

SSC exams begin across the country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations began across the country yesterday.

On the first day, the test for Bangla first paper was held from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

The exams will continue till May 13, according to a revised schedule from the Dhaka Education Board. Practical exams are set to take place between May 15-22.

Yesterday, a total 26,928 candidates were absent, while 22 were expelled for misconduct.

Education Adviser Prof CR Abrar visited the exam centre at Motijheel Government Boys' High School in the capital, and urged people to avoid spreading rumours about the SSC exams, saying that such rumours cause unnecessary mental stress for both examinees and their guardians.

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Frustrated, a man steps out of his vehicle and stares at the sea of traffic on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday evening. Several areas of the capital experienced gridlock as a aftermath of the procession held by BNP in solidarity with Palestinians.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Lifesaver on the Meghna

Floating hospital brings hope to char people in Chandpur



TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY, back from Chandpur

Sixty-five-year-old Zamir Ali Majhi had long suffered from an eye condition but could not afford the treatment he needed.

When doctors at a hospital in Dhaka recommended cataract surgery for both eyes -- each costing Tk 10,000 -- he had no choice but to return home to Malikandi, a remote char in Chandpur's Haimchar upazila on the bank of the Meghna river.

Later, he heard about a floating hospital stationed near a nearby village that provides free medical services.

"I came to the hospital where they checked my

eyes and told me to return today for the operation on one eye. I'm now waiting for the procedure," Zamir said at the floating hospital on Wednesday.

He was among over 100 patients who received free eye surgery during a two-day eye camp held on Tuesday and Wednesday at the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Mobile Hospital Bangladesh, stationed in the Sildertek area under Nilkamal Union.

The floating hospital, which began regular healthcare services in early January with periodic health camps, was formally inaugurated on Wednesday.

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Finish BCS process in one year: NCP



Protesters being intercepted by joint forces yesterday as they attempt to march towards the PSC office.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should take steps to save the lives of abandoned newborns and ensure their welfare, said speakers at a press conference yesterday.

The press conference was organised by the Dr Mujib Newborn Foundation, which supports abandoned newborns, at Jatiya Press Club ahead of the International Day for Street Children, to be observed tomorrow.

Mozibur Rahman, chairman of the foundation and also a director of the Institute of Child and Mother Health in the capital's Matuail, read out a written statement.

Citing data from the Sanskriti Foundation, he said 94 abandoned newborns were rescued across the country last year -- 64 of whom died. "Most of these lives could have been

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The National Citizen Party (NCP) has called for the entire process of government job recruitments through the BCS examination -- from issuance of the circular to publishing the final results -- to be completed within one year.

The party also urged for including the possible dates for the preliminary, written, and oral exams in the circular.

In a memorandum, the NCP demanded the implementation of a 100-mark viva voce system starting with the 45th BCS. To ensure transparency, the party asked for viva scores to be published alongside the final results.

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'Raise your voice for Palestine'
BNP calls upon Muslim world to act against Israeli atrocities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has called on the Muslim majority countries to take strong, united action to halt the mass killings and atrocities committed by Israeli forces in Gaza.

The party also urged the government to play a proactive role in influencing countries that support Israel to help end the ongoing violence.

Speaking at a rally in front of the party's Nayapaltan headquarters yesterday, BNP Standing Committee Member Nazrul Islam Khan said, "We call upon all Muslim nations to raise their voices together. The Muslim world must take appropriate steps to shift the stance of those backing Israel."

The BNP procession began around 4:45pm from Nayapaltan and ended at Banglamotor, passing through Shantinagar, Mouchak, and Moghbazar.

Thousands lined the streets, chanting slogans and waving national, BNP, and Palestinian flags. The gathering caused severe traffic congestion across Kakrail, Fakirpool, and adjoining areas.

Before the march, five standing committee members addressed a brief rally in front of the BNP office.

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JULY UPRISING

Probe into four major cases nearly done

Says ICT Chief Prosecutor's Office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People need to stand together, regardless of religion, to build a better world for all, said speakers at an interfaith civic gathering yesterday.

The event was held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre in the capital's Agraon.

Leaders of different religious communities attended the event, which was organised by the National Council of Churches in Bangladesh to promote interfaith harmony, religious justice, and peace initiatives.

Presiding over the programme, Religious Affairs Adviser AFM Khalid Hossain said, "Bangladesh has made significant progress in maintaining communal harmony, but continuous efforts are necessary to strengthen it in a changing world."

He said the roots of communal harmony in Bangladesh lie in its history of cultural pluralism and shared Bangladeshi identity that transcends religious boundaries.

"Despite these positive aspects, challenges remain. Incidents of communal violence and intolerance still occur, often instigated politically or from external influences," he added.

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The cases include the burning of six bodies in Ashulia, the killing of seven protesters in the Chakharpool area, the shooting of an unarmed youth named Amir Hossain in Rampura while he was reportedly hanging from a building's ledge, and a case against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina for alleged command responsibility.

During a views exchange meeting with journalists at the chief prosecutor's office, prosecutors said final investigation reports for these cases may soon be submitted to the tribunal.

"After the tribunal accepts the reports, the formal trial will begin," said prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim.

They also noted a severe shortage of experienced and reliable investigators in crimes against humanity cases, with

A total of 22 cases have been lodged with the tribunal, accusing 141 individuals. Among them, 54 are in custody, while 87 remain at large.

Of the accused, 70 are civilians, 62 are members of law enforcement agencies including police, and nine are retired or dismissed military officers, Tamim added.

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AT A GLANCE

339 complaints lodged

Currently, 39 are under probe

22 cases filed with tribunal

Out of 141 accused, 54 in custody



MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Police Week 2025, the largest annual gathering of the Bangladesh Police, is set to begin on April 29, following months of uncertainty.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will inaugurate the three day event at the Rajarbagh Police Lines auditorium.

However, it is still undecided whether he will present the Bangladesh Police Medals (BPM) and President's Police Medals (PPM), which are usually awarded in recognition of year-long service.

Enamul Haque Sagar, assistant inspector general at Police Headquarters, said, "It has been finalised that Police Week will be held on April 29. But it is yet to be decided whether the chief adviser will present the medals."

He said a new system has been introduced to award the BPM and PPM based on year-round merit. A committee has been formed, and officers were asked to submit citations for evaluation.

Police Week is usually held in the first two months of the year. But sources said the force took longer to regroup after a morale crisis following the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government on August 5, amid public protests over police brutality.

Many officers faced criticism for their role in violently suppressing the quota reform and anti-discrimination movements. A senior officer said more than 449 personnel -- including former inspector generals and Dhaka Metropolitan Police

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A "moual" (honey collector) collect honey from a beehive in the Sundarbans. Every year in April, the Forest Department begins issuing permits for honey collection in the Sundarbans. The mousals enter the deep forest with official passes and permits, risking their lives to collect honey.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN