

HSC exam postponed in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has postponed today's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations under Sylhet Board and Technical Education Board due to the hartal called by opposition BNP in the district.

The education ministry in a handout yesterday mentioned the unavoidable reasons for the postponement of the examination under these two boards.

The handout came hours after BNP's Sylhet unit announced the hartal in protest at the "disappearance" of Sylhet BNP Organising Secretary M. Ilias Ali.

According to the handout, examinations in other boards will be held normally and a new schedule for the postponed exams will be published in newspapers at an appropriate date.

Examinations were scheduled to be held today under Sylhet Board on the following subjects -- Civics 2nd Paper, Biology (Theory) 2nd Paper, Business Initiative and Management 2nd Paper, Islamic History and Culture 2nd Paper and Classical Music (Theory) 2nd Paper.

Examinations on Life skill Development, Secretarial Practices, Physics-1, and Higher Accounting subjects were scheduled to be held today under Technical Board, as stated in the handout.

Tree branch kills rickshaw puller

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified rickshaw puller was killed in a freak accident when a large tree branch fell on him at Secretariat road in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday.

Witnesses said the rickshaw puller was resting under a tree in front of TB Hospital around 3:00pm when a big branch of the tree broke off and fell on him killing him instantly.

Aminul Islam, a local, told this correspondent that the rickshaw puller drank a glass of water from a nearby tea stall and was standing under the shade of the tree for just five minutes before the branch broke.

Talks on security with US today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States and Bangladesh will hold their first-ever dialogue today on security issues aiming to broaden and strengthen bilateral defence cooperation.

US Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Andrew J Shapiro arrived in Dhaka yesterday after his four-day trip to India to lead the US delegation at the day-long dialogue at Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies (BISS) in the capital.

Additional Foreign Secretary Mustafa Kamal will lead Bangladesh at the dialogue.

Foreign ministry officials and the US side said they would discuss a wide range of political-military issues, including continuing efforts to enhance partnerships in peacekeeping, joint military exercises and exchanges, counterterrorism, and security cooperation.

Foreign ministry sources said representatives from ministries of foreign, home, disaster management, and defence, and Armed Forces Division would take part at the day-long dialogue.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, a senior official at the foreign ministry said Bangladesh and the USA would review the entire range of existing bilateral defence cooperation at the dialogue.

"We have cooperative relation with the United States to fight terrorism and militancy," the official added.



A bus of Taranga Plus on fire after its gas cylinder exploded in Malibagh area in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

'Make village courts more functional'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a consultation programme yesterday stressed the need for creating awareness among the grassroots level people to make the village courts more functional.

Mass media can play vital role for creating awareness towards the quasi-judicial system, they said.

As per the Village Court Act, 2006, a village court would be constituted consisting of five members headed by respective Union Parishad chairman to settle down disputes like family conflict, stealing and realising compensation.

The village court can realise compensation up to Tk 25,000 but it cannot give any punishment or imprisonment.

The Local Government Division (LGD) organised the programme titled "National Consultation on Role of Media in Activating Village Courts" at a hotel in the capital.

Journalists, legal experts and representatives of the government and development partners attended the programme which was a part of a project titled "Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh Project."

LGD in association with European

Union and UNDP is implementing the project to make village courts functional in 350 selected union parishads under 56 upazilas of 14 districts during its piloting period (2009-2013).

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanok, PIB Director General Dulal Chandra Biswas, European Union Ambassador in Dhaka William Hana, UNDP Country Director Stefan Priesner, LGD Joint Secretary Shamima Nargis, also spoke at the inaugural session with LGD additional secretary KM Mozammel Hoq was in the chair.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia announces 18-party alliance at a press conference at Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital yesterday. On her right are BNP acting General Secretary Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) Chairman Andalib Rahman Partha, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Oli Ahmad, Bangladesh Kalyan Party Chairman Syed Muhammad Ibrahim and National People's Party Chairman Shawkat Hossain Nilu. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

PM Goes to Doha Tomorrow

World Investment Summit begins Apr 21

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave Dhaka for Doha tomorrow morning on a four-day visit to attend the World Investment Summit at the 13th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIII) in the Qatar capital.

The theme of the conference -- Development-centred Globalisation: Towards Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development -- is expected to be addressed during the general debate from April 21-26.

During her visit to Doha, Hasina is expected to attend a series of high-level panel discussions at the conference and hold bilateral meetings with her Qatari counterpart and other participating leaders from different countries.

Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the emir of Qatar, will inaugurate the conference at the 'Qatar National Convention Centre' in Doha.

The quadrennial conference will provide developing countries with an opportunity to debate wide-ranging issues that reflect the state of the global economy and the major economic challenges, particularly in light of the recent economic and

social crises.

Hasina, who will lead a high-level Bangladesh delegation in the conference, will address the World Investment Summit on investment and sustainable development Saturday.

A day-long high-level event on April 23 will discuss the role of women's knowledge, skills, and talents in establishing more equitable, inclusive, and prosperous societies.

Official sources said agencies in promoting investment for job creation and skills development will confer "Investment Promotion Awards 2012" to the Bangladeshi prime minister at a programme in Doha Friday.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Industries Minister Dilip Barua, Commerce Minister GM Quader and State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Choudhury, MPs and senior government officials will accompany the prime minister.

Officials at the foreign ministry said they are working out the detail programme schedule of the prime minister.

Hasina in Doha will also meet the expatriate Bangladeshis and address them on April 22. She is set to return home on April 24.

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An English Language Fair is coming
Schools are singing and kids are humming

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