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HSC results today

No central event this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations for 2024 will be published today.

Students can access their results from their respective colleges or online after 11:00am.

Unlike previous years, there will be no central programme to announce the combined results. Instead, each of the 11 education boards across the country will release the results separately through their respective websites.

In previous years, the results of public exams like SSC and HSC were handed over to the prime minister by the chairmen of the nine general boards, the Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board, and the Bangladesh Technical Education Board.

Then it was released through a press conference by the education ministry.

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Commerce Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed visited the Karwan Bazar kitchen market in the capital to inspect the prices of essential commodities yesterday. During the visit, the adviser sought price charts of different commodities from the traders and suggested they reduce the gap in production, wholesale and retail prices.

PHOTO: STAR

Action against those involved in polls anomalies

Recommends reform commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Reform Commission, citing irregularities and deviations in past national elections, yesterday said it will recommend taking action against individuals involved in those irregularities.

"We will identify any irregularities that occurred in the previous parliamentary elections. But if there were any positive aspects, we will highlight those as well. The election process is not a one-day event; it's a cycle. We will review this cycle, identify any deviations, and make recommendations accordingly," said Badiul Alam Majumdar, chairman of the commission.

He made these remarks during a meeting at the Election Building in the capital, which marked the second round of discussions.

Asked about when local government elections will be held, he responded, "That is beyond our jurisdiction. The government will have to make that decision."

Regarding the consideration of a "no vote" option, he said, "We will review all the feedback we receive."

He also informed that the commission will launch a new website this week to gather public input on election-related matters.

When asked what they are seeking feedback on and whether they are discussing constitutional matters, he said, "We are reviewing things line by line... The day we send our recommendations to

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A new addition to Benazir's legacy of deceit

Former IGP concealed his profession, skipped verifications to get four passports, says ACC

DIPAN NANDY

Corruption, grabbing minority lands to build resorts and using excessive force to crush dissent – the name of Benazir Ahmed, once one of the most powerful figures in the country's law enforcement, has long been synonymous with deceit or fraud.

Adding to the former police chief's notorious legacy, he has been found to have obtained multiple passports by misrepresenting his



professional status and bypassing mandatory verifications.

Hiding his real identity, Benazir fraudulently acquired three Machine-Readable Passports (MRPs) and an e-passport by claiming to be in private service.

The Anti-Corruption Commission, after conducting a thorough investigation, uncovered the passport fraud involving Benazir, who held top roles such as the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, director general of the Rapid Action Battalion, and the inspector general of police between 2010 and 2020.

The findings have led to a formal case being filed against him and four officials from the Department of Immigration and Passports.

The investigation revealed that Benazir not only misused his power to sidestep the mandatory Special Branch (SB) verification, but also skipped obtaining a no objection certificate from his department, which is required for government employees applying for a passport.

ACC Deputy Director Hafizul Islam filed the case on Sunday with its Integrated District Office-1 in Dhaka.

The accused consist of former directors of the Divisional Passport and Visa Office in Agargaon – Fazlul Haque, Mumshi Muyid Ikram, and Md Abdullah Al Mamun – along with Sahena Haque, a technical manager for the e-passport and Automated Border Control Project.

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ITALIAN VISA APPOINTMENTS Backlog leaves over 20,000 workers in limbo

MD ABBAS

Rashed Alam, a Bangladeshi expatriate worker in Oman, applied for an Italian visa appointment on May 11 after receiving the neulasta (work permit).

He travelled a long way back to Bangladesh to apply for the visa.

He emailed VFS Global, the visa processing centre working on behalf of the Italian Embassy in Bangladesh, requesting an appointment date to submit his visa application.

However, all his emails went unanswered. His Oman visa expires within 11 days, on October 26.

Rashed's situation is far from unique; he represents a wave of over 20,000-25,000 workers who have been waiting for months, with many having applied for appointments as far back as eight months ago.

After receiving no reply from VFS Global, Rashed made two visits to the office but was met with the same unsatisfactory response each time – that they were still working on issuing appointment dates.

"I have been unemployed for the last six months. After getting the work permit, I returned to Bangladesh from Oman, and now my Oman visa is about to end. If I don't get an appointment date and my Oman visa expires, I may have to live on the streets with my family," he said at a press conference held in Dhaka Reporter's Unity yesterday.

Workers demanded immediate resumption of the suspended appointment process and the clearing of backlogged appointment emails by October 20.

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If I don't get an (Italian visa) appointment date and my Oman visa expires, I may have to live on the streets with my family.

RASHED ALAM

Mirpur-10 metro station reopens today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Mirpur-10 metro rail station is set to resume operations from today, almost three months after it was vandalised and consequently shut down in July.

Mohammad Abdur Rouf, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, revealed the information in a press conference at the DMTC office yesterday.

Unidentified individuals went on a rampage at Mirpur-10 and Kazipara metro stations on July 19, amid the student movement for quota reform, which later turned into a people's uprising that toppled the Sheikh Hasina-led government. Metro rail operations remained suspended for over a month afterwards.

The then Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader had said reopening the metro stations would not be possible even in one year.

Although metro rail operations resumed on August 25, the two stations remained closed. The authority reopened Kazipara station on September 20.

3 assaulted while trying to protect woman in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three young men were reportedly assaulted and injured as they tried to protect a woman from being physically abused by some men in Jahaj Bari area of the capital's Dhanmondi on Sunday night.

The victims are Qazi Abdullah Hisham, 29, Yeamin Morshed, 30, and Sadad Raiyan, 25.

A general diary has been lodged with Dhanmondi Police Station in this connection, said Sub-inspector Tamvir Mehedi.

As per the GD, Yeamin, Sadad, and Hisham were going on a walk when they witnessed two

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Submit suggestions for ACC reform TIB urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has called on the public to submit recommendations for reforming the Anti-Corruption Commission.

In a press release yesterday, TIB encouraged people to provide specific, experience-based advice to ACC Reform Commission by October 30.

The commission was established by the interim government to enhance ACC's effectiveness.

Touhidul Islam, director of TIB's Outreach and Communication Division, said people's input is crucial for improving ACC. Recommendations can be sent to acc.rc2024@gmail.com before the deadline.

Mental health support vital for cancer patients Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mental health support plays a critical role in helping cancer patients cope with the emotional burden of the disease, said speakers at a seminar yesterday. They said this while speaking at an event titled "Necessity and Measures of Mental Health Services in Cancer Treatment: The Context of Bangladesh", held at the auditorium of the Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital in the capital.

The speakers emphasised the urgent need to integrate mental health services into cancer treatment in Bangladesh, where the availability of care remains alarmingly low.

Bidhan Ranjan Roy Poddar, adviser to Primary and Mass Education Ministry, said it is essential to implement health insurance in Bangladesh.

While he expressed concerns over the feasibility of this practice, he emphasised that health insurance is necessary for the improvement of the health sector.

The seminar was organised by the Center for Cancer Care Foundation, marking World Mental Health Day on October 10.

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Guests at the launching of Bangla translation of Md Matiul Islam's books – "Recollections of a Civil Servant-Turned Banker (2019-2022)" and "Recollections of a Civil Servant-Turned Banker" at a hotel in the capital yesterday. Among others, Rehman Sobhan, Rounaq Jahan, Syed Manzur Elahi, Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury and the author were present.

PHOTO: STAR