

O & A LEVEL EXAMS Daily Star honours outstanding achievers today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star today awards the outstanding achievers of O and A level examinations at a grand award ceremony expected to be attended by some 5000 students, parents, teachers and principals.

The Daily Star, which initiated the unique annual event that brings all English medium schools of the country together, is giving the awards this year for the 11th time, with the theme 'Saluting the Nation Builders of Tomorrow'.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will be present at the award presentation ceremony as the chief guest and British High Commissioner Stephen Evans as the special guest.

This year, a total of 1218 students of 63 participating schools will be awarded. Of them, 685 students are O Level awardees, 376 students are A Level awardees and 56 are private candidates.

Of them, 52 students scored the highest marks in the world and 49 students secured the highest marks in Bangladesh.

Last year, a total of 953 O level and A level students were awarded. Of them, 34 students secured the highest marks worldwide in 13 subjects in the GCSE O level examinations and 19 others obtained the highest marks worldwide in six subjects of the A level exams.

In addition to the award ceremony, The Daily Star from the last year has been organising Bangla cultural functions for English medium schools to showcase the high level Bangla cultural activities carried out in those schools.



Construction materials piled up on Rokeya Sarani in front of Kazipara mosque in the city obstruct movement of vehicles as well as pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.

Fire victims living under open sky

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 1,500 victims of a devastating fire, which broke out in a slum at Mohammadpur in the city on Wednesday night, are now living under open sky.

They spent the night in an open field just beside the wrecked shanties.

Most of the ravaged people are selling out their belongings for cash to feed their families.

Meanwhile, no casualties were reported till yesterday evening though many went missing during the incident.

The fire gutted at least 350 shanties at Banshabari slum near Shia mosque in Mohammadpur. The slum was built on a wetland.

Different NGOs and local

political leaders have visited the slum and assured the victims of giving financial and other assistance but to little avail till yesterday evening.

"I have lost everything in the fire and have nothing to buy a piece of bread. Suddenly, I thought I could sell my belongings. I have sold those and bought food for my four-member family," Babu Hossain, a rickshawpuller who is also a resident of the slum.

"I built a house on the jheel three years ago with an amount of Tk 15,000 and today I sold the burnt tins and other materials of the house at Tk 1,600."

Like Babu, most of the fire victims had to do so for their existence.

Take steps to free prisoners after jail terms: JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over the bureaucratic tangle for which around 1,100 people await release from jail even after they completed serving their prison term.

The parliamentary standing committee on home affairs ministry, therefore, asked the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to ease the process and release them from jail.

Mirza Azam, a member of the committee, told the meeting that there are many people who are languishing in jail despite completion of their jail term due to bureaucratic tangle.

"While I was in jail, many people pointed out the matter to me. The jail authorities as well as home ministry did not give their final clearance to those people, as they often could not produce documents which they lost in maximum incidents," M Shafiqul Islam, a member of the committee, quoted Azam as saying at the meeting.

Shafiqul, also a ruling party lawmaker, told The Daily Star: "The process is very complex for which many people cannot come out of the jail in spite of their completion of jail term."

He further said that many people, who get

the president's mercy, have to wait in jail for long due to the tangle.

It is not acceptable that a person has to stay in jail for many days just for bureaucratic knot," the lawmaker added.

The committee also asked the ministry to ease the process of waiving the punishment of life-term prisoners.

The meeting held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban also asked Narcotics Control Department to conduct a special drive against trading of illegal drugs in the city and elsewhere across the country.

The committee formed a three-member subcommittee, headed by lawmaker Nurul Islam Sujon, to submit a report to it on a bill titled 'Acid Control (amendment) Act 2002'. The two other members of the subcommittee include AL lawmaker Sanjida Khanam and Jatiya Party lawmaker Mujib-ul-Hoque.

The bill was sent to the committee for scrutiny.

Presided over by Maj (retd) Abdus Salam, chairman of the parliamentary body, the meeting was attended by Home Minister Sahara Khatun, home secretary and inspector general of police, among others.

Govt to implement edn policy soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering immediate implementation of the National Education Policy as its duty of the day.

"Economic and bureaucratic obstacles and problems in the mindset are the main reasons behind the delay in implementation," said Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry yesterday.

"Three months have passed since January -- the deadline of the date of implementation of the policy," he said adding the government must give utmost emphasis on it.

He made the remark while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar titled 'National Education Policy 2009 implementation: Possibilities and crises' at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Bangladesh Shiksha O Shikhhak Andolan Samonnay Forum Dhaka City organised the seminar.

Menon also said the government have got a policy after struggling for a long time which is close to the country's reality.

He said the proposed unified education system in the policy can bring a qualitative change in the system.

A group has been opposing the policy on the ground of religion and trying hard so that the policy is not implemented, he said adding that the policy contains the religious values.

"Those people who opposed the Liberation War before and after are creating such obstacles," he said.

Newly appointed Janata Bank Chairman economist Abul Barakat said formulating a non-communal, people oriented and discrimination-free education policy is quite impossible in the country as the country's economy and politics have been jeopardised.

He said education should be based on the philosophical development and humanity and eradication of poverty and illiteracy.

Prof M Shamshul Alam of Chittagong University, Prof Shushanta Das and Rabiul Islam also spoke.

Principal Golam Faruk of the organisation presided over while Prof M Saidul Haque Talukder presented a keynote paper.

GRAFT CASES Hearing on Hasina's petitions on Mar 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday deferred for a week the hearing on the petitions filed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for quashing the proceedings of four corruption cases against her.

The HC bench of Justice Md Shamsul Huda and Justice Abu Bakar Siddiquee fixed March 24 for the hearing.

The court was due to hear the petitions yesterday, but the hearing could not be held, as Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, a counsel for Hasina, was not present in the court.

The cases were filed against Hasina, also the Awami League chief, on charges of corruption in setting up of barge-mounted power plant and Meghnaghat power plant,

in the appointment of consultant at the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) and in procurement of frigates.


The barge-mounted power plant graft case was filed during the previous caretaker government, and three other cases were filed during the regime of BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government.

Upon separate petitions filed by Hasina, the HC earlier stayed the proceedings against Hasina in the cases and issued separate rules upon the government to explain why the proceedings of the cases should not be quashed.

Earlier this month, the HC quashed the proceedings of five corruption cases against Hasina.



Prof Kabir Chowdhury speaks at a discussion on 'Trial of war criminals, militancy, fundamentalism and proposed education policy' at WVA auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Prof Anisuzzaman and Justice Gholam Rabbani and on his right are Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and former adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury. Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971 organised the event.



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KIBRIA KILLING CASE Statement of Huji man recorded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Habiganj court yesterday recorded statement of a Harkat-ul-Jihad-al Islami operative accused in SAMS Kibria killing case.

After a seven-day remand, CID ASP Rafiqul Islam, also investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced Shah Mizanur Rahman Mithu before the Judicial Magistrate's Court, which recorded his confessional statement in the afternoon.

During the remand, Mithu admitted his involvement in the grenade attack on former finance minister Kibria, said Rafiqul.

Quoting the Huji operative, the IO said Mithu left Habiganj for Dhaka soon after the incident.

However, the IO would not give details about the statement.

Kibria, his nephew advocate Shah Manzurul Huda, local Awami League leaders Abdur Rahim, Abul Hossain and Siddique Ali were killed in a grenade attack on a public meeting at Baidderbazar in Sadar upazila of Habiganj on January 27, 2005.

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