

Primary final exams begin on Nov 19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary and ebtedai terminal examinations for class V students of schools and madrasas will begin across the country on November 19 with nearly 32 lakh examinees.

However, the number of examinees decreased by 26,064. This is the second year in a row the number of students came down.

Some 28,04,509 students will sit for the exam from primary schools while

2,91,566 from madrasas, said Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman at a press briefing yesterday.

The examinees will take exams of six subjects in six days with English on the first day. The tests will end on November 26.

Asked about the reason behind the drop, the minister said it was because of the decrease in the number of "fake" students after the government raised the stipend coverage to hundred percent.

The minister informed that the number of girls is higher than boys in this year's test, which is very encouraging. Besides, 3,332 students with special needs will also sit for the exams and they will get additional 20 minutes.

The minister said they have taken all-out measures to hold the examination properly. Also, special security was arranged to send the question papers to district and upazila levels.

Replying to a query whether the terminal examinations will be scrapped with the extension of primary level up to class-VIII, Mostafizur Rahman said the examinations will be continued as long as the government wants it to.

About the expansion of primary level, the minister said the primary education will certainly be elevated as the government is committed to implement the National Education Policy-2010.



Welcoming the new harvest and a time of plenty, artistes perform at a function on the Bakultala premises at Charukala (Faculty of Fine Arts) of Dhaka University yesterday. The event was organised by Jatiya Nabanna Utsab Udjapan Parshad, marking Nabanna Utsab (harvest festival).

Debate competition held for visually impaired students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A debate competition, participated by 18 visually impaired students, was held yesterday at Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research (IER).

Sporsho Braille Prokashona, the lone publishing house in Bangladesh dedicated to publish Braille books for such students, organised the event, said a press release.

The daylong competition was preceded by an inaugural ceremony, chaired by Prof Syeda Tahmina Akhter, director of Institute of Education and Research.

Bangladesh Debate Federation provided technical support. Prof Nasreen Ahmad, pro-vice chancellor (academic) of DU, was the chief guest at the ceremony where Prof Dr Diba Hossain of special education department, and Shahida Khatun, director of Bangla Academy, were also present.

On November 11, Sporsho organised a debate workshop for the visually impaired students at IER where 28 students from different educational institutions attended.

The participants were awarded certificates and 18 were selected for participating in the debate competition. The students were divided into six groups who competed with each other on a wide range of topics.

Sporsho will declare the names of the winning groups and the best debaters on January 6, 2018 during its 10th founding anniversary programme, added the press release.

DIFFERENTLY-ABLED PERSONS

Skills building stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Differently-abled persons can get jobs and contribute to the economy by developing their skills through proper technical training, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

They said many companies are hiring qualified differently-abled persons at present while this number can be even bigger through cooperation and creating awareness among the employers.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo in association with International Labour Organization (ILO) organised the roundtable on "Technical Education, Training and Employment of Differently-abled Persons" at the newspaper's office in the capital.

Bangladesh has a huge opportunity for the development of differently-abled people with about 400 organisations and networks working for their skills development and around 93 organisations hiring them at present, said Kishore Kumar Singha, an ILO skills development specialist.

However, a lack of awareness, institutional capability, collaboration and motivational programmes remain as key challenges in this regard, he said.

Salahuddin Kashem Khan, co-chairman of Executive Committee of National Skills Development Council, said the government has to create a partnership with NGOs to build an inclusive society, and has to implement laws and policies that are already in place.

Sabbir Nasir, executive director of chain superstore Swapno, said they have recruited 18 differently-abled persons in their outlets and have a plan to increase the number to 200 within this year.

Jehad Uddin, joint commissioner of taxes, National Board of Revenue, said the existing law allows tax incentives for those working for the benefit of differently-abled persons, who will also remain out of the tax purview if their annual income remains below Tk 4 lakh.

Farzana Kashfi, head of Brac's Skills Development Programme; Tania Ferdous, a project analyst of Asian Development Bank; Tahsina Ahmed, chief executive officer of UCEP Bangladesh; Jawadul Karim Khan, programme manager, Skills Development of Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation; and David Hasnat, chairman of Vielatex Group; also spoke.

Prothom Alo Associate Editor Abdul Qayum moderated the roundtable.



Participants at the 6th International Conference on Child Rights and Sight at Yale University recently. Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI), an international non-profit child rights organisation based in Connecticut, hosted the conference.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

International child rights and sight confce held at Yale

CITY DESK

Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI), an international non-profit child rights organisation, has hosted its 6th International Conference on Child Rights and Sight at Yale University.

The event was part of DCI's global initiative to raise awareness of children's rights and blindness prevention. It brought together more than 300 people including diplomats, non-profit leaders, and academics from around the world, says a press release.

On the occasion, Yale representative and Dean Sten Vermund gave a speech, while participants also heard from more than 30 distinguished speakers including former US ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Dr Rohan Perera, CEO and Chairman of Transcom Group Latifur Rahman, Prof Richard Cash, and Executive Director of TMSS Hosne Ara Begum.

Grassroots community leaders and delegations from different local colleges and university partners also spoke at the conference, held on October 14.

DCI is headquartered in Connecticut and established at Yale University in 2003.

In a video message, Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy thanked DCI and all of the participants for their contributions to the defence of child rights.

In his speech, DCI's Executive Director Dr Ehsan Hoque noted how the presence of so many young people indicated the charity's success in recruiting and training the next generation of humanitarian leaders.

He also commented that in the last 13 years, DCI had worked steadfastly to build a sustainable and transparent system of support that lifted thousands of vulnerable children and their families out of crippling poverty, disability and disease.

WAR CRIMES IN MYMENSINGH

ICT will try six men in absentia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday decided to hold trial of six men from Mymensingh in absentia in a case filed over committing crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam took the decision as the accused did not appear before it even after publication of advertisements in national dailies, said Prosecutor Rezia Sulatna Chaman.

Earlier, police submitted a report mentioning them as absconding, she said.

The court also appointed Abdus Shukur Khan as state defence counsel for the fugitives and fixed December 24 for hearing on charges.

The fugitives are ASM Faizullah, 66, Abdur Razzak Mandal, 64, Alim Uddin Khan, 77, Abdul Latif, 58, Nurul Amin Shahjahan, 69, and Sirajul Islam, 66.

Other five accused of the case are now in jail. They are Khalilur Rahman Mir alias Khalilur Rahman, 62; Md Samsuzzaman alias Abul

Kalam, 65; Mohammad Abdullah, 62; Mohammad Abdul Malek Akand alias Abul Hossain, 68; and Md Rois Uddin Azadi alias Akkel Ali, 74.

The prosecution pressed four charges against the 11 on April 5.

As per the prosecution, the accused were involved with the Razakar Bahini and committed crimes which include killing four people, torturing nine, looting, arson, abduction and confinement in the district's Pagla area.

They are all from Pagla. Samsuzzaman, Abdullah and Rois fled the area after the war. Since then, Samsuzzaman has been living in Pabna, Abdullah in Dhaka and Rois in Rajshahi, according to the tribunal's investigation agency.

The four charges against them are: killing Shahabuddin alias Khoka, a Liberation War organiser of Sadhua village; killing Joidhar Khan alias Taru, another war organiser; and looting and torching his house in Sadhua village; killing Toiab Ali of the same village; and killing freedom fighter Nur Hossain of Rouha village.

'Positive steps' on new wage board next week

Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the government would take "positive steps" on forming the 9th wage board for journalists next week.

"The steps will be taken at the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he told a discussion at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

The club organised the discussion to celebrate Unesco's recognition of the historic March 7 speech of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as a world documentary heritage.

Quader said, "Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech is not of any political party... It is the national property of the Bangalee."

Yesterday's discussion was chaired by the press club's president Shafiqur Rahman.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers and Bangladesh Newspapers Employees Federation yesterday staged a demonstration in front of Jatiya Press Club to meet their 10-point demand including formation of the 9th wage board.

Over 100 newspaper employees marched towards Prime Minister's Office (PMO), but police intercepted them at Shabbagh intersection around 12:30pm.

Later, five representatives went to the PMO and submitted a memorandum containing their demands.

নর্থ-ওয়েস্ট পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
NORTH-WEST POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED
 ISO 9001: 2008, ISO 14001: 2004 & OHSAS 18001: 2007 Certified
 (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
 UTC Building (Level-3 & 4), 8-Panthapath, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
 Phone: 9145291-92, 9145427-28, e-mail: info@nwpgcl.org.bd, web: www.nwpgcl.org.bd

Invitation for Short Tender Notice

Sealed tender is hereby invited from Eligible Liquid Fuel (HSD) Carrying Contractors for the undermentioned conditions:

01.	Ministry / Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/ Power Division.
02.	Agency	North-West Power Generation Company Limited (NWPGL).
03.	Name of Procuring Entity	Plant Manager, Sirajganj 225 MW CCPP.
04.	District of Procuring Entity	Sirajganj
05.	Invitation Ref. No. & Date	Memo No: 11/Proc/NWPGL/2017-18 Date: 16/11/2017
06.	Invitation for	Carrying of Liquid Fuel (HSD) & Related Services by Road Transportation for Sirajganj 225 MW CCPP.
07.	Brief Description of Work	Carrying of Liquid Fuel (HSD) & Related Services by Road Transportation from Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) nominated marketing company's (Padma Oil Company Limited / Meghna Petroleum Limited / Jamuna Oil Company Limited) distribution center at Baghabari to NWPGL's unloading point located beside the Bangabandhu Bridge West Railway Station, Soyadabad, Sirajganj or at the Sirajganj 225 MW CCPP, Soyadabad, Sirajganj.
08.	Method of Procurement	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
09.	Source of Fund	Revenue (Own Fund)
10.	Price of Tender Document (Non-Refundable)	Interested Tenderers shall submit a written application to the Superintending Engineer (Procurement), North-West Power Generation Company Limited along with Pay Order / Bank Draft of Non-Refundable BDT 2,000.00 (Two Thousand Only) in favour of North-West Power Generation Company Limited.
11.	Starting Date & Time for Selling of Tender Document	16/11/2017
12.	Name & Address of the Office for Selling of Tender Document	Office of Superintending Engineer (Procurement), North-West Power Generation Company Limited, UTC Building (Level 3), 8, Panthapath, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
13.	Last Date & Time for Selling of Tender Document	22/11/2017 at 05:00pm
14.	Amount of Tender Security	Pay Order / Bank Draft of BDT 16,00,000.00 (Sixteen Lac Only) in favour of North-West Power Generation Company Limited.
15.	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	23/11/2017 at 12:30pm
16.	Name & Address of the Office for Receiving Tender Document	Office of Superintending Engineer (Procurement), North-West Power Generation Company Limited, UTC Building (Level 3), 8, Panthapath, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
17.	Date & Time for Opening of Tender	23/11/2017 at 01:00pm
18.	Name & Address of the Office for Opening of Tender	Training Room, North-West Power Generation Company Limited, UTC Building (Level 3), 8, Panthapath, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
19.	Eligibility of Tenderer	a) The Tenderer shall have at least 10 (ten) numbers of oil tanker lorries either owned by them or by hiring or leasing (with minimum capacity of 27,000 Liters each) for carrying required amount of HSD per day. b) Satisfactory completion or at present working in similar type of work in a Government Owned Organization of an amount of at least BDT 3,00,00,000.00 (Three Crore Only) under a single contract / Work Order over a period of last 05 (Five) years. c) Minimum amount of Liquid Asset / Working Capital / Credit Facility shall be BDT 75,00,000.00 (Seventy Five Lac Only). d) Minimum Average Annual Turnover shall be BDT 3,00,00,000.00 (Three Crore Only) for last 03 (Three) Years.

GD-2477

Md. Motiul Islam
 Superintending Engineer (Procurement)
 North-West Power Generation Co. Ltd

SNAPS & snippets

Fugitive Jamaat man held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a fugitive activist of Jamaat-e-Islami in his Chhadaha village home at Satkania upazila of Chittagong yesterday morning in connection with multiple vandalism and arson cases.

Md Rafiq, 30, is accused in 61 cases filed on charges of vandalism, arson and attacks on police during countywide blockades enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance in 2015, said police.

Nat'l debate fest begins at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

A four-day national debate competition began at Jahangirnagar University yesterday with an aim to raise awareness about women rights and being vocal against violence on women.

JU Debate Organisation and Manusher Jonno Foundation jointly organised the competition which includes an inaugural session, barwari (free speech) and inter department debate competitions. JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam inaugurated the event. Around 36 departments of the university and 32 public and private universities are taking part in the competition.

UNB district correspondents' conference today

UNB, Dhaka

The annual conference of the district correspondents of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) will be held at its head office in the capital today.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu will inaugurate the daylong conference as the chief guest.

State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak, Chief Information Commissioner Dr Golam Rahman, former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and Chief News Editor of Bangladesh Television Dr Syeda Tasmina Ahmed will be present as special guests.

Besides, UNB Chairman Amanullah Khan, its Editor-in-Chief Enayetullah Khan and Director Nahar Khan will be present on the occasion.



Planning Minister AHM Kamal speaks the inaugural ceremony of the five-day Celebration of Global Entrepreneurship Week 2017 at Daffodil International University yesterday. The university's Department of Entrepreneurship organised the event. DIU Chairman Dr Md Sabur Khan, Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Yousuf M Islam, and Head of the department Mohammad Shibli Shahriar, among others, were present. PHOTO: COLLECTED