said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasian has taken various initiatives to make democracy more effective in the country.

He mentioned that all 48 parliamentary standing committees were constituted in the

first session of the current parliament and the chairmanship of several committees given to the opposition parties.

The delegation members apprised him that the members of parliament, would hold an international conference on climate change and curbing terrorism in London in July.

They also said Bangladeshi members of parliament would form a parliamentary group to make recommendations for the London conference.

Results of teachers registration exam published

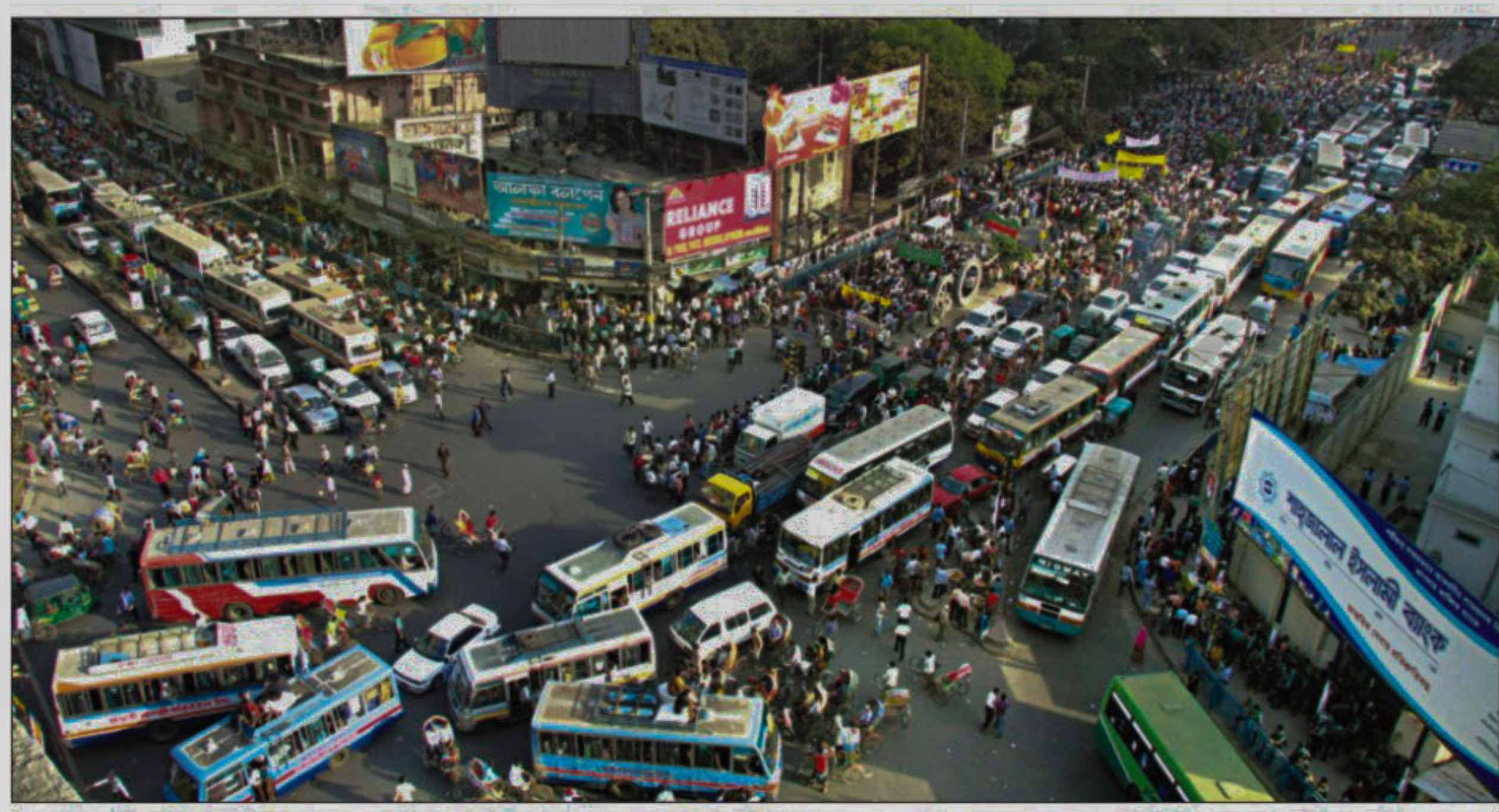
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The result of the Non-government Teachers Registration Examination was published yesterday with 38.33 percent pass rate.

A total of 39,225 candidates out of 1,02,348 passed in the exams. Of them, 23,444 candidates passed at high school level for 39 subjects and 15,781 at college level for 30 subjects.

"The high school level pass rate is 37.09 percent while college level is 40.32 percent," said an official handout.

The exams were held on December 1 and 2 last year under the Non-government Teachers Registration and Certificate Authority (NTRCA).



Traffic grinds to a halt at Paltan intersection in the city yesterday as BNP leaders and activists take out a procession during the party rally at Mukhtang. (Story on Page 1)

Transport leaders asked to stop extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A law and order meeting of Dhaka division yesterday decided that the deputy commissioners (DCs) in the division will work along with the local elected representatives to contain anarchy in the name of politics, meeting sources said.

The meeting, which was convened at the Dhaka Divisional Commissioner's office in the backdrop of a deteriorating law and order situation, asked the transport leaders to stop extortions in the transport sector.

Sources said combating militancy, activities of mobile courts and checking road accidents were also discussed in the meeting.

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder

attended the meeting as the chief guest while DCs of all the 17 districts in Dhaka division, senior police officers and representatives of Dhaka City Corporation and transport sector were present.

Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka Dr Khandaker Shawkat Hossain told The Daily Star that there is nothing to be worried about the current law and order situation of the division.

The meeting directed the DCs to ensure that the children do not languish in jail.

Meanwhile, a couple of women government officials raised a number of problems, including the security of the women staffs that do not stay with their families.

"We asked the DCs to look into the matter," the divisional commissioner said.

BCL leader scuffles with its president

DU CORRESPONDENT

An organising secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was locked in a scuffle with its President Mahmud Hasan Ripon over a trifling matter during a procession on the Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday.

Organising Secretary Khairul Hasan Jewel also scuffled with Ripon in the chest during the scuffle at the procession of Chhatra Sangram Parishad near the Madhur Canteen at noon, witnesses said.

The scuffle erupted after Ripon tried to pull Jewel away from the front row of the procession and wanted to go there to lead the procession. Ripon also called him 'stupid', which prompted Jewel to be locked in an altercation, said a BCL leader who took part in the procession.

However, the situation came under control after BCL General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Rotan took Jewel away, BCL leaders said.

Many leaders and activists of the organisation believe that the incident was a clear sign of breakdown in the organisational chain of command.

When reporters contacted Ripon over phone, he denied the allegations.

'DNA profiling can revolutionise crime investigation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DNA profiling has the potential to revolutionise the country's crime investigation scenario, North South University (NSU) Foundation Chairman MA Kashem said yesterday.

He was speaking at a seminar on DNA technology in criminal investigation jointly organised by the Department of Life Sciences and Life Sciences Club at NSU.

Presenting the keynote paper, Prof Sharif Akhteruzzaman of Dhaka University said DNA profiling is being increasingly used to identify criminal suspects as well as in many other fields throughout the world.

"Apart from criminal investigations, DNA profiling is used in paternity tests, immigration disputes, establishing family links, inheritance disputes and identifying nameless victims from accidents and disasters," said Prof Sharif Akhteruzzaman, a teacher at the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of DU.

DNA technology has also been used in Bangladesh in many instances, he said citing

the BDR mutiny as a recent example.

Some of the bodies recovered after the mutiny were unidentifiable and that's why their DNA samples were taken to identify the bodies, he said.

"DNA technology has also been used in a number or murder cases as well as in paternity tests. Recently by using DNA profiling, a couple in Chittagong found out that their two-year-old daughter is not actually their daughter, who was mistakenly swapped with their actual son in the hospital ward," said Prof Sharif Akhteruzzaman, who is also a technical adviser to the National Forensic DNA Profiling Lab of Dhaka Medical College.

NSU Vice Chancellor Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi, Pro-VC Dr SAM Khairul Bashar and life sciences department Chairman Abdul Khaleq also spoke.

A poster exhibition and quiz contest was also held before the seminar where students from NSU and Dhaka University participated.

Ansar man gives mutiny threat in frustration

Say interrogators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ansar member, who was arrested on charge of issuing a mutiny threat to Ansar director general, admitted that he had sent a text message to the DG and frustration over his job led him to do so, said TFI interrogators.

After a two-day interrogation at Taskforce for Interrogation (TFI) cell, detained Ansar member Azim Uddin was taken back to Khilgaon police custody yesterday.

TFI interrogators did not get any mutiny related information from Azim.

Khilgaon Police Station Sub-Inspector Zakir Hossain, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, told The Daily Star, "As we could not extract anything related to mutiny threat from the detained Ansar man, he was sent to the TFI cell."

"Hailing from Fulpur in Mymensingh, Azim was frustrated over his job as he was not regularised after 10 years in service," the IO said.

However, Ansar and VDP Director (operation and training) Forkan Uddin Ahammad said, "The message was a threat to the DG as well as to the entire force and, therefore, there is no scope of considering it a minor incident."

"We asked all the intelligence agencies, including DGF and NSI, to look into the matter whether there was indeed any conspiracy," said the director and added, "Apart from legal action, departmental action would also be taken against him."

A source from the TFI cell said, during the interrogation, it seemed to the interrogators that the arrestee was "abnormal".

Azim sent a message on Sunday to Ansar-VDP DG Maj Rafiqul Islam over mobile phone warning that if the demands of the Ansar-VDP members were not met, an incident like the BDR carnage would happen during the National Parade to be held at Safipur Ansar Academy in Gazipur on February 28.

War-maimed FF seeks PM's help in getting back grabbed home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A war-maimed freedom fighter (FF) yesterday sought the prime minister's intervention in evicting the local cadres from his Azimpur residence who grabbed his residence in the name of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Maimed FF Mohammad Sirajul Islam of New Paltan Line at Azimpur in the city made the appeal at a press briefing at the National Press Club.

On February 16, he said, some 60 local criminals broke open his house, dragged out all his furniture and hung a signboard, which was inscribed with "Temporary office of No. 59 Ward BCL".

Local criminal Dil Mohammad, his brother

Mohammad Anwar Hossain Anu and Mohammad Mohan, who identify themselves as local BCL activists, led the attackers when Sirajul went to Tejgaon for getting his ration card.

The FF said he got the allotment of the residence by the government on May 28 in 2001 as a war-maimed freedom fighter.

He said Lalbagh zone did not record any case or general diary against the attackers, rather the officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station asked him to negotiate the matter with Osman Gani, who is the elder brother of gang leader Anu.

Denying the allegation, OC Mohammad Ali said he engaged an officer in looking into the matter when the freedom fighter came to the police station.

RAID ON EDEN HOSTELS Jamaat publications seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police seized a huge quantity of publications of Jamaat-e-Islami during a raid on the dormitories of Eden University College in the city yesterday.

Several hundred policemen and policewomen searched the rooms of the students, TV rooms, dining halls and other areas during the raid from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, witnesses said.

They also searched each students, but none was arrested.

"The police found a huge quantity of publications of Jamaat and Islami books while searching over 600 rooms of all the hostels," Lalbagh Police Station officer-in-

charge Mohammad Ali told The Daily Star.

The raid was conducted following a request from the authorities of the educational institution, he added.

Following information regarding intensified activities of Islami Chhatra Shibir activists, the higher authorities of the government directed the police and the college authorities to conduct a massive drive, sources said.

Lalbagh zone Deputy Commissioner Anwar Hossain said the raid was conducted as part of their precautionary measures in the wake of intensified activities of Shibir and other militant organisations on the campus.

Call to use Bangla as medium of learning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday underscored the importance of establishing Bangla as the medium of learning and exercising knowledge at tertiary level.

Establishing Bangla language does not mean abandonment of English, the international language, they said, adding that proficiency in English is also required in higher studies and it should be taught as well with importance", he added.

The speakers said this at the seminar on 'Exercise of Bangla language at university level' at University Grants Commission (UGC) Auditorium in the city organised by UGC to mark the

International Mother Language Day-2010 to be observed on Sunday.

Presenting a keynote paper, Prof Abdul Khaleq, former vice chancellor of Rajshahi University, underlined the significance of using Bangla in official and academic activities.

He said people should not overestimate the international language than their mother tongue as education in mother tongue can bring the ultimate success in one's profession and livelihood.

Prof Shafi Ahmed, Prof AHM Baki, Prof Sanjida Akhter, Prof Akimur Rahman and UGC member Dr Atul Hye Shibly also spoke at the programme.

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The Daily Star the English national daily with the highest circulation in the country, is going to appoint a DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR. Ideal candidate must be an MBA or Masters in Management/Human Resource or equivalent degree holder in Economics or Commerce with outstanding leadership qualities and proven track record of achievements to lead a highly motivated and talented team to raise revenue and circulation. She/He must also create new products to capture hitherto untapped markets. She/He must possess high-level management experience. Applicants must have minimum 10 years practical experience with any reputed national or international organization to qualify for the post. Highly active, dynamic candidates with innovative, creative minds and familiar with modern IT based management system would be given preference. Attractive pay package with 24-hour office car will be provided to the selected candidate. Applicants with above qualities are requested to apply along-with complete bio-data and a passport size photograph to reach the following address by 7 March, 2010.

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