

NEWS IN *brief*

Today's HSC exams now on Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations which were scheduled for today will be held on Saturday.

The government has postponed the exams due to the countrywide 36-hour hartal called by the BNP-led 18-party alliance.

The postponed exams under 10 education boards will be held from 10:00am on Saturday, said sources in the education ministry.

On the contrary, ECE part-3 exam of fifth semester under National University will be held today as per the pre-scheduled time.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology has decided to continue their academic activities on every Thursday after April 13, says a press release.

3,642 females register names online for jobs abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the second consecutive day of the government's online registration for foreign jobs, a total of 3,642 females registered their names in three divisions yesterday.

Among them, the highest 1,357 women from Rangpur, 1,249 from Sylhet and 1,036 from Rajshahi registered their names, at union parishad and ward level information service centres, said Prof Saiful Islam, technical expert of the online registration.

The women of other divisions will start registering their names from Friday.

Robbers loot house in Ashulia

BSS, Savar

A gang of robbers looted valuables including gold and cash Tk 50,000 from the house of one Abdur Rahman in Enayetpur of Ashulia yesterday.

The robbers also beat up four members of the house, said police.

Quoting the house owner, police said a gang of robbers broke into the house.

The injured were admitted to Enam Medical College Hospital.

A case was filed with Ashulia Police Station in this connection.

DUI terms its 'reconstituted' BSS unit 'illegal'

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday declared "illegal" a "reconstituted" unit of the journalist body at Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

"The reconstituted unit (of DUJ) at BSS is illegal," DUJ President Omar Faruque and General Secretary Shaban Mahmud said in a statement as reports appeared in some newspapers that a reconstituted unit of DUJ was formed at BSS.

They said the report of the DUJ's reconstituted BSS unit surprised them as Ashequn Nabi Chowdhury and Ruhul Gani Jyoti were discharging as the chief and deputy chief of the unit.



Workers at a textile dyeing and printing factory in the capital's Shyampur yesterday. They are racing against time to meet a large number of orders for saris ahead of Pehela Baishakh to be celebrated on April 14.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Hefajat demands slammed Arrest of attackers on journos sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 400 Dhaka University teachers yesterday demanded punishment of Hefajat-e Islam for its stand against the spirit of the Liberation War and core ideals of the country.

"All 13 points of this organisation's demand clash with the core principles and spirit of Bangladesh. This is a blatant attempt to hinder the progress of Bangladesh," they said in a statement, urging the government not to give in to the radical Islamist group.

The academics said that under Jamaat-e-Islam and BNP's sponsorship, Hefajat was trying to obstruct the war crimes trial and take back the country into the middle ages.

Its demands also run counter to Islam's ideals, they said and asserted that "this country is open to all religions and thoughts".

Meanwhile, different socio-cultural, political and rights bodies demanded immediate arrest of the Hefajat activists who attacked journalists recently.

In a statement, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad termed regrettable the assault on ETV reporter Nadia Sharmin during

Hefajat's April 6 rally in the capital. He said female journalists often faced harassment. "This is not acceptable in a democracy."

The National Human Rights Commission and 18 former left-leaning student leaders also condemned the attack.

Jatiya Gonotantrik League rallied in front of Jatiya Press Club to protest Hefajat's attacks on journalists and on a programme of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee. In a statement, it also termed Hefajat's demands anti-constitutional.

Samprodayikota-Jongibad Birodhi Mancha said "the BNP-Jamaat quarters under the name of Hefajat-e Islam" attacked journalists on April 6.

It urged the government "to crush them [Hefajat] with an iron hand". It said their attack and threat presaged the dreadful Taliban rule.

Rallying in front of DU's Faculty of Fine Arts, Nagarik Sanghoti termed Hefajat's demands "an evil attempt to confine women to home".

In a statement, Naripakkha said most of the demands "degrade the civic and human rights of women". It also called upon the government to stop playing "a dual role".

ATTACKS ON CTG JOURNALISTS

48-hr ultimatum issued for arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong journalists yesterday issued a 48-hour ultimatum demanding arrest of those responsible for attacking journalists in the city in recent times.

Addressing a rally organised by Working Journalists in Chittagong before Chittagong Press Club (CPC), they threatened to declare tougher programmes on April 10 if the demand was unmet.

Hefajat-e Islam activists had conducted three such attacks in the port city on Sunday evening, April 5 and February 22.

The first was on three photojournalists from a pro-hartal procession at Askar Dighir Par area, the second on five journalists of Ekattor TV from a sit-in at Wasa intersection and the last on five journalists from a procession at Anderkilla intersection.

Though not having any political party affiliation, journalists are targeted by political parties whenever any news report goes against them, they said.

They also criticised the administration for not arresting the perpetrators.

Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) Vice-President Ratan Kanti Debashish, General Secretary Reaz Haider and Joint Secretary M Shamshul Islam; CPC General Secretary Mohsin Chowdhury; and Baishakhi Television Chittagong Bureau Chief Hasan Ferdous spoke at the programme.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Thirty-year-old Mohammad Rakibul Islam Kajol, is suffering from a serious kidney disease and urgently requires a kidney transplant.

Even though his mother is willing to donate her kidney, Kajol's parents are financially insolvent and all of their savings have been spent paying for his treatment.

Dr Firoz Khan of Dhaka Medical College is administering the treatment while Kajol, the sole breadwinner and only son of his family, is painstakingly continuing dialysis by borrowing money from friends and well-wishers.

The generous, benevolent and well-off of society are requested to extend financial assistance in this regard. Donation can be sent directly to Kajol's savings account: Mohammad Rakibul Islam, Savings Account Number: 5289, Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, Jhenidah branch or by contacting Kajol over phone at 01916619237 or his father at 01721476428.

Correction

A BSS photo of Norwegian Trade and Commerce Minister Trond Giske meeting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the latter's office was printed in The Daily Star yesterday. But the BSS caption wrongly identified Trond Giske as the Norwegian ambassador, and we mistakenly printed the wrong identification. We apologise for the mistake. BSS also regretted its mistake.

PATIENT'S DEATH FOR 'WRONG TREATMENT' Charge framed against three doctors

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against four persons, including three doctors of the National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute in the capital's Mirpur, in a case filed over the death of a patient allegedly for wrong treatment of heart.

The accused are Chief Cardiac Surgeon Prof Faruque Ahmed, Surgical Resident Mohammad Moniruzzaman and Assistant Prof and Consultant Harun-ar-Rashid, and nurse Jolly.

The four pleaded not guilty after Judge Md Akhtaruzzaman of the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court read out charges to them.

The court fixed April 15 to start trial.

On September 18 last year, Fahima Akter, daughter of the victim Habibur Rahman, a businessman in Old Dhaka, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, accusing them of killing her father while he was undergoing treatment on August 18.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Faridur Rahman Khan, managing director of United Hospital Ltd, inaugurates a health awareness booth in the hospital lobby on Sunday. The booth offered free health check-up and counselling on Sunday and yesterday on the occasion of World Health Day.

Gonojagoron Mancha defies Hefajat hartal Vows to ensure women's rights

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dressed in red and green, holding the national flag and with women in the forefront, hundreds of people joined a Gonojagoron Mancha procession yesterday defying Hefajat-e Islam's hartal call and protesting its attack on a female journalist.

Starting off at the capital's Shahbagh and ending at Central Shaheed Minar, the procession chanted slogans vowing to ensure equal rights for men and women.

The mancha announced to bring out a procession with sticks in hand up to Jatiya Press Club at 4:00pm today protesting Hefajat's attempted attack on the mancha on April 6.

Today's scheduled strike at educational institutions and tomorrow's mass sit-in before the law ministry was also deferred against the backdrop of the BNP-led 18-party alliance's 36-hour hartal from today.

Tomorrow evening, the mancha would read out selected letters, written in memory of the Liberation War martyrs and released with balloons on February 20.

Maruf Rosul, one key organiser of the movement, said Hefajat's demand for cancellation of our national policy for women is aimed at keeping women confined.

If Hefajat's 13 anti-constitutional demands were implemented, the country would turn into a medieval state or Afghanistan, said the mancha spokesperson Imran H Sarker.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

In a bid to shake off heat, a crow takes a bath in a puddle inside the Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University yesterday. The temperature has been rising in the city lately.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. Severe heat wave is sweeping over the region of Kushtia and mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Dhaka, Tangail Faridpur, Rangamati, Srimangal, Rajshahi and Pabna and rest of Khulna divisions and it may continue. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:18pm and rises tomorrow at 5:42am.

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	36.5	25.4	72	41
Chittagong	31.6	24.0	75	76
Rajshahi	39.0	19.6	47	35
Khulna	38.2	25.0	72	47
Barisal	35.6	25.2	82	69
Sylhet	35.5	22.8	62	56
Cox's Bazar	33.7	24.5	68	76