

NEWS IN *brief*

NU 3rd year honours examination results today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The third year honours examination results of 27 subjects under the National University will be announced at 5:00pm today.

Some 1,35,695 students sat for the examinations, of which 94,716 were regular students, 4,569 irregular students, while 36,410 students sat for improvement results.

The results will be published on the university website at www.nu.edu.bd and www.nubd.info.

Results can also be found on cell phones by sending nu<space>H3<space> roll number to

Inu goes to New Delhi

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday left Dhaka for New Delhi to meet senior politicians of India for strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

Inu is visiting India at the invitation of India's Information and Broadcasting Minister Manish Tewari, said a press release of the Indian High Commission.

During his four-day visit, Inu with his counterpart will discuss bilateral cooperation in the fields of information and media management between

Man dies from electrocution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died after being electrocuted in Solmait area of the capital's Bhatara yesterday afternoon.

The deceased, Zobair Ahmed Russel, 30, was a muezzin of a local Taqwa mosque.

Zobair came in contact with a loose live electric wire while bathing in a bathroom of the mosque.

Hearing his cry for help, Imran Hossain, imam of the mosque, took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Bhatara police said they visited the mosque and

AL presidium meeting today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League Presidium, the highest policymaking body of the ruling party, sits today at 7:00pm to discuss the party's policies considering the country's latest socio-political situation.

The meeting with AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair will be held at her official residence Gono Bhaban in the capital.

Meanwhile, AL parliamentary board on Tuesday night decided to sell nomination papers for Naogaon-5 constituency, which fell vacant after the death of AL lawmaker Abdul Jalil, from April 15 to 18 for Tk 10,000 each. On April 19, the party will



Procession

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad will bring out a procession with sticks protesting the attacks on law enforcers by Jamaat-Shibir activists; Starting venue: Muktangon; Time: 11:00am.

Rally

Bangladesh Awami Swechchhasebak League will stage a rally in protest against Jamaat-Shibir hartal; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press

Club; Time: 10:00.

Views exchange meeting

Desh BachaoPet Bachao Andolon will hold a views exchange meeting demanding an end to hartal through formulating laws; Venue: Before Aziz Super Market; Time: 12:00 noon.

Workshop

The Department of Environment and two other organisations will organise a workshop on action plan to



WEATHER TODAY

Heat wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain dry with temporary or partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Severe heat wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Kushtia regions and mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over rest part of Khulna divisions and the region of Dhaka, Tangail, Faridpur, Rangamati and Ishwardi and it may continue, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:19pm and rises tomorrow at 5:41am.

Country's highest temperature 41.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 21.5 degrees at Rangamati.

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	36.4	26.4	70	60
Chittagong	31.5	24.6	83	80
Rajshahi	41.2	23.5	80	28
Rangpur	33.5	23.8	75	66
Khulna	37.2	25.5	74	58
Barisal	35.0	25.3	76	69



Lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor reads out loud selected letters, written in memory of the Liberation War martyrs and released with balloons on February 20, at Gonojagoron Mancha of Shahbagh in the capital last evening.

PHOTO: PALSH KHAN

GONOJAGORON MANCHA
Letters to martyrs read out

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Projonmo Chattar in the capital's Shahbagh once again echoed with the aspirations and promises of the reawakened youths as their letters, in memory of the 1971 Liberation War martyrs, were read out in public to inspire others.

"From today onwards, we pledge that for as long as the blood of martyrs runs in our veins, we will prove ourselves to be their rightful successors," wrote one Sifat.

The letters, symbolically addressed to the martyred freedom fighters, were released with balloons on February 20 and copies were given to Gonojagoron Mancha.

Yesterday, prominent theatre personalities, including Asaduzzaman Noor, Shomi Kaiser, Ahkam Ullah, Rezina Wali Lina, Belayat Hossain and Tamanna Tithi, read out selected letters that best exemplified people's sentiments.

"Dear father, 42 years ago you left us for an unknown land. You gave your last ounce of blood for this country, but this sacrifice has not gone in vain...your golden children will create a secular Sonar Bangla," wrote a martyr's child, Lucky.

Protesting today's hartal, Gonojagoron Mancha will bring out a procession carrying black flags at 11:00am.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina spends some time with Antu Barua and inquires about her wellbeing at Gono Bhaban in the capital yesterday. Fourteen-year-old Antu had sustained severe injuries to her right eye in a cocktail blast while on way to a coaching class during the March 28 hartal called by the BNP-led 18-party alliance.

PHOTO: BSS



7 held with bullets, explosives in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) detained seven people with bullets and explosives in their possession after raiding the capital's Jatrabari and Mohakhali areas on Tuesday night and yesterday morning.

A Rab-10 team arrested six people at Mominbagh of Jatrabari with 100 grammes of sulphur, 50 grammes of gunpowder, and one kilogramme of another bomb making substance, said the operation officer Capt Riadul Islam.

He said the detainees--Mostafizur Rahman, 32, Rafikul Islam, 26, Mohsin, 30, Abdus Sattar, 32, Alim Miah, 25, and Jamal Hossain, 25--were professional makers of bombs and cocktails and suppliers of explosives.

"They were trying to produce bombs and cocktails for pickets who use these during political programmes," said the Rab official. "We are yet to discover their affiliations with any political party or any gang of snatchers."

In another raid, Rab-1 men arrested a youth with some explosives and 11 bullets at Sattola Bosti in Mohakhali area, said Abhishekh Ahmed of Legal and Media Wing of Rab. He, however, did not disclose any detail of the youth for the sake of investigations.

WAVE OF SHUTDOWNS
Rajshahi economy hit hard

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The agriculture-based rural economy and small businesses in Rajshahi district are going through hard times and counting losses due to the political unrest and frequent shutdowns since late February.

Unavailability of vehicles to transport the harvest to markets and cold storages means the agricultural products are left to rot in the fields while depriving the farmers of just prices.

Vegetables like bitter and pointed gourds, tomato, garlic and cucumber are being sold at half price due to the discolouration and weight loss resulting from long storage and the low turnout of wholesale buyers in markets.

Masud Rana, a potato farmer of Rajshahi's Tanore upazila, said the majority of his harvest on eight bighas of land was rotting following the shutdowns.

A fellow farmer, Shipon Karigar, said just three weeks back he had sold potatoes at Tk 750 per 90 kilogrammes but as of last Monday the figure had come down to Tk 400. "What are we to do?" he asked.

Sunil Das, a rice trader of Shitli village, said last month he suffered a loss of Tk 2 lakh after buying paddy at Tk 700 to Tk 800 per maund and later being forced to sell those at Tk 500 per maund.

"If hartals continue like this, we will not be able to recover from the losses," said Aminul Islam of Mohonpur who sells betel leaf, which grows aplenty in Mohonpur, Bagmara and Durgapur upazilas and are even exported abroad.

Fruit traders are also counting losses due to the lack of buyers on hartal days.

Unable to transport vegetables to different cities including Rajshahi and Dhaka from Tanore, Saiful Islam, a vegetable trader, said he was incur-

ring a loss of Tk 50,000 daily.

He said there were hundreds of others whose lives depended on transporting vegetables and other crops.

The small shops are forced to stay closed for nearly half the month while their owners are still having to pay the whole month's rent, employees' salary, and electricity, telephone and other necessary bills.

M Rofiqul Islam said he was able to open his IT-based shop in Rajshahi New Market for only 14 days in February and 17 days in March. "Now it has become difficult to bring in even one tenth of my average monthly income," he said.

Stating that agricultural losses would be dangerous for the region's economy, Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Abu Bakkar Ali urged politicians to consider the plight of the farmers and traders.

Decapitated body of man found by Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the decapitated body of a man, with the head missing and hands and legs tied up, stuffed inside a sack and left on the bank of the river Buriganga near Basila Bridge in the capital yesterday.

The victim Kawsar Mollah, 36, hailing from Agailjhara in Barisal, used to reside in the capital's Mirpur and worked in a car workshop, said Ashiqur Rahman, sub-inspector (SI) of Hazaribagh Police Station.

The SI told The Daily Star that three identity cards, including the national ID card, and a driver's licence were found in one pocket of the clothes Kawsar was wearing.

According to the information on the cards, police contacted his relatives, who later arrived and confirmed that it was him.

Police sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anwara Khatun, wife of News Editor of Independent Television and former general secretary of Dhaka Reporters' Unity Mohidul Islam Raju, died at a hospital in the capital yesterday. She was 50.

The executive committee of the association prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family members.