

Come to CHITTAGONG Come to BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT

The only place for ORIGINAL THAI FOOD & SEAFOOD in CHITTAGONG. Please try us and you will love BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT more than ever before.

1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y. M. C. A. NASIRABAD, CHITTAGONG, TEL: 226803, FAX: (880) 31-225258

The Daily Star

In Broken Marble Tiles Brighter Home At Lesser Price
Tel: 605957, 861985

VOL. III NO. 189 REGD. NO. DA 781

SRABAN 17, 1400 BS.

DHAKA SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 1993

SAFAR 11, 1414 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

Russian jets bomb Afghan villages: 20 killed

ISLAMABAD, July 31: Russian fighters have bombed villages in northern Afghanistan in the first reported air raids on the area, killing 20 people and injuring 30, official Kabul Radio said today, reports Reuters.

Eight jets bombed several villages in the Shahr-e-Bozorg district of northern Badakshan province along the troubled border with the Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan on Wednesday, according to the Radio, monitored in Islamabad.

Several villages were destroyed and hundreds of head of livestock killed, the broadcast said.

But Itar-Tass news agency, reported from Moscow, said the Russian Air Force had denied such reports.

The Russian Air Force has denied reports by western news agencies Russian aircraft carried out a raid on villages in Badakshan province. The Air Force command told Itar-Tass

that it has no information of any such action, it said.

A source in the command said several air reconnaissance flights were carried out along the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, Tass added.

Kabul says more than 300 Afghans have been killed or injured in artillery attacks by Russian forces deployed across the border in Tajikistan in retaliation for cross-border raids by Islamic Tajik rebels who have fled to Afghanistan.

Russian forces have bombed northern Afghanistan since Tajik rebels who took refuge in Afghanistan after the defeat of their uprising last year launched a raid on a Russian border post on July 13 that killed 25 soldiers and 100 Tajik villagers.

Kabul Radio said a Russian delegation led by Yevgeni Primakov, a special envoy of President Boris Yeltsin, arrived

in Kabul on Friday for talks.

Moscow says the Afghan army is backing the rebels, and Yeltsin has sent reinforcements to Tajikistan to police the border.

Afghanistan has demanded that Russia withdraw its forces along the border and has said it will respond to further attacks.

The cross-border incidents have stirred memories on all sides of the Soviet Union's ill-fated military intervention in Afghanistan from 1979 to 1989 to prop up a communist government against Mujahideen rebels.

Moscow sees the frontier as a crucial line of defence against the threat of Islamic fundamentalism, and its guards are stationed there by agreement with the Tajik government.

Since the fall of Afghanistan's former Soviet-backed communist government in April 1992, much of the country has been divided into fiefdoms

controlled by rival guerillas who pay little hit to the coalition Islamic gov't in Kabul.

Kabul says government is only providing aid to the estimated 670,000 Tajiks who have taken refuge in the north of the country after fleeing the civil war, in which thousands of people have been killed.

Meanwhile, AFP says: Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar today denied his country was involved in backing Muslim forces in Tajikistan and rebuffed a Russian call for high-level peace talks.

"Afghanistan is not involved in Tajikistan. This is an internal issue and should be solved by the two parties concerned -- the Tajik government and the opposition," Hekmatyar said at his headquarters outside Kabul.

"If these two parties ask for our mediation we are prepared to help," the Prime Minister said.

61.86 pc pass Comilla Board SSC exams

By Staff Correspondent

The results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations, 1993 of the Comilla Education Board were announced yesterday.

A total of 1,67,420 candidates appeared in the examinations, held in April and May this year. Of them 1,00,755 came out successful.

The percentage of pass is 61.86.

Out of the successful examinees, 49,131 students were placed in the First Division while 40,931 secured Second Division and the rest 10,693 managed the Third Division.

Mohammad Shamim Ferdous of Comilla Cadet College topped the combined merit list. Mohammad Enayet Karim of Sylhet Cadet College secured the second position while Mohammad Shariful Islam of Comilla Cadet College placed third.

A total of 56,929 examinees came out successful out of total 1,09,554 in the Social Science group. The percentage of pass is 53.75.

Among them 18,971 passed

in the First Division, 30,141 in the Second Division and 7,817 in the Third Division.

In the General Science group 43,826 out of 57,886 passed the examinations with 30,160 getting First Division 10,790 Second Division and 2,876 Third Division.

The percentage of pass in the General Science group is 76.93.

Sylhet Cadet College candidates topped the merit list securing 11 places in the top twenty, followed by Comilla Cadet College with six, including the first and the third positions.

Selina Alam of the Chittagong Government High School topped the list among the girl students by scoring 888 marks. She received letters in English, Mathematics, Geography, Religion, General Science and Elective Mathematics.

Farzana Noor Khan of the Nawab Faizunnessa Government Girls High School in Comilla stood second while Humayra Afreen of the Bangladesh Mahila Samity Girls High School in Chittagong stood third among the girls.

JCD rivals clash Tongi Govt College closed sine die

TONGI, July 31: The Tongi Government College was closed sine die today after a clash between two rival factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal that left at least 25 people, including a teacher, injured, reports UNB.

The ongoing HSC practical examinations and filling forms for degree examination will, however, continue.

Campus sources said the supporters of college student union VP Sharaifat Hossain and GS Arif Hossain clashed when the GS entered the campus. Both the groups used iron rods, sticks and knives in the fighting.

The Student Union members brought a no-confidence motion against the GS a few days back and declared him persona non grata on the college campus.

Police rushed to the trouble spot and brought the situation under control, but violence flared up again when one group stormed hospital in a hunt for the rivals.

One of the injured, Monir
See Page 12 Col 8

BNP council to be held at Bijoy Sarani

By Staff Correspondent
The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will hold the opening session of its national council at the Bijoy Sarani, possibly on the proposed site for the army museum, the council preparatory committee decided yesterday.

In a meeting at the party's Naya Paltan central office, the committee members also planned offering of prayers at the Mazar of party founder late President Ziaur Rahman in the morning of Sept 1, the inaugural day of the council, and a procession in the city after the plenary session the same day.

The three other working sessions of the two-day council, which coincides with the 15th founding anniversary of the party on September 1, would be held at the Institution of Engineers.

Committee convener Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiky and members Fazlur Rahman, Mir Shawkat Ali, Amanullah Aman, Jahanara Begum, Col (ret'd) Akbar Hossain and Monirul Hassan Tripti were present at the meeting.

The committee will meet again on August 3.

FBUTA calls strike in all varsities Aug 8

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Associations (FBUTA) has called for a full-day strike in all the universities on August 8 protesting Thursday's violence at the Jahangirnagar University, reports UNB.

The strike call came after a meeting of the FBUTA at Dhaka University Club with its president Prof Mstahidur Rahman in the chair, said a press release last night.

The federation demanded that the government nab the terrorists within 24 hours and award them punishment for restoring congenial academic atmosphere on the JU campus.

The meeting decided that the university teachers would wear black badges till August 7 and bring out silent processions on the campuses during the "token strike" on August 8.

Condemning the inaction of
See Page 12 Col 5

Charges framed against Mizan, another JP man

By Staff Correspondent
The authorities have brought charges against acting chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and international affair secretary Nurul Islam Milon for allegedly carrying objectionable papers while leaving for Saudi Arabia earlier this year.

Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzak read out the charges at the court of the Additional Sessions Judge Md Anisuzzaman who directed the accused to reply to the charges.

Standing on the dock yesterday, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, MP, said that it was not at all a letter since
See Page 12 Col 2

Law Reform Commission early this month

Star Report

The government is expected to announce the formation of a permanent Law Reform Commission by the middle of this month, according to a well-placed official source on Saturday.

The Law and Justice Ministry is currently in the process of completing the formalities for setting up the Law Reform Commission," said the source.

Selection of the commission members has been provisionally finalised, he added, while the terms of reference are in the process of being completed.

Headed by a retired Supreme Court Judge, the commission will include an academic from the Law Department of the Dhaka University as a member and an expert on commercial and trademark laws as an honorary member.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Gohar Hafez, who is currently visiting Panchagar, is expected to announce the formation of the commission at a press conference during the second week of this month, the source said.

The Law Ministry recently issued a letter to all government ministries seeking their opinions on the problems being faced regarding the application of the existing relevant legislations.

This was done to formulate a guideline for the terms of reference of the commission, which will be completed within the next few days, the source added.

However, he noted that the Law Ministry is facing difficulty in finding an appropriate office space to house the commission. The ministry has already placed an advertisement through the Department of Films and Publications for a suitable rented office.

Legal experts and foreign consultants in the past have repeatedly urged the government to set up a permanent law reform commission.

A report by the Foreign Investment Advisory Service, a World Bank affiliate, last year on the primary bottlenecks to investment in the country strongly recommended the formation of such a commission.
See Page 12 Col 8



The rampant use of mosquito nets in fishing has immensely depleted fish-fries in the country. This picture, taken at Demra yesterday on the eve of the country-wide 'Fisheries Fortnight', shows fishermen catching fish-fries with one such net.

WB asked to fast track Jamuna Bridge Project

Star Report

With the deadlines for validity of bids made by the contractors for various components of the Jamuna Bridge Project approaching, the government has requested the World Bank to advance approval of the project from February 1994 to December 1993. If this schedule is accepted, formal appraisal of the project will take place in mid-August.

The Jamuna Bridge Project now has a price tag of US dollar 70 crore or Taka 2800 crore. More than Taka 65 crore have already been spent in various feasibility studies leading to this mega-project. In 1990, the project cost was estimated at US dollar 47 crore.

As of January 1993, the government had collected Tk 464 crore through levies and surcharges to meet the local currency cost of the project.

The current estimate of the government contribution to the

project cost is around US dollar 10 crore or Tk 400 crore. Thus, the country's taxpayers have already paid for their share of the Jamuna Bridge Project cost.

The schedule for construction of the project has undergone change several times in the last few years.

In a meeting of the Jamuna Bridge co-financiers held in Washington under World Bank auspices in 1992, appraisal of the project was set in mid-1993. This schedule had to be revised as bids by the contractors were so-way off the estimated cost of the project that its economic rate of return fell below acceptable levels.

The different works involved in construction of the Jamuna Bridge have been divided into four components or contracts: the bridge (Contract 1), river training (Contract 2) and two road approaches (Contracts 3 and 4).

In the first round of bidding for these contracts in January this year, the World Bank and the Government of Bangladesh were surprised by the extent to which the bids for the river training work exceeded the estimate made by the consultants employed to assist with tendering.

Since then the consultants have revised their estimate of cost of the river training work twice. The most recent estimate, done last month, is higher than the earlier estimate made last April although the length of the guide bund on each side of the river has been reduced. The Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority is surprised that a drastic reduction in the scope of the work had not led to reduction in the estimated cost.

The validity of bids made for Contracts 1 and 2 during the rebidding in June last will expire
See Page 12 Col 5

Ministers review project

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday reiterated the present government's firm resolve to construct the 670 million US dollars Jamuna Bridge saying "We want the bridge and do not want to delay it any more," reports BSS.

Rahman was reviewing the progress of the initial works on the Jamuna Bridge Project, its cost estimation and financing here yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Finance.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed, Economic Relations Division Secretary Lutfullahil Majid, Planning Commission member Mokammel Haque, Jamuna Bridge Authority Executive Director Mohammad Ali, Roads Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, Planning Commission Division Chief Nazmul Hossain, ERD Additional Secretaries Dr Saadat Hossain and Ayub Quadri were also present.

The Finance Minister and the Communications Minister expressed their satisfaction at the progress of the initial works on the project.

Demand for Bangladeshi seamen drops

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, July 31: Hundreds of Bangladeshi seamen remain unemployed here with demand for their services on outgoing foreign vessels continuing to dwindle, official sources said.

Most of the foreign ships which earlier used to recruit Bangladeshi crew, now prefer seamen from the Philippines, Indonesia and India, official sources said, adding that the Greek registered ships presently recruit seamen mainly from Indonesia.

As a result, recruitment of Bangladeshi seamen in outgoing vessels has dropped to

nearly 50 per cent in recent years, sources informed.

According to official reports, around 2500 seamen were employed each year by the outgoing vessels out of the enrolled 5200 members. Before 1979, about 5000 crew used to find such employment each year.

Officials here attributed the decline in the demand for Bangladeshi seamen to a spree of desertions by the Bangladeshis from the ships while anchored at foreign ports.

Besides, poor skills of most of the Bangladeshi hands due to lack of adequate training to

meet the requirements of the foreign vessels has also led to the drop in their demand, shipping sources said.

Around 3000 Bangladeshi seamen had reportedly deserted their foreign ships since 1972 and sneaked into some developed countries where they later settled with jobs violating the contracts signed with foreign vessels, officials here said.

Officials also said that until 1975 Bangladeshi seamen had shown a tendency to flee particularly to Britain, but since then the United States had become the favourite destination.

However, sources in the Shipping Master's Office here told this correspondent that plans were underway to provide adequate training to the seamen and deck hands as well as to check desertion in a bid to revitalise this sector which can fetch the country a huge amount of foreign currency.

A senior official of a leading multinational company representing two foreign shipping lines, said that country could earn huge foreign exchange by providing them with required training facilities and updating other policy measures.

Notice

Today's issue of the Daily Star contains 4 pages of the Comilla Board SSC Exam results. Therefore, the regular National and Feature pages have been dropped while Business and Sports has been curtailed to one page each.

Inside Today

Article

The Foreign Hand Guiding India's Economy Page 4

International

Bosnian warring parties working on map



Arms sale to Iraq: Thatcher, Major will testify before a judiciary board Page 5

Business

Rao's survival quickens India's economic reforms

Gulf states produce 13.5m BPD of oil in first 3 months of '93 Page 6

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Buying Some Bananas? Look for Mukarram at Bijoy Sarani Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Biswas, Khaleda greet Adolf Ogi

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday felicitated Adolf Ogi, President of the Swiss Confederation on the occasion of its founding day today. In separate messages of felicitation, Biswas and Khaleda Zia wished for good health, happiness and long life of Ogi and the continued welfare and prosperity of the friendly people of the Swiss Confederation, reports BSS.

Section 144 imposed in Kushtia town

KUSHTIA, July 31: Section 144 was imposed in the Paura area this morning to avoid further clashes between the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Islami Chhatra Shibir. The two student organisations clashed in the town on Thursday, reports UNB.

ALCWC meets today

Awami League Central Working Committee meets at an emergency session today at the party office at 4 pm. Party President Sheikh Hasina will chair the meeting which will discuss the latest socio-economic and political situation in the country. The meeting will also hold deliberations on post-flood situation and observance of national mourning day on August 15, reports UNB.

Arms recovered in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, July 31: District police during the past week recovered a number of fire arms and some ammunition and arrested 178 persons from different thanas, reports BSS.