

No violent programmes during O-level, A-level exams

Urge students, guardians
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

English Medium School Students-Guardians Forum yesterday urged political parties and other organisations to refrain from calling hartals and staging long marches, blockades and other violent protest movements during the upcoming O-level and A-level exams.

Since the exams are conducted at the same time and on the same day all over the world, it would be extremely difficult to delay O-level and A-level examinations for the examinees of Bangladesh, said a statement.

The exams under Cambridge and Edexcel syllabus will begin on May 7 and continue till mid-June.

Binod Bihari's death mourned

METRO DESK

The acting president, the prime minister and the opposition leader yesterday mourned the death of Binod Bihari Chowdhury, a co-fighter of Surya Sen in the 1930 Chittagong armoury raid, which was part of the movement to free India from the British colonial rule.

Acting President Abdul Hamid said Binod Bihari courageously fought injustice in British India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina termed him a symbol of valor and patriotism, says BSS. Binod Bihari was respected by all, UNB quotes BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Condolences also came from individuals and socio-political bodies. Among them are Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, BNP leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen, women's leader Mushtari Safi, poet Abul Momen, and academician Rita Dutta.

Binod Bihari died in a Kolkata hospital on Wednesday at the age of 104. He will be cremated at Abhoy Mitra crematorium centre in Chittagong city, reports a Chittagong correspondent. His body, to be flown in from Kolkata today, will lie in state at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar before reaching Chittagong.

Ain o Salish Kendra and Gonojagoron Mancha also mourned the death. Binod Bihari was born in Boalkhali upazila, Chittagong in 1909.

DEV COOPERATION

Australia, Bangladesh sign deal

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Australia and Bangladesh have signed a Statement of Commitment on development cooperation to extend support to help economic growth and reduce poverty in Bangladesh.

Finance Ministry's Economic Relations Division Secretary Abul Kalam Azad and Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) First Assistant Director General Scott Dawson signed the agreement during the first Australia-Bangladesh Development Cooperation Annual Dialogue in the capital yesterday, said a press release.



Marchers carry black flags in a procession of the Gonojagoron Mancha brought out from Shahbagh in the capital to protest Islami Chhatra Shibir's daylong hartal yesterday. The protestors paraded as far as Bangla Motor before heading back to Shahbagh.

PHOTO: STAR



From left, Mir Nawbut Ali, head of marketing of Airtel Bangladesh Ltd; Aly Zaker, chairman of Asiatic 360 group and also a cultural personality; Sadeque Nawaj, head of marketing of Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd; painters -- Rafiqun Nabi, Qayyum Chowdhury and Maniruzzaman -- and Matiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, pose with a sample of an alpana yesterday. Airtel and Prothom Alo have taken the initiative to paint the alpana on Manik Mia Avenue, on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh, with support from Berger Paints.

PHOTO: COURTESY

BOMBING CASE

Hearing on May 20 against Fakhrul, others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday for the seventh time deferred until May 20 the hearing on charge framing against BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 28 others in a blast case.

Shahbagh police filed the case against them on charge of assisting the bombings inside the Secretariat during the opposition's April 29 hartal last year.

The court deferred the hearing as Fakhrul and most of the accused could not appear before it. They are now in jail in several other cases.

Earlier on April 7, Fakhrul, barrister Moudud Ahmed and eight other top BNP leaders were sent to jail rejecting bails on their surrender in connection with seven criminal cases filed with Paltan, Ramna and Shahjanpur police stations.



Dialogue

Policy Research Centre will hold a dialogue on "Education for all". Venue: Cirdap conference hall; Time: 3:00pm.

Baishakhi fair

Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry will organise a three-day Baishakhi fair; Venue: Meghna Hall, Dhanmondi; Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Dal will form a human chain demanding release of arrested BNP leaders; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

'RELEASE OF ARMS-AMMO FILLED VAN' Probe underway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police has started investigations over an allegation that six policemen of Savar Police Station had let a pickup van, carrying arms-ammunitions, go in exchange for a bribe on March 18.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Rajjab Ali alleged that his colleague, SI Emdadul Huq, and five policemen had tried to divert the issue by terming it a mugging incident.

The van, ignoring his signal to stop at a police checkpoint on Dhaka Aricha Highway around 1:30am, had stopped some distance away after being chased. When Rajjab approached the vehicle, three to four men attacked him with bricks, he said.

While he was being hospitalised, SI Emdadul and the five reached the spot and let the accused go, he said, adding that the arms-ammunitions were meant for subversive acts in the March 18 hartal in Bogra.

Emdadul, however, told The Daily Star that the van, carrying saris and lungis, was attacked by three muggers, whom they arrested with a vehicle in possession.

The police station Officer-in-Charge Asaduzzaman termed Emdadul a "sincere and honest" officer and Rajjab "insincere and unfit".

Superintendent of Police Habibur Rahman and Assistant Superintendent of Police Mashiuddowla Reza, investigating the matter from April 6, said they were yet to get any proof of the allegation.

Hefajat's demands against women

Says Peshajibi Shomonnoy Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Peshajibi Shomonnoy Parishad, a body of professionals, yesterday said the 13-point demand of Hefajat-e Islam is against the progress of women and the nation.

They also demanded capital punishment for all war criminals, ban on Jamaat-Shibir politics and safety to be ensured for women in the country.

They were addressing a press meet organised by the parishad at Dhaka Reporters Unity to announce the schedule of their programmes protesting Hefajat-e Islam's 13-point demand.

Activists of Hefajat-e Islam who attacked journalists during the group's long march are yet to be arrested even though they publicly assaulted a female journalist, said Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique.

Urging the government to ensure quick arrests of those involved in the attacks, Prof Arefin said assault on female journalists is unacceptable.

The country's civilization will be in question if even one of Hefajat-e Islam's demands is met, said Prof SM Nazrul Islam, vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

As per their programme schedule, the parishad will organise sit-ins across the country on April 13.

From April 21 to May 30, rallies will be organised in Chittagong, Sylhet, Rangpur, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Comilla.

Law enforcers receive 10-day US training

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States has provided training to law enforcement officials to enhance skills so that they can manage criminal violation of laws and conduct complex investigations.

The US Department of State's Anti-Terrorism Assistance Programme and the US Embassy's Regional Security Office concluded a 10-day training in Dhaka yesterday.

Officers from Attorney General's Office, Bangladesh Coast Guard, Criminal Investigation Department, Special Branch, Detective Branch and officers from Dhaka and Chittagong metropolitan police took part in the training, said a press release.

The participants now will be able to investigate, identify, and prosecute suspects responsible for terrorist incidents and activities more efficiently, it said.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 16th death anniversary of Mohiuddin Ahmed, a Language

Movement veteran and 1971 Liberation War organiser.

Different political and cultural personalities, and Mohiuddin Ahmed Jatiya Smriti Sangsad will place wreaths at his grave at Mirpur's Martyred Intellectuals' graveyard, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at his Dhanmondi residence in the capital and at different unions of Mothbaria upazila in Pirojpur.



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