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Question leak derails exam, sparks protests

Job seekers block roads in Dhaka; test tentatively rescheduled for Oct 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Department of Youth Development recruitment exam was postponed at the last minute yesterday following a question paper leak, triggering protests by job seekers and severe traffic congestion across the capital.

The exam for assistant upazila youth development officer was scheduled to begin at 11:00am but was suspended shortly beforehand.

Agitated candidates blocked roads near exam centres and major intersections for around two hours, causing gridlock in Motijheel, Shahbagh, Dhanmondi, Manik Mia Avenue, Mohammadpur, Nilkhet and other areas.

"We came to Dhaka to sit for the exam. Just 30 minutes before it was supposed to start, we were informed that it was postponed due to a question leak," said Md Helal, an examinee protesting in Nilkhet.

"Even if they hold it later, this sudden suspension has caused us immense suffering. We suspect there is an ulterior motive here, and we are protesting this farce," he added.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



A rickshaw, motorcycles and a car in the background occupy Chattogram's first dedicated cycle track in South Patenga area yesterday, just a day after its inauguration.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

IN FOCUS

Radda health centre rises from ruins

Renovated facility reopens after Sept 24 attack; full services to resume in days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Radda MCH-FP Health Care Centre in Mirpur-1, which was vandalised during a midnight attack, has been renovated and reopened, although full services are yet to resume.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Aminul Haque inaugurated the renovated facility yesterday.

During a visit yesterday, the main building was found freshly painted, with new doors, windows, glass panes, electric fans and curtains installed.

The damaged boundary walls have been rebuilt, a new tin-shed canopy installed inside the main entrance, and the staff dining area repaired. A new signboard has also been erected.

However, full services will take a few more days to resume as furniture and medical equipment are still being arranged. Some old furniture is being brought from Radda's Mirpur-10 branch.

Nasrin Akhtar, executive director of the centre, said more medical equipment and furniture were needed to provide proper care. Some looted items had been recovered, but their usability was yet to be assessed.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

The renovated Radda health centre in Mirpur.

Aminul said law enforcers had arrested several suspects and recovered two truckloads of looted goods, which would be returned to the institution following legal procedures.

Regarding the disputed land lease and a 2006 plot allocation linked to an association, Aminul said discussions had been held with the housing minister and the National Housing Authority. The matter must be resolved through lawful dialogue, he added.

On the night of September 24, over 200 masked individuals armed with local weapons allegedly broke into the centre, held security guards hostage and looted medicines, vaccines, medical equipment and other materials. They also used heavy machinery to demolish parts of the facility.

Following the attack, health workers began administering measles-rubella and other EPI vaccines to children outdoors under a tarpaulin canopy outside the main gate on September 26.

After clearing the damaged rooms, the centre gradually resumed limited indoor services.

Toufique Imrose Khalidi laid to rest amid tributes



A man signs a condolence book as people from different walks of life pay their last respects to bdnews24.com editor-in-chief Toufique Imrose Khalidi yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members, colleagues, friends and well-wishers bade a final farewell to Toufique Imrose Khalidi yesterday, remembering the late bdnews24.com editor-in-chief for his courage, commitment to independent journalism and the institution he built.

Khalidi was laid to rest at the Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard in Mirpur around 5:00pm.

Earlier, his namaz-e-janaza was held at the Old DOHS playground in Banani at 3:30pm, attended by journalists, politicians, cultural personalities and people from different walks of life. His body was brought to the venue around 2:30pm.

Before the janaza, bdnews24.com Chief

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

'You have not failed. We have failed as a society'

CAMPE executive director tells SSC students; govt considers allowing retakes within 3 months

6,90,608 candidates initially failed SSC, equivalent exams	4,585 passed after answer-script re-scrutiny	PM directs ministry to prepare career pathways for students	Govt plans teacher assessment system	Students demand better learning facilities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saima Akter, an SSC examinee from Munshiganj, had done well in her other subjects but failed chemistry. She blamed curriculum changes and delays in receiving textbooks for leaving her with less time to prepare.

"I completely broke down," she told a conference in the capital yesterday.

Too distressed to seek a review of her answer script, she also alleged that some teachers encouraged paid coaching instead of teaching adequately in class.

Saima was speaking at the "Challenged Students Conference 2026", organised by Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) and Plan International Bangladesh at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

The SSC and equivalent results, published on August 10, showed that 6,90,608 candidates, or 37.75 percent, had failed. Of them, 4,585 later passed following answer-script re-scrutiny, according to revised results published on September 10.

At the programme, Prime Minister's Adviser Mahdi Amin said the government would consider allowing SSC candidates to re-sit examinations in failed subjects within three months instead of waiting a year.

Mahdi said the PM had directed the education ministry to identify students who failed or did not achieve their expected results and prepare career pathways for them.

"What kind of development would it be if we cannot change the fortunes of 6.9 lakh students? That is unacceptable," he said.

The government would explore technical and vocational training, foreign-language courses and possible

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

'Never asked the student to remove veil or leave class'

Says DU teacher over allegations of making such remarks

DU CORRESPONDENT

Tasneem Siraj Mahboob, an associate professor at Dhaka University's English Department, yesterday said her remarks about a female student's face covering were misrepresented and taken out of context.

She was relieved of teaching duties on October 8 over allegations of making inappropriate comments about the student's clothing.

Tasneem also urged the university authorities to provide a full explanation of the allegations against her.

In a statement to the media, she said the incident took place during a master's final-semester class on October 7, when a student was sitting near the classroom door with two other female students, with her entire face, including her eyes, covered.

Tasneem said she could not immediately identify the student because her eyes were not visible. She said the student left the classroom after Tasneem told her that she felt uncomfortable because she could not see her eyes.

Tasneem said there had been no argument between them, although she later exchanged views with another student who spoke on behalf of the first student.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



A DECADE OF NAZRUL'S MELODIES

Artistes and guests pose for a photograph at "Ek Doshoker Surjatra", a musical evening celebrating the 10th anniversary of Gems of Nazrul, at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday. The programme marked a decade of the organisation's efforts to preserve, promote and popularise the musical legacy of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, while introducing his diverse works to younger generations.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Abul Hashim's politics of inclusion still relevant

Say speakers at 32nd edition of Star Itihas Adda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Hashim's failed bid to establish a united Bengal should not overshadow his efforts to build an inclusive Bangalee identity and bring ordinary people into politics, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

They said his vision of a pluralistic Bangalee identity and an inclusive society remained relevant, despite the failure of his aspirations for an autonomous Pakistan and a united Bengal.

They also said Hashim, a former Bengal Provincial Muslim League leader, believed Bangalee Muslims and Hindus shared an identity rooted in the language, culture, history and territory of Bengal.

He sought to unite people across religious lines and build a political order based on equality and social justice, they added.

The remarks came at the 32nd edition of The Daily Star Itihas Adda, titled "Abul Hashim's Politics and Philosophy", held at The Daily Star Centre.

Faruk Wasif, director general of Press Institute Bangladesh, described Hashim as a tragic figure whose political aspirations remained unrealised, although some elements of his vision later found expression in Bangladesh's emergence.

"The Pakistan he envisioned never came into being. The Lahore Resolution was not implemented as he understood it, nor did the united Bengal he sought materialise," he said.

Referring to Sucharita Sen's

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5



Participants at the 32nd edition of The Daily Star Itihas Adda, titled "Abul Hashim's Politics and Philosophy", held at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR