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Notice

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains 4 pages of the Dhaka 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.

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NEWS BRIEFS

AL Presidium meets today

The meeting of the Presidium of the Awami League will be held today at 10 am. Party chief and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting to be held at 29 Minto Road, a party press release said last night, reports BSS.

Lawyer expelled

The Bangladesh Bar Council has expelled Mohammad Matur Rahman, a member of the Dinajpur District Bar, from the legal profession for life. A Bar Council press release said that Matur Rahman was found guilty by the Council's Tribunal No. 1, comprising Ahmed Ali, Chairman and Gaur Gopal Saha and Alhaj Amjad Hussain on July 27, reports BSS.

Jamuna erosion hits 1000 people

JAMALPUR, Aug 2: Some 1,000 people in four thanas of the district were rendered homeless due to erosion by the Jamuna and Old Brahmaputra rivers during the last 24 hours till 6 pm today (Monday). Local Union parishad chairman said standing crops on about 2,000 acres of land in the affected thanas - Islampur, Sadar, Sheraha Bari and Dewanganj were also washed away by the rivers. They said standing crops on about 3,000 acres of land were also destroyed by the river Jamuna during the last week, reports UNB.

UN team proposes 52 major reforms in public admin

By M Anwarul Haq

The report on the Public Administration Sector Study in Bangladesh (PASSB), prepared by an independent team of UN experts, was submitted to the government yesterday.

The 185-page report carries both the findings and recommendations on the administrative system of the country, including 52 suggested reforms. These suggestions are grouped into two categories, namely, the Consolidation Proposals and the Reform Proposals.

A major reform proposed is the replacement of the existing cadre and class system with a personnel management system based on position classification and grades.

It has also suggested that reports on ministries' perfor-

mance in relation to goals, objectives and targets achieved be placed before Parliament annually.

The UN team prepared the report after a comprehensive study involving both local and foreign experts and intensive discussions with scores of officials from the public and private sectors. It commenced its work in October, 1992 at the behest of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who reiterated her pledge to establish a transparent, accountable system of public management.

The report suggests that the selection and promotion of civil servants be based totally on merit in a transparent process and recommended strengthening of the Public Service

Commission. It also called for progressively removing distinctions between cadres, specifically by combining similar cadres into a smaller number of cadres.

The report favours abolition of the reservation of posts in the Ministries for particular cadres and to provide for open competition for Secretariat posts from all cadres, based on qualifications and experience relevant to the post.

It suggests position descriptions for all posts in government, beginning with Class I officer posts, in order to enable personnel to be matched with posts.

To further professionalise the Civil Service, the reports recommends development of an

appropriate transfer policy in order to reduce the adverse impact of frequent transfers, which it says affects the efficiency of government.

The study also recommends that the number of ministries be reduced to 20. A suggestion has been made to establish a unit in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for conducting assessments of performance of the Ministries, with reports to be submitted to the Prime Minister.

Pointing out that the number of ministries was excessively large, the report says this accentuates the problem of coordination.

There are 34 ministries and 21 divisions in the country. See Page 12 Col 1

Privatisation Board to be placed under Cabinet Division

Star Report

The Privatisation Board established early this year will be moved from the Planning Commission to the Cabinet Division, according to highly-placed sources.

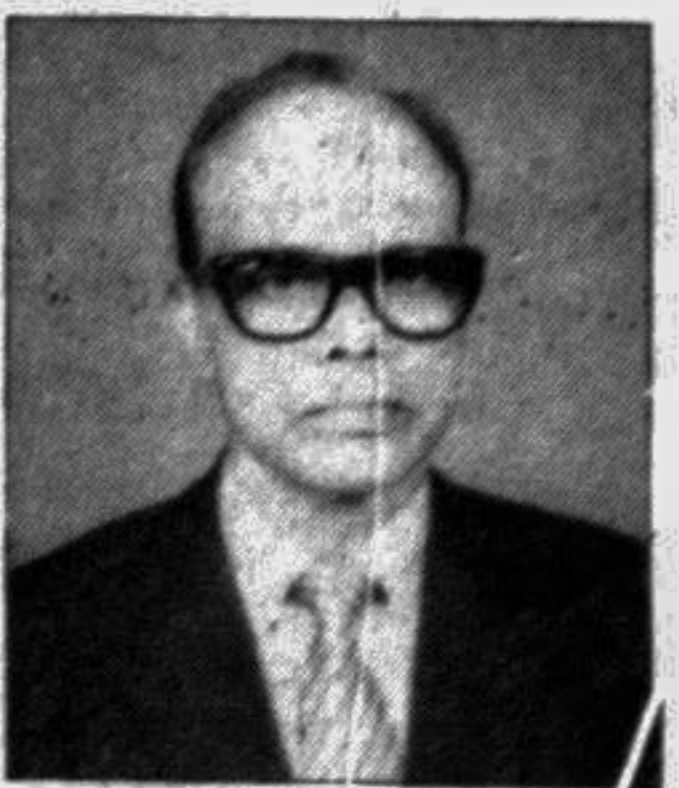
The Board will report directly to the Cabinet Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs headed by the Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman. A decision about this shift is expected to be finalised soon.

The Privatisation Board was put together with a retired civil servant at its head on the eve of the Bangladesh Aid Consortium meeting last April. The general goal of the Board was set at accelerating the process of privatisation of state-owned enter-

prises. The details of how the Board will operate are still being worked out, the sources said.

State-owned commercial enterprises run huge financial losses every year. The highest loss makers are the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, the Bangladesh Power Development Board, the Bangladesh Railways, the Bangladesh Jute Corporation and Biman Bangladesh Airlines. Current estimates are that the accumulated financial losses of these enterprises stand at Tk 1100 crore.

If this huge drainage on the government's financial resources could be plugged the See Page 12 Col 7



Prof Hossain made acting JU VC

By Shamsa D Mor tuza

Prof. Abul Hossain, Treasurer of the Jahangirnagar University, has been appointed as the acting Vice-Chancellor of the institution.

At a simple ceremony, held at the residence of the outgoing See Page 12 Col 6

59.11 pc pass DB SSC exams Govt Lab School bags top 17 positions

By Staff Correspondent

Students of the Government Laboratory High School, Dhaka captured 17 out of the top 20 positions in the combined merit list of this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations under Dhaka Board.

The examinees of the school also bagged the first five places, according to the results published yesterday.

The pass percentage is 59.11 with 1,29,749 students out of the 2,19,501 who sat for the exams held last April-May coming out successful.

The combined merit list also features candidates from the Mirzapur Cadet College, Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College and the Motiheel Government Boys High School.

All the candidates placed in the merit list bagged seven letters each and in the same subjects.

ASM Rafiqullah (roll-11172) of the Government Laboratory High School topped the combined merit list receiving 925 marks and letters in seven subjects.

A.S. Mohammad Zillur

Rahman (roll-11174) of the Government Laboratory High School was placed in the second position securing 922 marks.

Mohammad Ali Ehsan (roll-11176) got the third place in the combined merit list with 915 marks.

Nadia Rawshan (roll MA 182313) of the Rifles Public School and College, Dhaka stood first in the Social Science group securing 888 marks.

A student of the Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College, Shmilin Sultana (roll-MA 43215) secured the first position among the girl-students in the Science group. Her position in the combined merit list was 10th.

She received 907 marks with letters in seven subjects.

According to the result sheet provided by the board, 76.15 per cent examinees out of 70,709 students passed the examination in the Science group while 51.06 per cent of the 1,50,705 students in the Social Science group came out successful.

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Cabinet okays export policy

The cabinet yesterday approved a two-year export policy (1993-95) providing for some new measures to boost exports besides encouraging newcomers in the external trade, reports UNB.

The approval was given at the regular weekly meeting of the cabinet held at Bangabhabna with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The new export policy, in addition to the facilities specified in the last policy of 1991-93, allows import of capital machinery free of duty for 100 per cent export-oriented industries outside the Export Processing Zones and provides opportunity to the finished leather exporting industries to import raw hides and skins free of duty subject to furnishing bank guarantee against the dutiable amount.

See Page 12 Col 8

Tk 1.05cr fraud from Janata Bank: One held

From Our Correspondent

JHENAIADAH, Aug 2: Police arrested one person from the town last night in connection with the case of misappropriation of Tk 1.05 crore from a branch of the Janata Bank in Dhaka.

Lalu, one of the four accused of the case, was arrested from Bepariara by the Detective Branch of police with the help of the local police.

Police sources said that four persons drew Tk 1.05 crore from the 57 Motiheel local office branch of the Janata Bank between March 31 and April 16 last by fraudulent means.

The sources said that the amount was drawn from the bank by using 22 false telex messages with the bank's "key test" number sent from Tokyo during that period. The accused See Page 12 Col 8

'BGMEA can help avert adverse effect of Harkin Bill'

By Staff Correspondent

The use of child labour in the garments factories of Bangladesh continues to remain "widespread", according to Terry Collingsworth, country programme director of the US-based Asian-American Free Labour Institute (AFLI) on Monday.

However, he said, some local garments factories are now shifting the underaged workers to their sub-contractors. This move came after the much-talked-about Harkin Bill—or the Child Labour Deterrence Act—was initially introduced in the US Senate last year.

Reintroduced in the US Senate and in the House of Representatives this year, the Harkin Bill has so far garnered 33 co-sponsors in the 100-seat Senate.

"The chances for passage by late October are regarded as excellent," said Collingsworth, whose organisation is strongly lobbying for the Bill.

If the Bill is passed by the US Congress this year, he added, it would become effective by August 1994 at the earliest.

At a press conference, organised by the USIS at the American Cultural Centre, he also talked about the possible repercussions for the Bangladesh garments industry, special features of the Bill and about prevalent misconceptions.

The Harkin Bill would ban the export to the United States of any goods produced by the use of child labour and would also punish those American or multinational companies contravening the law.

"Certainly the effect of this is profoundly felt in Bangladesh, Thailand, Mexico and other countries where industries employ child labour," Collingsworth pointed out.

More than 700 garments factories in Bangladesh export over a billion US dollars worth of ready-made garments annually, of which, a large portion enters the US market.

The only danger to the garments industry here from the Harkin Bill would come if the BGMEA (Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers' and Exporters'

Association) does not solve the child labour problem and continues to employ children, — often at much less than the wages for the adult workers— he added.

A visiting Professor of Law at the University of Utah, Collingsworth visited Bangladesh a number of times and has written reports on his investigative findings relating to the use of child labour in the local garments factories.

"I am happy to say that I've had very constructive discussions with the BGMEA and believe that they are fully prepared to work out a programme in cooperation with my organisation and other groups here to solve the problem," he said.

Instead of creating new substantive laws, he noted, the Harkin Bill in fact creates an enforcement mechanism for existing and universally-accepted international laws against the use of child labour.

These include the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 20 International Labour See Page 12 Col 1

Resist misuse of BNP: ALCWC

By Staff Correspondent

The two-day meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) ended last evening with the party calling upon the people to untidely resist the alleged misuse of the government.

The AL central body Sunday decided to observe a country-wide six-hour hartal on August 15 and hold a big public rally in the city on August 20.

Yesterday's meeting authorised the party's Presidium and the Secretariat to outline the planned anti-government agitation and decide the specific programmes to be announced on August 20.

Meanwhile, the ALCWC meeting felt that the party needed to invigorate its grassroots level organisations in order to make the planned agitation a success.

The meeting resolved that each member of the party central body would monitor the political activities of the district-level organisations on a regular basis.

The meet also decided to revitalise the political activities of the party's different wings, including those of the students and the youths.

Suspension of credit for IWT-3 project

Govt softens attitude to WB conditionalities

By Sohail Manzur

The government has finally softened its attitude towards the action plans suggested by the World Bank as pre-condition for disbursement of credit for the Third Inland Water Transport Project (IWT-3), according to indications from concerned government officials.

This change of heart has been prompted by the WB's letter, issued to Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Lutfulhah Majid on July 26, suspending disbursement of credit for the project.

The WB, in its letter, also gave an ultimatum of 30 days from the date of suspension (August 1) to take measures for implementing the action plans for further resumption of disbursement.

According to sources, an emergency meeting of the Secretary of the Ministry of Shipping, Chairmen of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) and the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and other concerned

officials was held Sunday to discuss the fate of the 64.2 million US dollar project. This was followed by another meeting with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and ERD Secretary See Page 12 Col 8

European currencies in turmoil

BRUSSELS, Aug 2: The French franc tumbled Monday to its lowest level against the German mark on foreign exchange markets after finance officials agreed to allow the monies greater room to fluctuate, reports AP.

The finance ministers' move was aimed at fighting off speculators who have been battering the EC monetary system.

Danish and Dutch official criticised the decision as a severe blow to the group's plans for economic and monetary union, with a joint central bank and single currency.

Trading was reported to be relatively calm after last

Friday's frenzied assaults on the franc and other currencies in the 14-year-old system.

The German mark, the strongest currency in Europe, strengthened against other currencies, and the Dutch guilder also edged up.

The French franc, once a core currency in the system, dropped to its lowest level against the mark since the start of the monetary system. It fell in late afternoon to around 3.505 franc to the mark. In doing so, it moved out of the old fluctuation band scrapped by the finance ministers.

The Belgian, Danish and Portuguese currencies also

skidded, while the German mark and Dutch guilder strengthened. The escudo hit record lows against the US dollar and Britain's pound.

In Tokyo, the dollar plunged to a record low against the Japanese yen Monday as traders continued to put their money in yen for safety amid the European currency turmoil.

The dollar closed at 104.61 yen. The previous lowest close was 105.03 yen on June 15.

After a gruelling 20 hours of negotiations, finance ministers of the 12 community nations agreed early Monday to expand to 15 per cent the range within

which their currencies can fluctuate. The changes are effective immediately.

German Finance Minister Theo Waigel told a news conference that the move was "a liberating attack" that "pulls the floor out from under the speculation."

Dutch Finance Minister Wim Kok, speaking on a Belgian radio station, disagreed.

It's a huge step backward from what we wanted (on monetary union), he said.

And Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen said, "The bad news is that the European Monetary System is at a standstill."

Related story on page 6

Restrictions on rickshaws

By Staff Correspondent

The movements of rickshaws on more city streets have been restricted by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police in a bid to improve the traffic system.

Rickshaws will not be allowed to ply on the Bangladesh Bank Road upto the Dainik Bangla crossing and from the Dainik Bangla to the RAJUK building from August 8, a DMP press release said.

It was also decided that Nawabpur-English Roads would be made a one-way thoroughfare.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার কাটমস, একসাইজ ও ভ্যাট ঢাকা দক্ষিণ কালেক্টরেট সেগুন বাগিচা, সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা। বিজ্ঞপ্তি মূল্য সংযোজন কর আইন, ১৯৯১, মূল্য সংযোজন কর বিধিমালা, ১৯৯১ এবং জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত এসআরও/সাধারণ আদেশ সমূহের অধীনে মূল্য সংযোজন কর আইন, ১৯৯১ এর বিধিত তফসিলে বর্ণিত সেবার কোড এস-০১০.০০ তুমি উন্নয়ন সংস্থা সমূহের করণীয় সম্পর্কে আগামী ০৫-০৮-৯৩ ইং তারিখে (০৯:০০-১২:৩০) ফেডারেশন অব বাংলাদেশ চেম্বারস অব কমার্স এন্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রী ভবন, ৬০, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা-এর সম্মেলন কক্ষে একটি সেমিনার অনুষ্ঠিত হতে যাচ্ছে। উক্ত সেমিনারে অংশগ্রহণে আগ্রহী তুমি উন্নয়ন সংস্থাকে (রিয়ল এস্টেট ও হাউজিং সংস্থা) তার নিজ দপ্তরের মূল্য সংযোজন কর সংক্রান্ত কার্যাবলীর সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট একজন উপযুক্ত কর্মকর্তাকে প্রেরণের অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে। মেজর (অব) রউফুল আলম কালেক্টর কাটমস, একসাইজ ও ভ্যাট, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ কালেক্টরেট সেগুন বাগিচা, সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা। DFP (G) 12010-1/8 G-1019