

7,79,441 to sit for HSC exams this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent Alim and Business Management (BM) examinations begin tomorrow with 7,79,441 examinees sitting in 2,074 centres across the country.

This year the number of examinees is around 43,068 more than last year's.

Some 4,24,823 male and 3,54,618 female students of 7,288 educational institutions will appear under 10 education boards including madrasa and technical boards.

The exams will also be held in five overseas centres -- Jeddah, Riyadh, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Tripoli -- for 191 candidates.

Announcing the figures at a pre-examination press briefing at the secretariat yesterday, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said necessary measures were taken to ensure a peaceful environment and prevent cheating at examination centres.

Referring to today's hartal called by Islami Oikya Jote, he said there was no need of such unnecessary hartal at this time and hoped that the jote would consider the inconvenience of examinees.

Bangla First Paper will be held tomorrow and the second exam, Bangla Second Paper, will be held on April 7.

Around 18.19 percent of the total students who registered as regular students in 2009-2010 session after passing SSC or equivalent exams failed to fill in HSC and equivalent exam forms.

Dhaka Education Board Chairman Prof Fahima Khatun said some 1,34,242 students will not be able to take the examination this year. However, this rate of such students refraining from taking exam, also considered as drop out, is slightly low this year. Last year it was 18.24 while 19.92 percent in 2009.

The education minister said the government took special measures for students living in Libya. Of the 14 students supposed to take exams there, five returned to Bangladesh and will be taking the exam in Dhaka College centres. Question papers were already sent to Libya for the remaining eight students, he added.

Like in Junior Certificate Examination, disabled students will get 15 minutes extra time in the examination, he said. Nahid urged political leaders and local representatives not to enter examination centres without reason.

Like previous years, Dhaka board has the highest number of examinees in 2011 with 2,09,117, while the lowest is Sylhet board with 30,965.

Around 6,29,619 lakh students will take the exam under eight general education boards; 76,957 students will take Alim exam under Madrasa Board; and 68,961 students will take BM exam under Technical Board.

Besides, 3,904 students of Diploma in Business Studies (DIBS) will sit under Dhaka Board.



Women Forum forms a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding a step to ban fatwa (religious edict).

SAARC COP CHIEFS MEET IN COLOMBO TODAY

Cross border crimes to top agenda

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Police chiefs of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Sarc) nations will attend a two-day meet beginning today in Colombo of Sri Lanka. They aim to discuss on tackling cross border crimes more effectively and strengthening cooperation among law enforcement agencies in the region.

Officials said this meet would be a lead up to the conference of home/interior ministers of Saarc member states on border crimes and narcotics in Saarc countries will

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hasan Mahmood Khandaker, leading a nine-member Bangladesh delegation, left yesterday to attend the three conferences, beginning today and ending tomorrow.

The conferences are the 9th Saarc Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters, 4th Meeting of Focal Points of Saarc Drug Offences Monitoring Desk (SDOMD) and 4th Meeting of Focal Points of Saarc Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD).

Besides, heads of agencies involved in investigating terrorism and narcotics in Saarc countries will

meet today to discuss regional issues pertaining to terrorism and drug smuggling across Saarc countries.

Sources at foreign and home ministries said the chiefs would discuss issues relating to terrorism, drug peddling and gunrunning crimes.

They would examine and discuss proposals to be presented by the SDOMD and the STOMD and a final draft will be prepared based on the recommendations presented by the agencies.

The report will then be submitted to the home/interior ministers of Saarc countries, who will meet

shortly prior to the main Saarc conference in the Maldives at the end of this year.

Officials said the conferences would be a forum to enhance professionalism of police agencies, promote goodwill among police officers of Saarc region and share information.

IGP Mahmood will hold bilateral discussion with his counterparts from Saarc countries on the sideline of the conferences. He will also take part in different programmes to be organised by the Sri Lankan government and is expected to return home on April 7.

WOMEN DEV POLICY Govt ready to talk with critics

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mohammad Shahjahan yesterday said the government is ready to sit with the critics and discuss the matter to remove any confusion about the Women Development Policy.

He alleged that certain quarters are trying to misinterpret the Women Development Policy making it contradictory to Quran and Sunnah, and creating anarchy in the name of hartal to put the government in an embarrassing situation.

Briefing reporters at his ministry, Shahjahan referred to section 23.5 of the Women Development Policy, which stipulates equal opportunity and share of women in property, employment and trading. The property here does not mean inherited property, he said.

Rather, he said in the light of the Constitution it ensures that a woman being a citizen will have due share in acquiring property, own workplaces and trade and commerce according to her competence.

Shahjahan said this section says that if a woman participates in a joint venture and make investment, she will have her share accordingly. It does not mean anything against Quran and Sunnah.

The state minister also referred to section 25.2 of the policy that ensures full control of a woman on acquired property got through her earning, inheritance, loan, land and market management.

This section, he said, did not speak about equal rights on inheritance. Rather, it says full control of a woman on her property acquired in accordance of the Muslim Inheritance Law and religious provisions.

Shahjahan said what IOJ leader Mufti Maulana Amini says has no links with the reality. The Islamic Foundation, he said, had held a press conference on the Women Development Policy and cleared all aspects of the policy.

The briefing was attended by IJO (faction) chairman Mesbahur Rahman Chowdhury, JP presidium member Mujibur Rahman Juktibadi, AL religious affairs secretary Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and the Secretaries to the Religious Affairs and Women and Children Affairs Ministries.



A number of Grameen Bank borrowers and university students join a 'solidarity rally' at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday to show support for Professor Muhammad Yunus. In front of the stage lie piles of papers containing signatures of 37 lakh Grameen Bank borrowers. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

REPAIR WORKS AT AILA-HIT AREAS

JS body to probe corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary sub-committee was formed yesterday to probe alleged anomalies and corruption in repairing works of damaged embankments and river protection in the Aila-hit areas.

The parliamentary standing committee on the water resources ministry at a meeting held at the Parliament Building Complex formed the three-member probe body after receiving allegations from different NGO's and individuals.

Headed by Fazlul Azim, an independent MP, the committee has been asked to submit its report before the main committee within one month.

"From different NGO's and individuals, we have received allegations of misappropriation of money and other irregularities in construction of embankments and river protection

works. The committee therefore formed a probe committee to verify those," said Abdur Razzaq, chief of the committee.

The former water resources minister told The Daily Star that hundreds of crores of take were involved with different development works, including repairing of damaged embankments in the Aila-hit areas.

"Over Tk 500 crore was allocated for river construction works alone," Razzaq, also an AL lawmaker, added.

The sub-committee was asked to identify types of irregularities, money involved with those and people responsible for anomalies, said meeting sources.

"The main committee also asked the sub-committee to submit total picture of construction and repairing works in the areas, including how much money was allocated, money

spent so far and quality of the works," said the committee chief.

Cyclone Aila hit the country's coastal areas on May 25, 2009 that claimed lives of 190 people and 150,131 livestock, and affecting 3,928,238 more people by damaging 613,778 houses, destroying crops on 323,454 acres of land, and 1,742.53 km stretch of embankments.

While a correspondent of The Daily Star visited Sathkira on September 2009, the Aila-hit victims pointed out the corruption in the repairing works. They alleged that they did not get the rice they were supposed to get from the work under the "food for work" programme.

They alleged that the chairmen and members of the union parishads and WDB officials ate up a large portion of the rice meant for repair work.

FRAUD CASE Arrest warrant against BNP leader Bulu's wife, 8 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned former commerce adviser and BNP leader Barkat Ullah Bulu and issued arrest warrants against his wife and eight others in a fraud case.

The other accused are Bulu's wife Shamima Akhter, also one of directors of Capital Tower Private LTD, its Chairman Sabiha Iqbal, finance director Mohammad Mohsin, its directors Monwara Kamal, Zahura Kamal, Palash Ahmed Shibu and Mohamamd Shah Alam, two shareholders Mohammad Jasim Uddin and Sakina Begum.

The BNP leader was accused of his alleged involvement with influencing other accused to sell the shops and basement secretly and pressed other accused to sign all the documents, even though he is not a shareholder of the company.

Metropolitan Magistrate Utpal Chowdhury passed the order hours after Khurshid Morsheda Akhter, another shareholder of the company, filed the case against the accused for misappropriating Tk 9.63 crore from the company on different dates.

The court asked Bulu to appear before it on May 4 while officers-in-charge of Darussalam, Tejgaon and Shah Ali police stations to submit reports on execution of arrest warrants issued against the accused.

In the complaint, Morsheda said that the accused in collusion with others misappropriated Tk 9,63,59,000 from the company sometime between October 14, 2004 and March 31 this year.

The money was earned after selling its basement and shops.

'Include marginal people in budget formulation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion meeting urged the government to incorporate working class people in the formulation process of national budget to protect their interest.

They also demanded holding of view-exchange meeting with the poor and marginal people before budget formulation to ensure their social and economic protection.

They were speaking at the meeting on "Social Security and Budget" jointly organised by Nagorik Uddyog and Partnership of Women in Action at Jatiya Press Club in the city on Saturday.

Noted economist MM Akash; Dr ATM Nurul Amin, chairman of environmental science department of North South University; and Syyed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, assistant executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies; also spoke.

The budget does not reflect the expectations of poor and marginal people due to absence of their participation in its formulation process.

Career with The Daily Star

The Daily Star, the most widely circulated English daily of this country, is going to appoint the following competent candidates for its Production & Event Management department:

Assistant Production Manager

To assist GM Production for all pre-press production work including checking printing quality at the press during night. Should be an expert in composing, page layout, pre-press output, colour separation and web offset colour printing. This person should be able to handle group of staffs within the department. Educational qualification minimum bachelor degree with 2-3 years experience is desired. Duty time is 5pm to 1am or as needed by the office.

Deputy Section In-charge (Reading)

Hold responsibilities for Reading & Correction work of advertisement and compose. Assist GM Production, Assistant Production Manager and Production Supervisor for all administrative work of reading section. Should know about composing, page layout, pre-press output also. Have capacity of handling 8-10 staff within the department. Desired educational qualification is minimum bachelor degree. 2-3 years experience is required as well. Duty time is 3pm to 10pm or as needed by the office.

Compose & Graphic Page Operator

He or she has to know English/Bengali compose and page layout, specially work with MS Word, Table Formatting, Corel Draw, Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop and PDF. Desired educational qualification is Bachelor Degree.

Graphic Pre-Press Operator

He or she has to know English/Bengali compose and page layout, MS Word, Table Formatting, Corel Draw, Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop and PDF. Specially work with Photoshop, colour correction, output file check. Desired educational qualification is Bachelor Degree.

Events Executive

To assist GM Events for all purpose of events related work, such as basic design, 3D/2D graphic design, costing for events, handle carpenter, supervise and implement designed job, stage and hall design and decoration etc. He/she should know about light design and sound system. The person has to work with challenges and travel frequently outside Dhaka. Educational qualification is minimum bachelor degree; with good working knowledge on 3D/2D Graphic Arts.

Applicants fulfilling the above requirements are requested to apply with full Bio-Data along with attested copies of all educational, experience and training certificates and a recent passport size photograph to the HR-Incharge, The Daily Star, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215 or apply through hr@thedailystar.net, so as to reach by 7th April, 2011. Envelopes must be marked with the post applied for on the top.