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Inside Today

Article
The Year All the Pundits are Being Caught Out
 Page 4

International



Serbs warn of more violence in Bosnia
 Page 5

Business

BCCI liquidators begin talks with creditors
 Page 6

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Passers-by Stop to See
 Page 3

Announcement

We publish part of the Dhaka Board SSC results in today's issue on pages 8,9,10,11 and 2. We regret that we could not publish Jessore Board results as we did not get them. Today's magazine has been dropped for unavoidable reasons. The magazine will appear tomorrow.
 — Management

NEWS BRIEFS

Rajshahi Board SSC results today
 RAJSHAHI, Aug 13: The results of the Secondary School Certificate Examinations (SSC) of 1992 under the Rajshahi Board will be announced today (Friday), official sources said. In all, 1,25,081 (one lakh twenty-five thousand eighty-one) candidates appeared at the SSC examinations this year, the sources added, reports UNB.

SAARC cultural body meets
 The cultural committee on the forthcoming SAARC summit held its second meeting in Dhaka yesterday with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum in the chair. The meeting discussed possible cultural programmes during the summit of the seven-nation forum, reports UNB.

Statue stolen
 RAJBARI, Aug 13: A gang of armed miscreants took away a 500-year old statue from the Malati temple of Pangsha thana of the district. Local people said that the gang of five armed miscreants looted the precious touch-stone from the temple disabling its guard Subal Pal on the dark night of July 26, reports UNB.

386 Indian cows recovered
 PABNA, Aug 13: Bangladesh Rifles recovered 386 Indian cows worth about Tk 25 lakh and arrested 30 people from some engine boats on the river Jamuna near Nagbari ferryghat on Tuesday. Acting on secret information, BDR jawans raided some 24 speeding boats and seized the cattle. Later the cows were handed over to local customs authority. A case has been filed with the police, reports UNB.

63.05 pc pass in Dhaka Board, 58.78 pc in Jessore Board

Dhaka, Jessore SSC results out

By Staff Correspondent

The results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations of 1992 under the Dhaka and Jessore boards were announced yesterday with success rates of 63.05 and 58.79 per cent respectively.

In the Dhaka Board, Omar Sirajul Hassan of St Joseph's High School topped the combined merit list of the General Science Group with a total of 922 marks and distinction in seven subjects.

Government Laboratory High School came out second with 920 marks and distinction in seven subjects while Abdullah-Al-Amin of University Laboratory School secured the third position with 917 marks and distinction in seven subjects.

Mahmudur Rahman of Jhaidah Cadet College came out first in the combined merit list of the General Science Group of Jessore Board with a total of 917 marks and distinction in seven subjects.

Mominal Islam of the same college and Muhammad Ehsanul Haq of Barisal Cadet College jointly stood second with 899 marks and distinction in seven subjects while Muhammad Khairuzzaman Molla also of Jhaidah Cadet College secured the third position with a total of 896 marks and distinction in seven subjects.

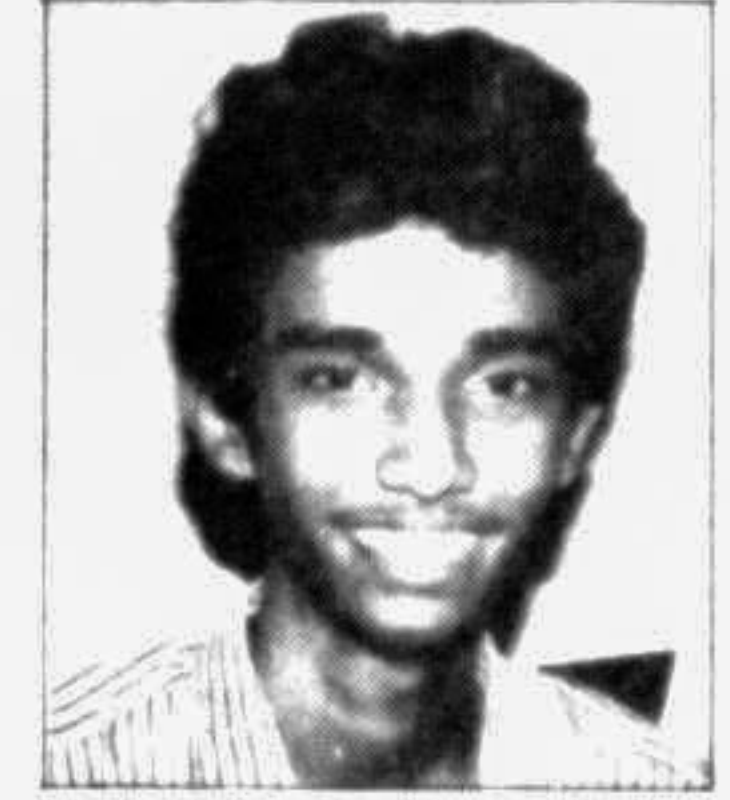
In the Dhaka Board, a total of 1,68,122 candidates appeared the SSC exams and of them, 1,05,997 came out successful. See Page 12 Col 1



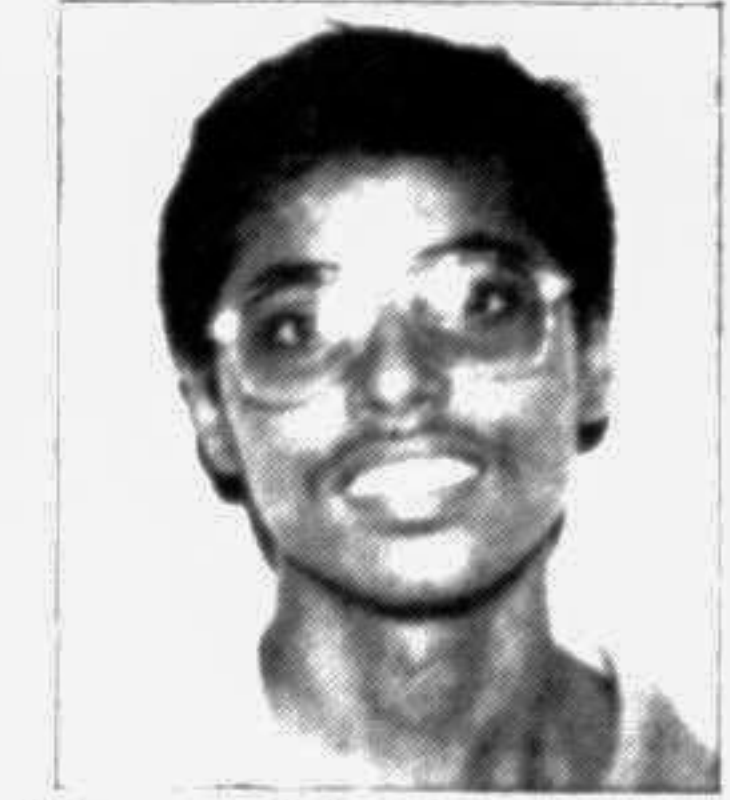
Omar Sirajul Hassan 1st in combined group



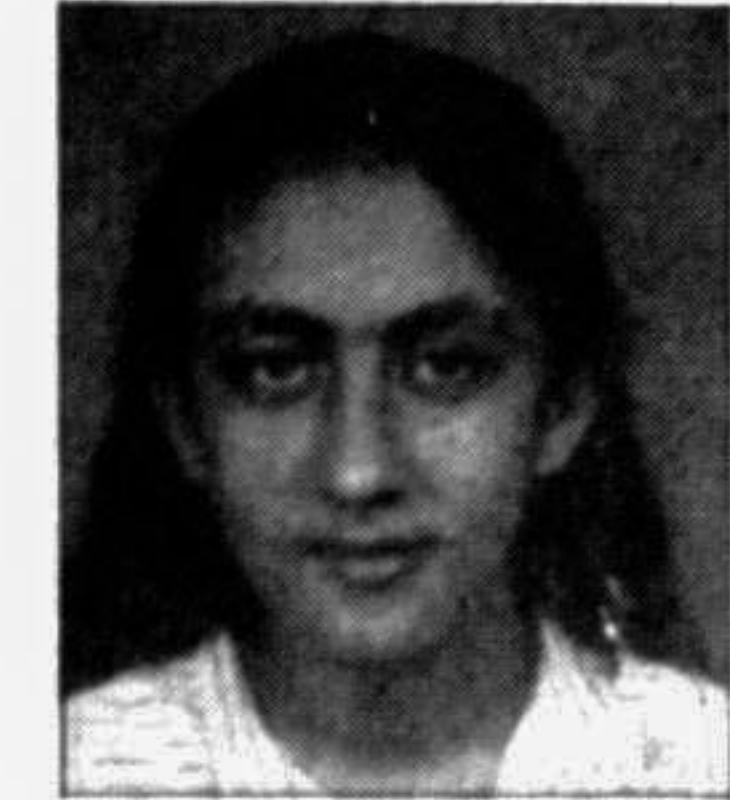
Hasnat Kabir 2nd in combined group



Abdullah Al Amin 3rd in combined group



Shamin Kabir 4th in combined group



Farah Farjana 1st among girls



Tabassum Samad 1st in Social Science group

Hospitals overflowing with wounded 100 killed as cluster rockets hit Kabul

KABUL, Aug 13: Cluster rockets sprayed shrapnel on the war-weary capital on Thursday, killing at least 100 people and injuring hundreds more, said defense ministry officials, reports AP.
 For more than a week, renegade rebels loyal to firebrand fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar have pummeled Kabul with thousands of rockets and relentless rounds of artillery fire.
 "I don't know what's happening. What is the matter with these people?" asked Hamid Karzai, deputy foreign minister.
 A young mother dragged her 4-year-old daughter into a ramshackled building as rocket fire slammed into the rutted streets behind her as

well as partially destroyed buildings.
 Like most of Kabul's beleaguered 1.5 million people trapped in their vulnerable mud homes, Bibi Habiba scrambles daily during lulls in the fighting to forage for food and collect water, often from stagnant pools.
 "Tell the world what they are doing," she screamed at western journalists. "My world is destroyed. My home is gone and all our belongings stolen. Who will rebuild my home?"
 The water supply in Kabul was cut a day earlier and United Nations officials are warning of epidemic outbreaks of cholera and a variety of waterborne diseases, like dysentery.
 "If something isn't done

quickly we could be facing a human tragedy," said Tony Carter, a UN official in Kabul.
 Although the shelling is erratic and government forces claim to have pushed Hekmatyar's troops away from the city, most residents are afraid to leave their homes.
 Giant plumes of smoke obliterated entire neighbourhoods in the northeast where the heaviest shelling has occurred.
 The hospitals are overflowing with wounded and the morgue at a military hospital, one of eight hospitals in Kabul, had bodies two and three deep.
 Reuter adds: Hekmatyar's group today offered a one-day ceasefire to let foreigners leave
 See Page 12 Col 8

Repeal Indemnity Bill for trial of Bangabandhu's killers: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina has said that it would one day be proved that the present government is ruling the country as per the desire and instruction of its 'foreign masters'.
 "No democratically elected government could ignore the people's aspirations in a manner as this government is doing, unless its source of power lies somewhere outside its own country," the Awami League president Hasina told a discussion meeting in Dhaka yesterday.
 "Autocracy still persists in the country although the autocrats have been pulled down from power," she said asking "Where is the origin of today's neo-autocracy, by which the present rulers are gripped?"
 Bangabandhu Parishad organised the discussion on "Indemnity Ordinance is a bar
 See Page 12 Col 4

JS budget session prorogued

By Staff Correspondent

The sixth session of the Fifth Parliament, dubbed the Budget session, was prorogued last night at 10.45 after 41 sittings spread over more than seven weeks.
 Convened on June 18, the third session during the year, would become part of history for disposing of the first-ever no-confidence motion in the parliamentary annals of the country.
 Besides passing the budget for the current financial year, the House witnessed stormy debates on the foreign policy, law and order.
 Smooth opening of the session was affected by a boycott by the Awami League (AL)-led opposition including the Jatiya Party of former President Ershad.
 The stalemate was broken following the signing of a 4-point accord, that critics

termed 'a midnight compromise' between the Treasury bench and the boycotting Opposition in the early hours of June 29.
 During the session 27 bills including one from the earlier session, were put before the House for consideration. A total of 18 bills were passed while the rest would be considered during the coming session around mid-October.
 Conforming to parliamentary traditions, leaders of the Treasury bench and the Opposition took part in thanksgiving.
 Maudud Ahmed, leader of the JP Parliamentary Party said that the session would be marked as one of the important and significant sessions.
 Lauding the role of the Speaker Shaikh Razaq Ali, he said that the Speaker deserved
 See Page 12 Col 4

Georgia seeks Russian help Troops take up positions near Gamsakhurdia stronghold

MOSCOW, Aug 13: Georgia asked Russia today to take action against what it called a terrorist centre run by ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia from the rebel republic of Chechnia, in southern Russia, reports AFP.
 The Georgian Foreign Ministry sent a diplomatic note to Russia stating that the kidnapping on Tuesday of Interior Minister Roman Gventsadze and 10 other people was ordered by Gamsakhurdia from his refuge in the Chechen capital of Grosny, the ITAR-Tass news agency.
 Interior Minister Roman Gventsadze two of his deputy ministers and about six other government officials were taken hostage by about 50 armed supporters of Gamsakhurdia.
 The ITAR-Tass news agency, quoting a report in the newspaper free Georgia, said the hostages were being held in the neighboring region of Abkhazia, in northwest Georgia.
 AP says, a force of 3,000 government troops took up

positions Thursday near the western town of Zugdidi, the stronghold of militant supporters of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, officials said.
 The troops, tanks and helicopters were sent to Zugdidi overnight after Gamsakhurdia supporters kidnapped Georgia's top police officials, deepening the political crisis for the government of Eduard Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister.
 Shevardnadze warned in an emotional TV address to the nation Wednesday that the kidnappers would "pay dearly" unless they released the hostages immediately.
 The 3,000 National Guard troops, headed by Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani, arrived outside Zugdidi, 250 kilometers (155 miles) northwest of Tbilisi, said Interior Ministry spokesman Vladimir Gogolashvili. Kitovani was to decide whether more troops were needed in western Georgia against the pro-Gamsakhurdia forces, Gogolashvili said.

The ruling State Council headed by Shevardnadze ordered the guardsmen to move into western Georgia and take control of roads, bridges and railways.
 A local official in Abkhazia said he had spoken with the Gamsakhurdia supporters who said they would present a list of conditions for the release of the hostages on Thursday.
 Interior Ministry forces gave the kidnappers until 9:00 am (0500 GMT) to release to the west Georgian village of Zugdidi to negotiate a state amnesty for the opposition forces.
 If their demand was not met, Interior Ministry officials said they would proceed to neutralize the armed supporters of the ousted president.
 The Georgian Foreign Ministry in its note called upon Russia to respect a June 24th agreement reached between Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the south Russian city of Dagomys stating that both government would strive to combat illegal activities of para-military groups.

DU VC says 'I can't sleep because of terrorism'

By Staff Correspondent

The Vice-Chancellor of trouble-stricken Dhaka University said yesterday he cannot sleep at night because of terrorism imported into the campus in petty political interest, reports UNB.
 "I cannot sleep at night because of terrorism. It's also not being possible to eradicate terrorism imported into the campus in a planned way in petty political interest," an impassioned Prof Moniruzzaman Mia told newcomers in the University.
 Portraying a horrible situation in the Alma Mater at a freshers' reception, Prof Mia also said all development activities in the varsity had been stalled by the tyranny of terrorists and extortionists.
 Tender for construction work has been floated time and again, but no contractor availed it for fears of the terror-mongers.
 "I am moving with the money, allocated for development activities, into my pocket, as it cannot be spent owing to terrorism," the VC said, urging the newcomers to take a vow to restore congenial
 See Page 12 Col 7

Bangladesh maids flee 'abusive Kuwaitis'

By Staff Correspondent

About 2000 maids, from four Asian countries including Bangladesh, have fled 'abusive employers' in Kuwait since March '91, according to a report by a US-based human rights organisation.
 The agency, Human Rights Watch has published a report on Asian domestic labour in Kuwait. The report is the result of surveys carried out by the agency's Middle East Watch and Women's Rights Project divisions.
 Domestic servants interviewed for the report were mainly from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India and the Philippines.
 In Bangladesh, the report would be distributed through the women's group Naripakkho, which issued a press release to this effect.
 Since the liberation of Kuwait in March 1991, some two thousand maids have fled 'abusive employers,' according to the report. Human Rights Watch holds the government of Kuwait responsible for a lack of proper investigation and prosecution. Not only that, women in police custody have reported abusive treatment.
 A third of the cases fully in-

vestigated by the Human Rights Watch team involved sexual assault, either by the employer or by an acquaintance. Over two-thirds of the servants spoke of physical punishment, and often brutal beatings.
 With the class of women who go to the Middle East for domestic work, persecution in the form of debt bondage, virtual imprisonment and confiscation of passports is common.
 Human Rights Watch suggests that deportation is too irremediable a solution: the government of Kuwait is failing to take constructive steps to end this kind of oppression.
 The report recommends that legal reformatory measures be adopted and law enforcement moves made by Kuwait.
 The matter is of essential concern to Bangladesh, that has a large number of its nationals in precisely the situations highlighted in the report.
 Victims often have no recourse to legal protection and many report having received little assistance from their embassies, as Kuwaiti officials often see deportation as the only solution.

Bangladesh to renegotiate ship deal with Pakistan

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

Responding to requests from the Pakistan government, Bangladesh has agreed to renegotiate the controversial ship deal it suspended citing inflated quotations.
 A high-level Islamabad team of officials will come to Dhaka to review the 45-million-dollar deal.
 Official sources said that the accord was reached when Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman visited Pakistan last month in preparation of the Prime Minister's visit to the country. During the PM's August 9-11 visit, the agreement was reiterated and accordingly the officials will be in Dhaka soon.
 According to a 1988 agreement, Bangladesh was to buy two container vessels — priced at 22.25 million dollar each — under a 50-million-dollar loan provided by Pakistan.
 *See Page 12 Col 7

BCCI to resume operation as Eastern Bank from Aug 16

By Staff Correspondent

After a long closure of one year and two months, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) will resume its operation on August 16 under a new name.
 BCCI has been renamed Eastern Bank Limited.
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the bank at 12:20 pm on the day. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will also be present as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony.
 All the four branches of erstwhile BCCI will start functioning as branches of Eastern Bank Limited.
 The government has nominated a seven-member board of directors for the bank with Nur Hossain Khan, former chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) as its chairman. Gias Uddin Ahmed,
 See Page 12 Col 7

Nasim Khan likes to call 1992 the year of repatriation

By Rahat Fahmida

While the leader of the Stranded Pakistani General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) in Dhaka is all optimistic about the recent repatriation agreement, most of the residents are still sceptical about it.
 Pakistan has agreed to start the long stalled repatriation of 238,000 stranded Pakistanis from this December, an outcome of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's recent visit to Islamabad. Pakistan has promised to take back 3,000 families in the first batch.
 Nasim Khan, the leader of SPGRC, told *The Daily Star* in his office, what is locally called the Geneva Camp in Mohammadpur, "I am happy. We consider it a good beginning. The twenty-one-year deadlock has been broken. Now I hope the government of Bangladesh and that of Pakistan will not create any hurdles. We are to call 1992 the year of repatriation, and definitely the credit goes to Begum Khaleda Zia."
 Details of the repatriation will be worked out by the two countries with the help of Makkah-based Rabitat al-Alam al-Islami, which will be funding the cost of repatriation.
 See Page 12 Col 6

47,465 cases pending before High Court Division

By S Y Bakht

The backlog in pending cases before the High Court division of the Supreme Court is mounting by several hundred every month and stood at 47,465 at the end of last month.
 According to official data, there were a total of 46,874 cases pending before the High Court division at the beginning of July. Another 591 cases were added to the pending list at the end of the month when 1,390 new and revived cases were introduced but only 799 were disposed of during the period.

The severe backlog of pending cases is primarily due to the extremely limited number of judges and the inadequate infrastructural facilities in the High Court division of the Supreme Court, concerned sources pointed out.
 The monthly breakdown also showed that the High Court started out with 23,264 civil, 17,095 criminal, 5,457 writ petitions and another 1,058 pending original civil jurisdiction cases dealing in company matters.
 Of the 1,390 new and revived cases introduced during

the month, 576 were civil, 413 criminal, 373 writ petitions and 28 were original civil jurisdiction cases.
 Thus, out of a total of 48,264 cases pending before the court, only 799 were disposed of during the month. Of these, 172 were civil, 159 criminal, 442 writ petitions and 26 were original civil jurisdiction cases.
 At the end of the month the pending cases included 23,668 civil, 17,349 criminal, 5,388 writ petitions and another 1,060 original civil jurisdiction cases.

In addition, more than 600 other cases are also pending in the Appellate Division of the High Court.
 In the administrative tribunal, 868 cases were pending as of June 30.
 Concerned sources noted that the existing number of judges appointed were 'grossly inadequate' to deal with the huge volume of litigation and that the current number of benches in the High Court division is also too few.
 There are 28 judges for the 18 existing benches in the High Court division including

11 divisional benches, comprising two judges each, and another seven single benches. In addition, there are four judges in the Appellate Division.
 On an average, one source pointed out, each judge in the High Court division has to hear over 25 cases a month. Even with this amount of load it is not possible for the judges to hear the new and revived cases introduced each month, let alone clear the backlog, he added.
 In the Jatiya Sangsad recently, Treasury bench mem-

ber Abdur Rob Choudhury pleaded for increasing the number of judges in the High Court division of the Supreme Court to at least 50, while noting that even in neighbouring West Bengal there are 56 judges in the High Court.
 The number of High Court division benches also needs to be increased along with enhanced infrastructural facilities in order to deal with the incoming cases and to reduce the existing list of pending cases before the court, the sources added.
 See Page 12 Col 8

Next round of Dhaka-Yangon talks Aug 22

Bangladesh and Myanmar officials will meet in Cox's Bazar on August 22 to devise ways and means for beginning the repatriation of about 300,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, officials sources said yesterday, reports UNB.
 It will be the eighth round of official level talks on the issue between the two countries. The last one was held in the Myanmar frontier town of Maungdaw in the last week of July.