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## HSC results tick positive

### Only 20 get GPA 5, pass percentage 38.43

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pass percentage in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations has edged up to 38.43 this year from 27.09 last year, with 1,92,713 successful examinees under the seven education boards.

cent.

Only 20 students secured the highest grade -- grade point average (GPA) 5 -- introduced this year. Of them, 15 are from Dhaka board, four from Rajshahi and one from Jessore. No-one from the four other boards -- Barisal, Sylhet, Comilla and Chittagong -- got GPAs.

The HSC results of the seven boards were published yesterday for the first time under the GPA system.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



OF DELIGHT AND DESPAIR: An elated Cynthia Rahman, top, uses her cellphone to pass the news of good scores in the HSC exams at the Viharunisa Noon School and College in Dhaka yesterday, while her unlucky classmate, bottom, breaks down after finding out she scored below her expectations.

## GPA goes down for question pattern

STAR REPORT

The education ministry yesterday ascribed the low number of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinees scoring the maximum 5.0 GPA (grade point average) to the absence of multiple choice questions (MCQs) in the exams.

Only 20 examinees out of a total 1,92,713 successful HSC examinees obtained GPA 5.0, the maximum score under the newly introduced grading system.

A total of 1,392 students scored a 5.0 GPA in this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations (MCQs) in the exams.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## OIC FMs ask US to get out of Iraq, slam Israel

AFP, Putrajaya

The world's Muslims opened a major conference here with calls for the United States to set a timetable for leaving Iraq, fierce condemnation of Israel and anger over their treatment since the September 11 attacks.

The three themes were highlighted by speakers at the opening session of a meeting of foreign ministers of the 57-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) preparing for a summit of heads of state on Thursday.

Foreign Minister Hamad bin Jasssem bin Jabr Al-Thani of Qatar, which has held the OIC chairmanship since the last summit three years ago, told the opening session that Muslim states needed to push for "a specific timetable for ending the occupation" of Iraq.

Syed Hamid Albar, foreign minister of the incoming OIC chairman, Malaysia, said "foreign occupation Several witnesses told The Daily

## Top criminals bask in blessings of BNP's young Turks

Kala Jahangir, Subrata Bain in city

STAR REPORT

Two of Bangladesh's most wanted criminals have returned from their overseas hideouts and are operating in the capital without hindrance -- thanks to certain young leaders of the ruling BNP who benefit by protecting them.

Kala Jahangir, a crime lord who has been sentenced to death in absentia and is wanted in 17 other cases, and Trimoti Subrata Bain, who is wanted in 19 cases, are terrorising businessmen with impunity and have stepped up their criminal activities in recent months.

Star that they have seen Bain roaming around Moghbazar and Mirpur in a Pajero jeep. Some of these witnesses even claim to have informed the Detective Branch (DB). A correspondent of The Daily Star also recently saw Bain in the city.

Sources say Kala Jahangir and Bain could not be arrested because of their connections to a powerful quarter often said to be the alternative power centre of the ruling party. Police, however, refute the allegation.

Subrata Bain, alias Suvro, leads the infamous Seven Star crime

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Asian Highway bypasses Bangladesh

RAFIQ HASAN

India is constructing roads leaving Bangladesh out of the proposed Asian Highway that aims at developing traffic network among 38 Asian nations and Europe via Turkey.

New Delhi's move came after Dhaka did not agree to an Indian proposal for road transit and transshipment through Bangladesh, and India decided to run roads through its northeastern states Assam and Manipur connecting to Thailand via Myanmar, sources said.

An agreement was signed among

India, Thailand and Myanmar two years ago to develop the road network.

Foreign ministers of the three countries will meet in New Delhi in December to discuss the highway-building issue further.

India also offered Myanmar financial and technical assistance for developing the infrastructure required for the highway. If Myanmar now allows India other facilities, mainly customs and immigration, and develops its own infrastructure for entry into the Asian Highway, Bangladesh will be iso-

lated from the giant communication network, the sources said.

India is also exploring the possibility of linking Akkyab Port in Myanmar to its northeastern states to transport export-import goods.

It will organise a seminar this month to exchange views with the countries concerned on the subject and a Bangladesh government representative will participate in it, the sources said.

"Bangladesh runs the risk of being shut out of an international

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## PM goes to KL today for OIC Summit

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia leaves for Kuala Lumpur this afternoon to lead the Bangladesh delegation to the 10th summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in the Malaysian capital from October 16-17.

The prime minister will address the summit highlighting Bangladesh's commitment to the OIC as well as the challenges facing the Islamic organisation and the Muslim ummah.

The summit assumes special significance for Bangladesh in view of its candidature for the post of OIC secretary general.

On October 15, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will address the Business Forum meeting at Putrajaya Marriott Hotel.

She will attend the summit at

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## BoI chief's deal with Shinepukur violates govt's service rule

STAR REPORT

The contract that the chairman of Board of Investment (BoI), Mahmudur Rahman, claimed to have signed with Shinepukur Ceramics to receive financial benefits from the company states that he is still rendering 'technical and strategic services' to the company.

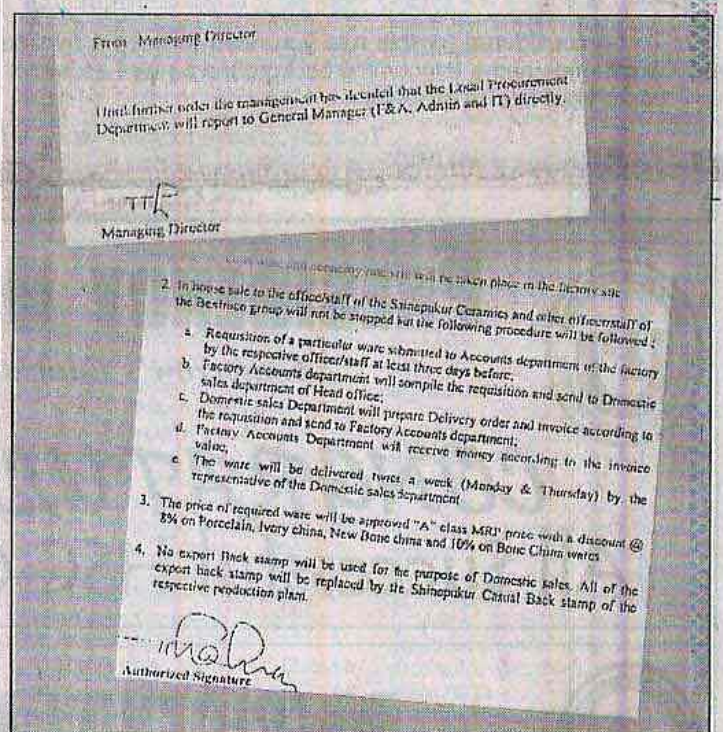
This is in gross violation of gov-

ernment service rules.

The code of conduct for government employees says no public servant can take part in extension, registration and management of any company or bank.

Mahmudur Rahman has not only been rendering 'technical and strategic services' but virtually conducting most of the business of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



The office memo signed by Mahmudur Rahman as Shinepukur managing director.

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