

IBTEDAI MADRASAS

Special exams to recruit quality teachers on cards

WASIM BIN HABIB

The government is introducing a special registration examination in primary level to appoint quality teachers in primary order of madrasa education.

The special registration examination will be held for four positions -- ibtedai head, junior moulvi, junior teacher and quari -- of ibtedai madrasas attached to Dakhil, Aleem, Fazel and Kamil madrasas.

Non-government Teachers' Registration and Certification Authority will take an exam titled Non-government Teachers' Registration (special) Examination 2010 on June 26, according to a circular by the NTRCA.

"This is the only section where we have not taken the registration exams though the examination for the non-government secondary and higher secondary educational institutions held for the five times since the beginning of the system," said a

top official at the NTRCA. He requested not to be named, as he is not authorised to talk the media.

After passing the exam, the candidates will be eligible for applying to get appointed to the madrasas, the official added.

The new system is being introduced to maintain a standard in recruiting teachers in the madrasas. The existing system allows any persons having necessary qualifications for the posts in the ibtedai madrasas and the institutions can appoint them after maintaining procedures.

It also said the candidates will have to sit for a compulsory course of 100 marks and an optional course of 100 marks.

The pass marks is 40. The exam of the compulsory course will be one hour in MCQ method. The candidates will have to sit for a three-hour exam for the optional course, said the circular.

The candidates will have to fill up an

application form on the website of the NTRCA (www.ntrca.gov.bd) or http://ntrca.teletalk.com.bd, it said.

They can fill up the forms till May 31 on the website and send the printed copies of the application forms along with attested copies of all certificates to the NTRCA's office.

The circular said the registration exams will be held in Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna, Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions.

Any candidates, who had earlier sat for other registration examinations, can attend the exam on condition of eligibility, it said adding the circular, exam syllabus and other information can be collected from the NTRCA's website.

The circular said certificates will be given for five years.

Candidates can contact at 8612810 for further information.



Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote forms a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday protesting June 27 hartal called by main opposition BNP and demanding trial of the war criminals.

PHOTO: STAR

Atiur blasts BBS estimate on agri growth 'Introduce waste removal tax'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman yesterday criticised an estimate of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) that the growth in agriculture declined by almost half in the current fiscal year.

"The BBS estimate has no practical basis," he said while delivering a lecture at the conference hall of the Faculty of Business Studies of the Dhaka University.

The central bank chief said he is skeptical if the BBS has any methodological mistakes or received accurate information on agriculture productivity.

BBS early this week finalised the provisional account of gross domestic product (GDP) where it said the growth rate in crop sector was 2.20 percent this fiscal year, down from 4.02 percent last year.

BBS officials said the main contrib-

utor to the crop sector is rice. In the last fiscal year crop sector saw a bumper production of rice of around three crore tonnes. Although Aus crop was hampered this year, the harvest is expected to be around three crore metric tons. As the production remained the same, the crop sector did not rise, he said.

However, Atiur Rahman said the government provided more subsidies to agriculture, while more credit facilities were provided to the farmers. "So, the growth must be higher than that of last year."

There was some crop damages due to flash floods in the haor areas, but it is very minimal, he said.

Under the Agrani Bank Lecture Series 2010 organised by the Dhaka University, Atiur Rahman delivered his lecture titled 'Financial Services at People's Doorstep'.

Former governor of the central bank Dr Salehuddin Ahmed lectured

on 'Inflation: A challenge to South Asia's Economic Progress', and Center for Policy Dialogue Executive Director Dr Mustafizur Rahman on 'Towards Strengthened Regional Economic Integration: A window of opportunity for Bangladesh.'

Dr Atiur Rahman highlighted a series of initiatives the BB has taken to reach credit facilities to the poor.

Stating that micro-credit financial organisations made significant contributions to reach credit to the poor, he said there are, however, questions about their high interest rates and not reaching the hardcore poor who have no ability to repay.

The micro-credit organisations will face troubles unless they address these criticisms, Atiur Rahman said.

Dr Mashiur Rahman, economic affairs adviser to the prime minister, said it is extremely important to make credit easily accessible to the people, but too easier conditions for credit

may cause difficulties. He referred to sub-prime mortgage issue and recent collapse of banking sector in the developed economies.

Dr Salehuddin said inflation mostly affects the poorer section, and to smartly regulate inflation, authorities should monitor its long-term trends and both internal and external factors that contribute to it.

Mustafizur Rahman said China and India will be the major economies in the 21st century, and Bangladesh being their neighbours must take its advantage by integrating with these countries. Connectivity with the countries, therefore, is very important, he said.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Harun-Or-Rashid, Business Studies Faculty Dean Dr Abbas Ali Khan, Treasurer Dr Mizanur Rahman and Agrani Bank Chairman Dr Khandaker Bazul Haque also spoke.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Factories that has been producing waste and polluting the environment should be charged for recycling and management of waste, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

Initiative must be taken to introduce 'waste removal tax' in the national budget, they added.

Annachitra, a fortnightly magazine, organised the roundtable on 'Inclusion of Waste Removal Tax in the upcoming national budget' at Bangladesh Economic Association Auditorium in the city.

Both pollution prevention measures and clean-up are needed, yet pollution clean-up should be encouraged through giving incentives, said Dr Mizan R Khan, a professor of environmental science and management at North South University, in his keynote paper.

Drawing examples of China, where taxes are imposed on disposal of household and commercial waste, he said waste management in Bangladesh is not working due to regulatory instrument, which often lacks

effective enforcement.

"An economic instrument of imposing tax on producing waste can be fruitful," he added.

Environment and Forest Secretary Dr Mihir Kanti Majumdar said the government is working on 'waste solution management' and soon a notification might be issued in this regard.

Inclusion of waste removal tax in the national budget might not be possible this time, but initiatives must be taken to introduce such tax in the next fiscal, he added.

Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, chairperson of Pali Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), said, "If the industries are asked to pay for the recycling of waste they are producing, consumers will be affected in turn. As a result, consumers will also become conscious of waste management and recycle."

Dr Fazle Rabbi, Sadek Ahmed, director, Climate Change, Department of Environment, Tamzidur Rahman, chief executive officer, Change Maker, and Mokammel Hossain, editor of the Annachitra, also spoke.



Health Directorate takes out a procession from in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh in the city yesterday on the occasion of the Safe Motherhood Day.

PHOTO: STAR

Blame game over 56 fake headmasters

ANWAR ALI, RAJSHAHI

Dividing into two groups, top officials at the Secondary Teachers Training Institute in Rajshahi blamed each other for wrongdoings in selecting 56 fake headmasters for a training programme.

Just a day before ending of the six-day training on teaching quality improvement, it was revealed on May 26 that they were taking part in the session using false identities. The authorities kept fake teachers confined to a room at the institute but they managed to flee with the help of its officials.

Talking to this correspondent at their respective offices of the institute, the officials throw the blames on the others.

Director of the institute Dr Swapan Kumar Dutta and Assistant Director M Shamsuzzoha pointed fingers at Training Coordinator Dr Shelina Aforze for the irregularities.

On the other hand, Shelina and Assistant Director Sirajum Munira said Dutta and Shamsuzzoha controlled the entire programme.

All of them had earlier blamed the wrongdoings on only three employees of the institute.

Moreover, the institute authorities listed the 56 fake headmasters from five districts Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon and Natore though all the 84 participants were due be taken from Dinajpur district alone for the training, show documents.

Students, unemployed youths, illiter-

ates, small traders and service persons were hired to attend the programme in disguise of headmasters of fictitious schools in order to embezzle some Tk 2 lakh of the project money, said the institute officials. Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) are funding the project.

The three-member committee headed by Shamsul Kalam Azad, a teacher at the Rajshahi New Degree Government College, is investigating the matter.

"As coordinator of the programme, Shelina was responsible for everything from scrutinising participants to managing the entire training," the director said.

"It was she who must check if there were any participants from other than Dinajpur district," he said showing training schedule.

Shamsuzzoha who was present at the director's office said the training coordinator deployed the employees for registering the participants, not he. He denied the allegation that he let the fake headmasters to go away after their capture.

"I don't believe the employees can engage in such crime without support of their seniors. A syndicate (of boss-employee) is active in the institute," Shelina, also the additional director of the institute, said. "Although I was made chief coordinator of the training programme, I was never provided with necessary documents. I was following verbal order of the director... In fact, the director told me that Shamsuzzoha would manage every-

thing." "I was not given the recommendations of the district education officers... I was not even aware until today (when The Daily Star informed) that only the participants from Dinajpur were eligible for the training."

Asked why she proceeded when she was not given any document, she said, "In training programmes, we usually concentrate more on training than on scrutinising participants... And we get enough time for scrutiny before ending the programmes."

"The suspected employees are known as the men of Shamsuzzoha and the director. How can I employ them for registration," she said replying to a question.

Munira who was present with Shelina corroborated her statement.

Several employees yesterday told this correspondent if anyone examines previous training programmes, he would see at least Tk 1 lakh has been embezzled from every such session. The institute organise such programme almost every week, they said.

Contacted, Dinajpur District Education Officer Shamsul Alam said he sent all necessary documents to the institute in time and those were sufficient for scrutiny.

"The institute authorities usually do not contact with us regarding selection of the participants for a training programme," he said.

WEATHER TODAY logo with sun and cloud icons.

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over

Rajshahi division in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:41pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.0 degrees Celsius at Madaripur.

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

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Elderly patient succumbs to injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Abdul Haque, the elderly patient who was the centre of the feud between an attendant and intern doctors leading to the latter's strike at Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH), succumbed to his injuries on Thursday.

RMCH ward master Mosarrif Hossain confirmed Haque's death in the evening.

The 65-year old patient was admitted to the neuro-surgery ward at RMCH on May 23 after he received critical injuries in his head and left hand in a road accident at Shibganj in Chapainawabganj.

Haque's grandson Raihan Rubel Feroz quarrelled with on-duty interns seeking proper treatment on May 23. The interns beat him up and enforced an indefinite strike demanding security the next day. Both Rubel and the interns lodged separate cases against each other over the matter. When contacted after the death, Haque's son Abdur Rashid declined to make any comment.

Hand over plots immediately

Owners urge Concord

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Concord Rajdhani Prokalpa Plot Owners' Welfare Association at a rally yesterday demanded immediate handover of their plots in Concord Rajdhani Prokalpa at Jatrabari in the city.

Around 600 plot owners said despite completion of their installments four to six years ago for their plots they are yet to get possession on the plots or any registration paper.

"None except Allah can tell us when we will get the plot. We fear that we might not get the plot at all," said Senior Vice President of the Association Nesar Uddin Ahmed at the rally at Institution of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh.

Plot owners said there are 1,700 plots in the concord project that were booked by different individuals and institutions. They said they have completed their installments and supposed to get possession once the installments are paid.

They said despite their repeated attempts, Concord is yet to give them any registration documents and possession of the plots. Rather, Concord now proposes to take back money if current owners do not want to wait, the owners added.

"Concord has left the work undone and keeping the earth filling task incomplete," said Gazi Fakhruddin, who has share in two plots at the project and paid his full installments by 2006.

Association President Gazi Joydul Abedin, Secretary Shah Rezaul Mahmud and members Abul Kalam Azad, Harun-Or Rashid, Harun-Or Rashid Patwari, Masudur Rahman, Oliul Haque Rumi and Ruhul Amin were present at the programme.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Al-Kamal Abdul Wahab, a child litterateur and lyricist, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held and foods will be distributed among the orphans.

Relatives and admirers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Kamale Fatema

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Kamale Fatema, wife of late Sharfuddin Ahmed, founder of Mohiuddin & Sons, a book outlet in the city, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani will be held at her son's residence in Gendaria in the city.

3 die in Narsingdi road crashes

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

At least three people were killed and seven others injured in separate road accidents in Belabo and Shibpur upazilas in Narsingdi yesterday.

A man and his wife on a microbus were killed on the spot after a passenger bus losing its control hit their microbus at Narayanpur in Belabo upazila at around 2:00pm. Five other passengers from both the microbus and bus were injured, said witnesses.

The deceased were identified as the microbus owner Nur Ahmed, 50, and his wife Shima Begum, 40, hailing from Dhaka. Nur Ahmed with his family members was going Kularchar area, said

sources. The identity of the injured could not be ascertained immediately.

Police sent the bodies to Narsingdi Bodhis Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The another accident took place at around 3:00pm as a passenger bus coming from opposite direction hit a private car on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Kundarpara under Shibpur upazila, killing Premananda Shaha, 40, and injuring two other private car passengers, said witnesses.

Premananda was declared dead after he was taken to Narsingdi Zila Hospital. Premananda's son Pinoy Shaha and the private car driver were undergoing treatment at the hospital.