

NEWS IN *brief*

**BCS exams postponed for hartal**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Public Service Commission has rescheduled the written tests of the 33rd Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) exams, which were to be held on December 18, due to a countrywide hartal to be enforced by leftist political parties on the day.

Contacted, AYM Nesar Uddin, controller of examinations (cadre), PSC, yesterday said the tests for English 1st and 2nd papers have been shifted to December 24.

Written test of Bangla 2nd paper due for December 24 has been moved to December 26 while tests of medical sciences 1st and 2nd papers scheduled for December 24 and 26 will now be held on December 30, he added.

The examinations on December 19, 20 and 23 will remain unchanged.

**Doa mahfil for late Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A doa mahfil for late Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid, an educationalist, diplomat and intellectual, will be held after Asr prayers today at 765 Sat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi in the capital.

He breathed his last on December 8 at a city hospital, said a press release.

His family members have requested his relatives, friends, students and colleagues to attend the doa mahfil to pray for the salvation of the

**New envoy to Oman appointed**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



The government has decided to appoint Sheikh Sekander Ali, currently serving as the director general (administration) in foreign ministry, as the new ambassador of Bangladesh to the Sultanate of Oman.

During his diplomatic career, Sekander Ali served Bangladesh embassies in Abu Dhabi, Brussels, Kuala Lumpur and Doha in various posts.

Sheikh Sekander Ali graduated from Rajshahi University. Later, he obtained a Masters degree in botany from Dhaka University and completed LLB from the same university.

**Banglalink to hold 'Bangladesh Utshob' on December 21**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile operator Banglalink will hold a day-long cultural festival styled "Bangladesh Utshob" in the capital's Ramna Park on December 21 to present the country's heritage.

Different events, including music, poem recitation, exhibition of SM Sultan's paintings, drama, Jobbarer Boli Khela, book fair, puppet show and boat race, will be held in the festival. Ramna Park will be divided into different parts for different events, said organisers at a press briefing in La Vinchi Hotel yesterday.

The Prothom Alo, a vernacular daily, has



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina goes round an MBT-2000, one of the two new types of tanks added to the Bengal Cavalry, during the induction ceremony at the Army Aviation Group Area in the capital's Tejgaon yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

**Dhaka expresses concern over N Korea's missile launch**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has noted with deep concern the recent missile launch conducted by North Korea and said such action is not conducive to maintenance of peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and the world in general.

A statement issued by the foreign ministry yesterday said Bangladesh, as a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NNPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), strongly supports all international measures for a nuclear free zone in the Korean Peninsula.

Bangladesh considers that nuclear testing of any kind undermines nuclear non-proliferation, both horizontal and vertical, and constitutes a major threat to international peace and security.

**Int'l lobbyists hired to hinder war crimes trial**

*Alleges Dipu Moni*

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Vested interest groups have appointed international lobbyists in different countries to hinder the ongoing trial of the 1971 war criminals, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said yesterday.

"We don't have any pressure from the outside, but lobbyists from all over the world are being appointed at the expense of huge money," she said, replying to a question at a press briefing at the foreign ministry.

Dipu Moni also said an external and internal machination was underway spending huge money to upset the trial.

"Domestically anarchy is being created...if there has not been enormous evil effort, the Skype conversation [of a war crimes tribunal chief], be it true or false, would not come."

In reply to another question whether the trial would be questioned after the disclosure of the Skype conversation, the minister said the tribunal had been conducting its proceedings fairly and transparently maintaining international standard, and the defence was taking part in

the proceedings.

Moreover, she said, the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973 had been standardised through amendments and with advices from the UN. So there is no scope of questioning the trial process at home or abroad, she said.

On another question about US official Robert Blake's remarks about resolving the issue of election-time government through dialogue, Dipu Moni said the government too wanted to settle it through dialogue.

Referring to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's letter carried by a UN official to Dhaka recently, the minister said she understood that the UN chief in his letter recommended to hold free, fair and inclusive election, and it was what the government wanted too.

Meanwhile, the minister said the UN General Assembly adopted on Wednesday a Bangladesh-proposed resolution on autism to establish autistic people's rights.

"It was accepted unanimously, and 71 countries co-sponsored Bangladesh's proposal. This is another milestone in the government's diplomatic success."

**AG slams Moudud for ICT-1 remarks**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahubey Alam yesterday criticised BNP leader Moudud Ahmed for his remarks that the proceedings of International Crimes Tribunal-1 had become "illegal, unconstitutional, and unacceptable" following resignation of its chief.

The attorney general said no criminal case went inactive due to personal opinions of a justice, and the ICT rules clearly stated how the proceedings would continue if any judge resigned or became unable to run the tribunal.

"Section 6 (5) of the ICT Act 1973 states if, in the course of a trial, any one of the members of a tribunal is, for any reason, unable to attend any sitting thereof, the trial may continue before the other members," he said.

Mahubey Alam criticised Moudud at a discussion on "Trial of the War Criminals and Violence of Jamaat-Shibir" organised by Peshajibi Samonnoy Parishad, a pro-Awami League organisation, at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

On Wednesday, Barrister Moudud claimed the tribunal proceedings had become illegal after ICT-1 chairman Justice Nizamul Huq stepped down a day ago. His resignation came after a Bangla daily published his Skype conversation with an expatriate Bangladeshi legal expert about the tribunal proceedings.

The attorney general demanded a proper investigation into the hacking of the internet conversation and punishment for those involved in it.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, journalist leader Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, and Peshajibi Samonnoy Parishad President Justice AFM Mesbahuddin, among others, spoke on the occasion.

**Use water, gas, power sensibly**  
*PM urges Dhaka residents*

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged Dhaka city dwellers to be more judicious in using water, gas, electricity and other civic amenities considering the scarcity of the natural resources.

"There should be no misuse...it is the demand of time," she said while addressing a function over the inauguration of Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant Phase-2 at the plant premises.

With the plant's inauguration, the Wasa supply line will have an additional 22.50 crore litres of safe drinking water every day.

"The judicious use of water will also lead to reduced bills for the users and help them save money...there should be more campaign by Wasa to create awareness in this regard," said Hasina.

Voicing her optimism to create a livable Dhaka, she commended Dhaka Wasa's initiative to preserve rainwater and recharge groundwater.

Hasina said the Awami League government took Sayedabad Water Treatment Project in 1996 and started implementing the project in three phases.

The second phase, work of which started in 2010, was inaugurated yesterday, six months ahead of schedule.

Phase-2 of the project was implemented costing Tk 1,140 crore with Danida of Denmark contributing 68 percent of the total cost, excluding the cost of land.

Svend Olling announced that his government would provide US\$ 100 million for the project's 3rd phase.

Hasina mentioned that the government plans to set up water treatment plants at Josholdia near Mawa Ghat to use water from the Padma while at Khilkhet near the Meghna to reduce dependency on groundwater.

As the water of the rivers surrounding the city are basically the sources of water for most of the treatment plants in Dhaka, the government is removing wastes from the beds of those rivers to ensure contamination-free water.

Besides, a project has been undertaken to bring water from the Jamuna River to increase the flow of rivers surrounding Dhaka city during the dry season.

LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam chaired the function where State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Dhaka Wasa Board Chairman Md Rahmatullah and Managing Director Taqsem A Khan also spoke.



**Discussion**  
Bangladesh Awami League will hold a discussion on 'Martyred Intellectuals' Day; Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium; Time: 6:00pm.

recognise individuals and organisations working towards preserving the environment; Venue: Winter Garden, Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 6:00pm.

**Awards night**  
The Daily Star and HSBC will hold the awards night of the "HSBC-The Daily Star Climate Awards 2012" to

**Discussion**  
Bangabandhu Academy will arrange a discussion on current politics; Venue: Jatiya Krira Parishad Auditorium;



**Dry weather likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 5:14pm and rises tomorrow at 6:34am.**

Country's highest temperature 29.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 14.0 degrees at Srimangal.

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

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.5	17.7	94	78
Chittagong	26.5	16.3	88	83
Rajshahi	25.4	15.4	96	87
Rangpur	24.2	16.8	97	87
Khulna	28.0	17.6	91	84
Barisal	27.6	15.8	91	86
Sylhet	26.0	16.1	79	78
Cox's Bazar	29.2	16.5	72	81

শোক হোক শক্তি

লাগা শক্তি আর অদম্য উদ্যোক্তাদের দিন-রাত্রির শ্রম আর আত্মবিক্রমে দেশের গড়ি পেরিয়ে বিশ্ববাসীর কাছে আজ সমাদৃত আমাদের পোষাকশিল্প। সেই পোষাক শিল্পীদের অনাকাঙ্ক্ষিত মৃত্যু আমাদের শোকস্তরুর করে দেয়। এই শোককে শক্তিতে পরিণত করে আমরা হাতে হাতে বেখে এগিয়ে যাই তাদের সাথে, অনন্ত সমৃদ্ধির পথে।

২৩ বাউন্সপো ২০১২-এর কমিউনিকেশন পার্টনার

Citycell