

SAARC trade treaty to be ready for endorsement in Nov

COLOMBO, Oct 8: A draft agreement to lift tariff barriers and boost trade within South Asia is headed for approval by members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), a senior official said today, reports AFP. Bradman Weerakoon, International Relations Advisor to Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa said, the draft South Asia Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) would be ready for endorsement by South Asian commerce ministers next month.

"It is an important point from where we can begin negotiations. This (draft) is the beginning of the story," Weerakoon told reporters at a weekly press briefing.

Weerakoon said SAPTA was aimed at raising the current level of regional trade in among SAARC's seven member nations by either reducing or dismantling tariff barriers by 1997.

Current trade within the region represented only five per cent of the region's global trade.

Members of SAARC, which groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, could decide how they wanted to proceed in lifting trade barriers after signing the draft, Weerakoon said.

Sri Lanka has been a prime mover of the trade pact, but Pakistan has been reluctant to push ahead to fully implement the free-trade idea by 1995.

HSC exams

From Page 1 Col 7 and in Islamic Studies Group is 00.00.

Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman of Dhaka College secured first place in the Arts Group getting 905 marks in total. Rahman has secured letter marks in Mathematics, Psychology, Geography and Statistics.

In the Commerce Group, Kazi Naïma Binte Faruki of Dhaka Commerce College got the first place.

Mostari Alam of Sheikh Borhanuddin College and Howlader Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain of Dhaka College have secured the second and the third places respectively.

Sajma Begum of Vikarunnessa Noon School and College topped the Arts Group merit list of the women.



Khomeini influenced me most: Sarah

By Staff Correspondent

Sarah Ahmed's two-year-long fight to win the crown ended Thursday as she topped the list in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination.

Sarah of Vikarunnessa Noon Girls College became first in this year's combined merit list securing 989 marks.

She also stood second in the Secondary School Certificate Exam two years back.

When this correspondent arrived at their Sheikh Saheb Bazar residence in the capital Thursday noon, there was none in the house except Sarah and her elder sister. Her father Dr Shamsuddin Ahmed was away at the ICTVTR at Tongi while her mother was in the United States with her elder brother and sister.

When asked about the person who influenced her most after her parents, Sarah said it was late Ayatullah Khomeini.



Naima wants to be a university teacher

By Staff Correspondent

Kazi Naima Binte Faruki wants to be a university teacher in future, because this noble profession is the hall mark of her family.

She topped the merit list in the Commerce Group from the Dhaka Commerce College in this year's HSC examination securing 839 marks and an asterisk.

Naima's father Kazi Mohammad Nurul Islam Faruki is the Principal of the Dhaka Commerce College while her mother Shamsunnahar Faruki is a teacher of Home Economic in the Lalmatia Girls College.

Although a bit disappointed with the total marks she received, Naima said the position had been expected.



A serious student never leaves gap in studies: Moynul

By Staff Correspondent

Muhammad Moynul Islam, who stood second in the combined merit list of the HSC examination, loves basketball and soccer the way he loves his studies.

His father Nazrul Islam, however, thinks that Moynul spent more time in playing than studying, but he was very happy at his son's result.

The father was also appreciative of his son's sportsmanship.

Muhammad Moynul Islam came out from the Mirzapur Cadet College securing 969 marks in the HSC examination.

"A serious student never leaves a gap in his studies," he said, "one should not cease his efforts to attain perfection."

Merit list

By Staff Correspondent

Sarah Ahmed of Vikarunnessa Noon School and College topped the combined merit list in the Dhaka Board securing a total of 989 marks.

The positions of other students according to the merit list are: (2) Mohammad Moynul Islam, Mirzapur Cadet College, 969; (3) Sohel Aktar, and Mohammad Manir Morshed, Mirzapur Cadet College, 965; (4) Mohammad Rezaul Haque, Dhaka College, 956; (5) Rezaul Alam Choudhury, Dhaka College, 955; (6) Shahana Bentul Aziz, Vikarunnessa Noon School and College, 951; (7) Imtiaz Ibne Mannan of Mirzapur Cadet College and Kazi Ali Iqam of Dhaka College, 950; (8) Rashed Ahmed, Dhaka College, 949; (9) Sheikh Anwarul Kattah, Dhaka College, 947; (10) Shatla Kazi of Vikarunnessa Noon School and College and Farah Naz Amin of Holy Cross College, 946; (11) Mohammad Faisal Abedin, Notre Dame College, 943; (12) Arif-Al-Mamun, Dhaka College, 937; (13) Mohammad Sadat Hossain, Dhaka College, 936; (14) Mousumi Zaman of Holy Cross College and Abu Sayeed Mohammad Haider of Dhaka College, 934; (15) Abdullah Al Amin, Mirzapur Cadet College, 933; (16) Ahmed Wasim Raja, Dhaka College, 930; (17) Fazlatur Rahman of Holy Cross College and Mohammad Borhanuddin Mollah of Mirzapur Cadet College, 929; (18) Tanzim Khalid Chowdhury, Vikarunnessa Noon School and College, 928; (19) Pola Mehbub, Kazi of Vikarunnessa Noon School and College, Shakila Yasmin of Mymensingh Girls Cadet College and Sharfima Ferdous of the same college, 927 each and (20) Khandakar Nadim Parvez, Rajendra College, 926.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia exchanging views with the members of University Parishad at her Sugandha office yesterday. — PID photo

Second phase of UP polls ends

The second phase of Union Parishad elections in 1955 centres of 385 unions ended yesterday. Election Commission sources here said, reports UNB.

Voting was suspended at seven centres of seven unions during the eight-day polling as law and order situation went beyond the control of presiding officers.

The centres are: Rupnarayanpur in Nalitabari thana of Sherpur, Goalabazar and East Gouripur in Balaganj of Sylhet, Kamelrpar in Shagata thana of Gaibandha, Lohagara in Lohagara thana and Palpara Primary School of Kanchana union in Satkania thana of Chittagong district and West Gupti in Faridganj of Chandpur.

Moreover, elections could not be held at two other centres of Kamelrpar union in Dhunat thana of Bogra due to injunction order imposed by the court.

Arafat, Habash agree to unite Palestinians

AMMAN, Oct 8: PLO chairman Yasser Arafat and his chief rival, George Habash, agreed Thursday to unify the Palestinians ahead of the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington later this month, reports AP.

Privatisation for success of democracy: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka yesterday that the present government's privatisation programme was aimed at making the people conscious about playing their role from their respective fields for the success of democracy, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister was addressing the inaugural session of the Medical College for Women and Hospital at Uttara Model Town. The college has been set up by the Medical and Health Welfare Trust, a private organisation.

The Prime Minister said it should make always look forward to the government for assistance for everything. The identity of the nation as an independent country would only be meaningful when people would become conscious about playing their due role in development.

The Prime Minister said the present government had given emphasis on education of women as it wanted to involve the women community in the development process. She also said that the government was utilising the distressed women of the rural areas, who form a great working force in different development programmes.

Begum Zia said, "We have also given emphasis on the removal of poverty and expansion of education and health-care with the aim to build a strong and productive nation."

PM assures steps

From Page 1 Col 8 them that all possible measures would be taken to solve their problems. She said the existing official procedure for teachers in taking permission for the foreign visits would be made easier.

Begum Zia also assured them that a Ph.D scholarship scheme would be introduced for the university teachers. She gave the assurance following the plea from the Vice Chancellors to enable the university teachers to take Ph.D degrees in increasing numbers through extending financial help.

The members of the parishad underlined the need for exchanging views at a regular interval with the Prime Minister by them regarding the condition of the universities for effective and expedited solution of the problems existing in the universities.

The parishad delegation led by its President, Khulna University Vice Chancellor Prof Golam Rahman, included Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Mohammad Moniruzzaman Mia, Jahangirnagar University Vice Chancellor Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Islamic University Vice Chancellor Prof M Hamid, Rajshahi University Vice Chancellor Prof M Anisur Rahman, Shahjalal Science and Technology University Vice Chancellor Prof Sadrudin Ahmed, Mymensingh Agricultural University Vice Chancellor Prof Ashraf Ali Khan, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Vice Chancellor Prof M Shahjahan and Secretary of the parishad Ahmed Kabir.

JS vigilance body orders stern action against loan defaulters

A parliamentary vigilance committee yesterday ordered stern action against defaulting loans and corruption in different banks, reports UNB.

The Vigilance Committee of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, on Public Undertakings in its fourth meeting at Sangsad Bhaban adopted some important decisions regarding the punitive action and directed concerned authorities to implement those properly, said an official hand-out.

It discussed in detail the activities and credit disbursement and recovery procedures of Sonali Bank, Janata Bank, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Shilpa Bank and Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha.

The meeting also discussed the modalities of activity of the vigilance committee that keeps vigil on the state-run institutions.

Convener of the committee A K M Abu Taher, MP, presided over the meeting. Its members Monirul Haq Chowdhury, Dr Mizanul Haq and Ziaul Haq attended the meeting.

Managing Directors of concerned banks and financial institutions were present.

26 criminals executed in China

BEIJING, Oct 8: Twenty-six convicted criminals were executed in northeastern China, largely for rape and murder, the Heilongjiang Legal News reported in its edition seen here today, reports AFP.

A total of 55 criminals were sentenced September 25 at a public meeting in Harbin, Heilongjiang province's capital, and 26 of them were taken immediately afterwards to an execution ground and shot, the newspaper said.

BSF

From Page 1 Col 7 government has reiterated its concern over India's continued attempt to push her Bengali speaking nationals into Bangladesh in violation of international laws.

The government concern was conveyed to Indian High Commissioner K Raghunath when he met acting Foreign Secretary AH Mahmood AI at the Foreign office yesterday.

Officials said matters of other bilateral issues also came up for discussion at the meeting.

Several hundred of Bengali speaking Indian nationals have been pushed into Bangladesh through the western borders since early last month. They were however returned to India the same way Indian BSF pushed them to Bangladesh territory.

Reports reaching from across the border said hundreds of Bengali speaking Indians were concentrated in different camps along the border to push them into Bangladesh under "Operation Push Back" scheme which was reportedly described as inhuman by West Bengal ruling party CPI (M).

Early last month, Bangladesh lodged a strong protest to India against the illegal deportation.

The Midnight File

Serbs step up offensive

SARAJEVO, Oct 8: Bosnian Serbs stepped up their offensive on Muslim-held areas in northern Bosnia Wednesday, shelling the town of Gradacac after the strategic capture of nearby Bosnski road, Croatian media said, reports AFP.

Gorbachev refuses to testify at constitutional court

MOSCOW, Oct 8: Mikhail Gorbachev said today he was ready to go to jail rather than testify at the Russian constitutional court's trial of the communist party. "Nothing will make me change my position," the former Soviet President said in a press conference at the headquarters of the Gorbachev foundation, reports AFP.

13 killed in Chinese plane crash

HONG KONG, Oct 8: A Chinese tourist-charter plane carrying seven crew and 28 passengers including 11 from Taiwan and 14 western Europeans crashed in China's northwest Gansu province killing 13 and injuring four, Xinhua news agency said today. The Wuhan Airline Company plane, which took off from Lanzhou the capital of the remote province, crashed this afternoon near Huajia village. It was heading to Huxian county in Shaanxi province, reports AFP.

JS autumn session

From Page 1 Col 7 Chowdhury of the Awami League (AL), Shamsuddoha of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Suranjit Sengupta of Ganotantri Party and Shajahan Siraj of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) told The Daily Star that the Anti-terrorism Ordinance was a black law of the highest order.

"No civil society can accept such a black law" said the leaders adding "We shall try our level best to compel the ruling party to withdraw the Ordinance".

According to them, a neutral application of the law of the land relating to violence was enough to curb terrorism that had spread over the country.

The policy planners in the ruling party, however, strongly believed that the existing laws were not adequate to uproot terrorism.

An influential BNP leader talking on the issue told The Daily Star last night that socio-political stability was a must for the economic emancipation of the people and that the government had no alternative but to promulgate the Ordinance with a view to establishing peace in the society by means of controlling the all engulfing terrorism.

The BNP leader claimed that the society had already started witnessing a decrease in terrorist incidents following the promulgation of the Ordinance.

Meanwhile, the AL has decided to hold its Parliamentary Party meeting at 10 in the morning of October 11 in order to chalk out a strategy on how to counter the ruling party arguments on different current issues including the views, the ruling party policy makers attaching importance to formulating were precisely their arguments before the Parliament session.

The BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Salam Tajukder yesterday told The Daily Star that they would also discuss a strategy to combat Opposition stances in their Parliamentary Party meeting on October 12 or 13 on issues likely to come up in the House.

Source in the Opposition, said that they would highlight, along with the deteriorating law and order situation and government measures to control it the ruling party's 'failures' in tackling the Rohynga issue, facing the situation arising out of the Indian

Operation Push-Back and controlling price hike of essential commodities.

The autumn session, however, is likely to be a short one, expected to be prorogued by the end of the first week of November, Parliament sources said.

The two new bills likely to be introduced in the session are the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill and the Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, while the 10 bills pending in Parliament are: 1. Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2. National University Bill, 3. Shilpa Bank (Amendment) Bill, 4. Mines and Mineral Resources (Control and Development) Bill, 5. Code of Criminal Procedure (Second Amendment) Bill, 6. Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Bill, 7. National Science and Technology Museum Bill, 8. Public Examinations (Offences) (Amendment) Bill, 9. Inland Water Transport Labourers (Employment control) Bill, 10. Bangladesh Tarrif Commission Bill.

Walcott

From Page 1 Col 8 "I'm still a little stunned," Walcott told the Associated Press in Boston, where he teaches literature and creative writing at Boston University. "I haven't had time to sit in a corner" and write down feelings, he said, but added, "I feel very rich."

Walcott, 62, said he would use some of the 6.5 million kronor (dhs 1.2 million) in prize money to build a dream house on St Lucia, where he was born in 1930. He divides his time between Trinidad, where he now lives, and Boston, where he has worked for the past eight years.

Walcott said he had telephoned his family, but would delay a big celebration until after a scheduled speech at the University of Virginia. He said his twin brother, Roderick, a son and two daughters by two previous marriages would accompany him to the awards ceremony in Stockholm on December 10.

The Swedish Academy cited Walcott for poetic works "of great luminosity, sustained by a historical vision, the outcome of a multicultural commitment."

"In him West Indian culture has found its great poet," the academy said. "He has an intense belief in poetry and poets and he had made this one of his themes."

Discontent

From Page 1 Col 7 The Information Ministry confirmed the allegation as "fact" and said that the process was on to resolve it.

Reliable Radio sources said that the ministry was reportedly sending a proposal to the Ministry of Establishment to convert the present posts of Deputy Controllers as "selection post" to avoid the crisis but the source said that it was a long term process that may take another couple of years.

The Information Ministry sources said that two posts of Deputy Controllers remained vacant but that the authorities did not promote the qualified Assistant Controllers fearing agitation by the seniors.

The Radio sources said that the three now drawing a basic of Tk 2,800 aggrieved Assistant Controllers recently submitted a memorandum to the Information Ministry demanding the Taka 4,800 scale as they were now fit for it passing the seniority examination. But their demand has been rejected as the posts in the Tk 4,100 (The Deputy Controller's scale) were earlier declared 'feeder posts' and made mandatory for the Assistant Controllers to touch for further promotions.

South Asian festival begins in Delhi today

NEW DELHI, Oct 8: The first-ever South Asian festival begins in the Indian capital tomorrow with the avowed objective of fostering better understanding and people-to-people contact among the seven member countries.

After the inauguration of the 16-day festival tomorrow by the Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, various programmes and exhibitions of cultural programmes and objects would be exhibited in 30 cities and towns in different states of India.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum who is leading a 36-member Bangladesh delegation told BSS "Such festivals could reduce whatever irritants might be there among the member countries."

Prof Jahanara Begum also hoped that the festival would help foster greater cordiality and economic and political co-operation among the SAARC member countries. She also expressed the hope that the festival would particularly contribute to better relations between Bangladesh and India.

Sirajganj-Bhuapur ferry services disrupted

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 8: About 500 passengers from the northern districts got stranded at the Sirajganj ghat last night after BIWTC authorities stopped the ferry services between Sirajganj and Bhuapur Wednesday, reports UNB.

Fall in water level in the river Jamuna and reappearance of shoals have blocked the scheduled ferry services.

Nearly 300 buses and trucks were also held up at the ghat till this noon creating a chaotic condition there.

Police had to be called in to normalise the situation.

Passengers bound for Dhaka and Rajshahi were later ferried by launches arranged by the transport owners.

However, 25 trucks still remained stranded at the ghat awaiting to be ferried to Bhuapur.

Meanwhile, Motor Owners' Association and BIWTC alleged that negligence by the Roads and Highways Department in constructing a Bailey bridge over the river Dhaleshari have increased the problem.

They said the bridge, if constructed, would have enabled the vehicles to cover

Tempoo helper dead

By Staff Correspondent

A 13-year-old tempoo helper died yesterday after his tempoo lost control and hit the wall of a building at Shipoybag.

The tempoo helper, Shahidul, was sandwiched between the building wall and the tempoo. He received injury in his chest.

He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital at about 7 am. Later he was released and was taken home.

But Shahidul's condition deteriorated and he died at around 10 am.

A case was filed with Subjughana Thana. The driver of the tempoo could not be arrested.

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