

NEWS IN *brief*

NU first year exam begins Sept 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first year honours final examination-2010 under National University (NU) will begin on September 28, says a press release.

The examination will begin at 9:00am.

Details schedule and other examination related information would be available at the university website at www.nu.edu.bd.

Three bakery owners jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court team of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) awarded different terms of imprisonment to owners of three bakeries for manufacturing bakery items in unhygienic condition and without taking BSTI licence at Kalyanpur in the city yesterday.

The team led by Executive Magistrate Mohammad Al Amin with the help of Dhaka district administration and police personnel awarded four months imprisonment to Abdul Kuddus, owner of Eastern Bakery at 19, Kalyanpur, and Nizam Uddin, owner of Bannya Bakery at 24, Kalyanpur, says a press release.

The court also awarded one-month imprisonment to Md Ershad, owner of Jewel Bakery at 19/1, Kalyanpur for the same reasons.

DU students threaten movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of the Dhaka University (DU) yesterday threatened to start tough movement if the authorities do not reduce the amount of class absence fine.

Several hundred students brought out a procession to press home their demand on the university campus and handed over a memorandum to Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

The university authorities increased the fine from Tk 1,000 to Tk 5,000 on August 7.

Pension of sub, zila-registrars postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government postponed proceedings regarding pension of all sub-registrars and zila-registrars exempted by the now defunct Truth and Accountability Commission (TAC) as Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) initiated proceedings against them.

"As those who went to TAC are currently under ACC scrutiny, all proceedings in this regard will remain postponed until the matter is disposed of," said a press release issued by law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry yesterday.

The order comes a day after the anti-graft watchdog announced initiation of legal proceedings against all the 448 people who confessed before TAC of their corruption and surrendered their ill-gotten wealth in exchange for clemency.

Two alleged Hizb ut-Tahrir men arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-2) personnel early yesterday arrested two alleged members of banned Hizb ut-Tahrir, including a Dhaka University student, from a house in the city's Hajaribagh area.

Of the detainees, Towhidur Rahman, 22, is a second semester student of the DU marketing department, while Tariqul Hasan Ashiq, 18, is an admission seeker, said Mohammad Saful Sarwar, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) of Rab-2.

Sarwar said huge anti-state publications, including leaflets and books and a laptop, have been seized from their possession.

Towhidur and Ashiq are staying on the second floor of the house of a retired secretary as tenants near Madhubagh Mosque.

Sarwar said the detained persons admitted their involvement with the banned organisation.



PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Some road accident victims taking wax therapy, a form of physiotherapy, at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation in the city yesterday. The rising number of road accidents around the country has resulted in the arrival of a directly proportional number of patients at the institute.

Returnees protest unfair arbitration

One migrant spent Tk 4.5 lakh only to get Tk 15,000 as compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of around 60 migrant workers formed a human chain inside the manpower bureau premises at Kakrail yesterday protesting what they termed unfair arbitration to the returnee migrants.

They said they went abroad with emigration clearances of Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) but were forced to return following various forms of exploitation and irregularities by the recruiting agencies.

Upon return, they sought justice at BMET, the only place they have to seek redress, but were subjected to negligence, harassment and injustice by BMET as the appeals went pending for months and even years, they said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Jahurul Islam, a returnee from Singapore, said, "The investigation officers appear to favour the recruiting agencies.

"We have to come to the offices again and again but in the end we are asked to reach a compromise after being provided a very negligible amount of money."

Jahurul went to Singapore early 2008, but was not provided with an appropriate job and salary and was sent home after a year.

Islam complained to BMET early May this year. In the first two hearings, officials of his recruiting agency, BD Associates, were not present. In the next two hearings, the officials asked him to reach a compromise for Tk 15,000, which was also echoed by BMET's investigation officer, said Jahurul.

"The agency's official even humiliated me in front of the investigation officer who remained silent," he said, adding that he had spent Tk 4.5 lakh to go to Singapore.

Returnees from Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates and Libya were among the victims, he added.

The protesting migrant workers under the banner "Survivors' Voice" submitted a memorandum to Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas

Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain through BMET.

In the memorandum, they demanded BMET for a fair arbitration, to allow migrants' legal representatives in the hearing, its completion in two months and declaration of the verdict in favour of the complainant when the accused remains absent twice consecutively.

They also demanded a stop to investigation officers' pressure for compromise, compensation from wage earners' welfare fund and then realising it from the recruiting agencies responsible and imposition of a Tk 2 lakh fine on the agency for physical, social and mental trauma.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith could not meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday for a final resolution over modification of the metro rail route due to his busy schedule, said ministry sources.

There is a little chance of holding the meeting before Friday, said the sources.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), which is keen to fund 80 percent of the metro rail construction cost, has been pressing for the final decision.

Jica officials on Tuesday made it clear that it would not be able to provide the money in a year if the final decision on metro route is not given in four days.

The route was supposed to come from Agargaon through Bijoy Sarani to Farmgate. But due to objection by the air force, the route will now be diverted to Khamarbari from Bijoy Sarani-Crescent Road to go to Farmgate.

Construction of \$1.8 billion metro rail, crucial for transporting a large number of passengers from one corner to another of the city during the peak time, has been uncertain due to the government's decision to modify the route following serious objection by the air force.

Experts and government officials have strong reservation about the new proposed route as well since it falls on the parliament complex and seriously damages the beauty of Luis I Kahn masterpiece.

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TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN, CHILDREN

Call to expand scope of Saarc convention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bring changes to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) convention on preventing and combating trafficking in women and children for prostitution to expand the convention's scope and definition.

Bangladesh would recommend this at the next Saarc summit, said State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday.

She was addressing a conference on "Mobility, migration and trafficking in children and adolescents, a call for convergence in action" organised by SANJOG, Bangladesh at LGED Bhaban in the city.

"It is needed to expand the scope and definition of the Saarc convention (enacted in 1987) to include trafficking in women for other exploitative purposes such as labour trafficking," she said.

She recommended the home ministry to take effective measures to ease the process

of Rescue, Rehabilitation, Repatriation and Integration (RRRI), so that the victims do not face difficulty in returning homes.

She emphasised the necessity of creating laws across the region to a voluntary fund to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficking victims.

Home Ministry Joint Secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed, who is in-charge of RRRI taskforce, said the government approved the anti-human trafficking act, 2011 that will be enacted in the parliament very soon.

Salma Ali, executive director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, Ravindra Patil, deputy commissioner of department of women and child development and member repatriation at Maharashtra in India, and Mou Bhattacharya, a member of RRRI taskforce in Paschimbanga, also spoke at the occasion.

A documentary film titled 'The Return' on the return of four Bangladeshi young women back to their homes after their harrowing experience in India was screened in the programme.

METRO RAIL ROUTE CHANGE

Finance minister yet to meet PM

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Today's CCC CBA election postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Supporters of contesting candidates of the CBA election in the Chittagong City Corporation yesterday scuffled over the postponement of the election.

The election, the first in 18 years, was scheduled for today.

A Chittagong court on Tuesday postponed the election upon a petition by Atiqur Rahman, vice president of CCC Jatiyatabadi Samik Karmachari Union.

The petition cited anomalies in the voter list.

Protesting the court order, supporters of three unions gathered on the CCC premises since morning, hampering the official activities for four hours.

Around 9:30am, activists of two rival unions were locked in a scuffle.

Gazipur dyeing factory fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined a dyeing factory at Gazipur Tk 1.10 crore for dumping untreated chemical wastes into the river Turag and surrounding areas.

It also requested the Board of Investment to cancel registration of the dyeing factory, Life Textile Ltd and two others -- Wakafi Knit Fabrics Ltd and Nightingale Fashions Ltd.

The DoE also asked Bangladesh Bank, Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, Krishi Bank and Jamuna Bank to stop loan facility to these factories.

ADoE team, while conducting a drive on Tuesday, found Life Textile Ltd had been running its operation without environment clearance certificate and Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP).

It summoned the factory authority at its office and handed down the punishment.

In last six years, the factory had dumped 3.5 cubic metres of untreated chemical wastes in nearby areas.

On March 2007, the DoE served a notice on it to stop its operation as the factory was polluting environment. But it ignored the order.

It also imposed a fine of Tk 1.08 crore on three knitting and garments factories in Konabari area of Gazipur -- Wakafi Knit Fabrics Ltd, Nightingale Fashions Ltd and Fashion Design Ltd-- for polluting environment.

Dhaka wants direct access to global climate fund

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh demanded a direct access to Global Climate Fund (GCF) in Geneva which ensures decentralised decision making at the national level for effective and efficient resource management.

The demand made by Bangladesh delegation at a meeting on Transitional Committee on Designing Green Climate Funds that concluded on Tuesday, Prof Dr Ansarul Karim, a delegation member said.

Dr Karim said Bangladesh Climate Change Resilient Fund has been projected as role model for such direct access.

South Korea asks Bangladeshis to return by Sept 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Korea is asking the Bangladeshi workers, who end their job periods by September 30, to return home and facilitate more Bangladeshis to find jobs there.

South Korea started hiring foreign workers, including Bangladeshis, under Employment Permit Scheme (EPS), through which the sending and receiving governments manage the recruitment system.

Under the arrangement 1,500 Bangladeshis went to Korea in 2008. Of them, 3-year job period of 860 Bangladeshis is going to be over on September 30, according to a press statement issued by the Korean embassy in Dhaka.

If anyone can get reemployed by this time could continue to work there, but those failing to be reemployed will be considered as irregular.

The number of irregular foreign workers is considered as a basis to determine the number of workers from any country, the statement said. If there are fewer irregular Bangladeshis in Korea, it will set a bigger annual quota of recruiting from Bangladesh, it explained.

The Korean embassy and EPS Centre in Dhaka expect all the Bangladeshis whose job periods end by September 30 will return home and facilitate more recruitment from here.



Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over all the seven divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:03pm today and rises at 5:45am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.5 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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	31.8	25.8	83	74
Chittagong	30.5	25.5	83	91
Rajshahi	34.3	26.7	87	77
Rangpur	32.3	26.6	92	76
Khulna	30.2	26.5	87	95
Barisal	29.0	25.8	97	89
Sylhet	32.6	24.5	100	86