

HSC results on Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Results of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent exams for 2021 will be published on Sunday, education ministry's public relations officer Abul Khair said yesterday.

He said results will be handed over to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through a virtual programme at International Mother Language Institute. The education minister will hold press conference there after the programme.

Last year's exams were held on fewer subjects and a shortened syllabus. It was held eight months later than the usual schedule as the government waited for the coronavirus infections to come under control.

The examinees took tests only in three optional subjects. They did not have to sit for tests in compulsory subjects like Bangla and English. The exams carried fewer marks.

About 11.4 lakh students participated in the exams under nine general boards.



This little red riding hood was seen enjoying the warmth of the mother's embrace on a cold winter day. However, with four members of the family, including the elder kid, riding on the motorbike, this seemingly wholesome scene can lead to a severe accident. The photo was taken yesterday near Shahbagh.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



21st death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz Khan today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 21st death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz Khan, former executive editor of The Daily Star, sports writer and commentator.

One of the leading journalists of the country, Tawfiq joined the then Pakistan Observer as a staff reporter in 1958 while he was a student of Dhaka University.

He worked as public relations officer at the erstwhile EPIDC (East Pakistan Industries Development Corporation) and Titas Gas Corporation

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Peace essential for development: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Highlighting the role of Ansar and Village Defense Party (VDP) in curbing terrorism and militancy in Bangladesh, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for maintaining a peaceful environment for the development of the country.

"Bangladesh is a peaceful country. We believe in peace. And if the peaceful environment prevails, the country will continue to prosper," she said while addressing the 42nd national rally-2022 of Bangladesh Ansar and VDP.

Hasina virtually joined the function at Bangladesh Ansar and VDP Academy in Shafipur of Gazipur, from her official residence Gono Bhavan. She said the development of Bangladesh means development of every family. "We want every family to lead a decent life. This's why it's essential to maintain a peaceful environment."

Hasina said her government wants to build a terrorism- and militancy-free Bangladesh. "In this case, our Ansar and VDP have been playing a special role," she added.

Noting that the government is going to form Ansar Welfare Trust Fund for wellbeing of its members, the PM said she will manage the seed money for the trust fund.

At the event, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, on behalf of the premier, handed over special medals to 162 Ansar and VDP members under eight categories in recognition of their bravery and praiseworthy services.

Hasina urged the Ansar and VDP members to make collective efforts for the continuation of the ongoing development in the country.

She said her government has taken various programmes, including the "My House My Firm" scheme, to ensure the overall development of the country. Since Ansar and VDP members are trained on cooperatives, they were engaged in the programme, she said, adding that now many families have been able to become economically solvent and lead a better life, getting engaged in this cooperatives scheme.



PRAYER TIMING FEB 11						
		Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
	Azan	5-25	12-30	4-30	5-57	7-15
	Jamaat	6-00	1-15	4-45	6-01	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Star photo-journalist wins 'Press Photo Award'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amran Hossain, The Daily Star's senior staff photographer, won Bangladesh Press Photo Award 2022, in the Picture of the Year 2021 category.

Sourav Lasker of New Age won the award in arts, culture and sports category, Jibon Ahmed of Daily Manabzamin won in the public interest

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With yesterday's sudden rain, winter once again tightened its grip on the people of the city, especially those who have to work long hours outside in the adverse weather. Work got more difficult for this rickshaw-puller in the bone-chilling cold, who decided to take a steaming-hot tea break, while having a chat with the seller. The photo was taken in front of Dhaka University's Sir Salimullah Hall.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Party in power always brushes it off

Say speakers on enforced disappearances, calling for justice for victims

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STATE

- Not just victims' families, all should fight for justice
- Overhauling entire system
- Law enforcers must serve people, not the state



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Whenever a party is in power, it shrugs off all responsibility of enforced disappearances, said speakers at a virtual discussion yesterday.

At the event, titled "Enforced disappearance and responsibilities of the state", hosted by Centre for Governance Studies (CGS), speakers questioned why such incidents have not been occurring since international pressure turned up. This proves that they were all staged.

"For whatever reason, enforced disappearances are happening; this needs to end. This is a human rights violation," said Ashim Kumar Ukil, a ruling party parliamentarian from Netrakona.

He said victims' family members should not be the only ones fighting for justice, but everyone involved in running the state should as well.

“Victims' families cannot file cases, nor can they mention that law enforcers were involved. The victims of these incidents are people in conflict with the law, or people with opposing views, or those tagged as extremists.”

Nur Khan Liton
ASK secretary-general

"Let us strengthen democracy. With stronger pillars of democracy, unnatural phenomena like enforced disappearances will stop," said Ukil.

BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid Harun pointed out that the United Nations Working Group on Enforced Disappearance wants to visit and investigate, but the government has not allowed that.

"It is very heart-breaking when those in charge of running the state, deny the charges," he said. "We will protest incidents like these, even if our party is affiliated with it."

He then narrated an incident of "crossfire" that took place in his constituency in 2020.

"A day-labourer was picked up by law enforcers and killed in a crossfire. The most tragic incident is that his own two brothers were accused of the 'murder'," he said. "Also implicated were two people who were with me in the parliament on the day of the incident. When I sent a written complaint to the home ministry, no steps were taken."

Dr Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, chairperson of CGS, said not only is a person forcibly disappeared but all evidence gets destroyed as well.

ASK secretary-general Nur Khan Liton reiterated that victims' families cannot file cases, nor can they mention that law enforcers were involved. "The victims of these incidents are people in conflict with the law, or people with opposing views, or those tagged as extremists," he said.

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'We are servants of the state, not bureaucracy'

Engineers protest directive empowering DCs to oversee dev projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Engineers yesterday protested the recent directive of public administration ministry -- empowering deputy commissioners (DC) to oversee development projects at district level.

At human chains in all district headquarters and in the capital, engineers said they will not follow the directive and demanded it be withdrawn immediately. Organised by Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), around 800 engineers protested in front IEB at Shahbagh.

On January 18, the ministry issued directives asking DCs to open a wing under an additional deputy commissioner for monitoring and evaluating projects, and send reports to IMED under the planning ministry.

Speaking at the human chain, IEB Services and Welfare Committee's Chairman SM Monjurul Haque Monju said the directives are illogical and an obstacle to development projects. "We are servants of the state, not of bureaucracy," he said.

IEB honorary general secretary Shahadat Hossain Shiblu said there is still a process of evaluating and monitoring project-work under the planning ministry, and engineers are accountable to the ministry's IMED.

"Please do your duty properly. One of your main duties is land acquisition. Many projects get delayed as land acquisition is not done in time," he said, referring to DCs. "We have no conflict with you."

'We don't want syndication'

Say recruiting agencies of Bangladesh, Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Recruiting agencies of both Bangladesh and Malaysia yesterday said they don't want "syndication" in the process of sending Bangladeshi migrant workers to Southeast Asian countries.

During a press conference organised by "Members of Baira" at a city hotel, they urged Malaysia to ensure a process without syndication for Bangladesh, currently applicable for other source countries.

They voiced concern that syndication will again lead to irregularities, corruption and high migration cost, factors leading to market closure in the past.

Malaysia and Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding on labour cooperation in December 2021. However, the labour-sending process is yet to be finalised amid concern over not keeping the market open for all Bangladeshi recruiting agencies.

Earlier, a syndicate of 10 recruiting agencies allegedly caused corruption and irregularities in

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