



Covered in shrouds, a section of students at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) lie down on a road in Chowhatta area of Sylhet city yesterday to protest the killing of Mahid Al Salam, a former student of Sust. The students also marched towards the Central Shaheed Minar from the university campus and submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner, demanding justice for the killed. Mahid, also an activist of Sylhet Gonojagoron Mancha, was stabbed dead by unknown assailants in the city's Kadamtali Bus Station area the day before. No arrest was made till date.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Terrorism on BIMSTEC meeting agenda
Security chiefs sit today
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

National security chiefs of seven BIMSTEC member countries arrived in Dhaka yesterday for a crucial meeting today to develop a framework for strengthening cooperation and coordination to address terrorism and the rise of violent extremism in the region. Diplomatic sources said national security advisers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand will hold a day-long meeting to formulate a common legal and institutional framework for countering terrorism, transnational crimes, and maritime security threat. They said the BIMSTEC leaders are determined to find out the mentors, masterminds, abettors, financiers, arms suppliers and trainers of terrorists and extremists to defeat terrorism in the South and Southeast region.

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Coaching centres to remain closed during HSC exams
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Replicating the steps taken during the SSC examinations, the education ministry has decided to keep coaching centres closed from four days prior to the first exam of the upcoming HSC and its equivalent examinations until the final day of the exams.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will brief the media in this regard today, an official of the ministry seeking anonymity told The Daily Star yesterday.

The measure was taken as part of the ministry's effort to prevent question leaks during the exams. This year's HSC and equivalent exams are scheduled to be held between April 2 and May 13. As in the previous year, no one will be allowed to use any mobile phone except for the secretary of an exam centre. The secretary will be authorised to use a regular (basic) mobile phone during the exams.

Regarding other measures, the official said the envelope containing question papers will be sealed with a security tape -- a feature being introduced for the first time. Once the envelope is opened after breaking the security seal, the authorities concerned will be able to ascertain whether the envelope had been opened before or not, he said.

Besides, question sets would be determined through lotteries, 25 minutes prior to the tests. Also, the examinees are being instructed to enter exam centres 30 minutes prior to their respective exams. Question papers of almost all the tests of SSC examinations were leaked and circulated on Facebook pages hours before the tests began. It was the largest ever reported spate of SSC question paper leaks that drew fierce criticism.

ASSAULT ON TEACHER Salim Osman cautioned for delaying charge framing hearing
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday cautioned Jatiya Party lawmaker AKM Salim Osman not to seek any further adjournment of hearing on charge framing in a case filed over the assault on Narayanganj school teacher Shyamal Kanti Bhakta.

The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Jesmin Ara Begum also set June 28 for the hearing on charge framing against Salim and another accused Mohammad Opu in the case.

Earlier, Salim's lawyer in a petition sought more time for the hearing since his client could not appear before the court due to various ailments including diabetes.

Additional Public Prosecutor Anwarul Kabir Babul opposed the prayer, saying that it was a sensational

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