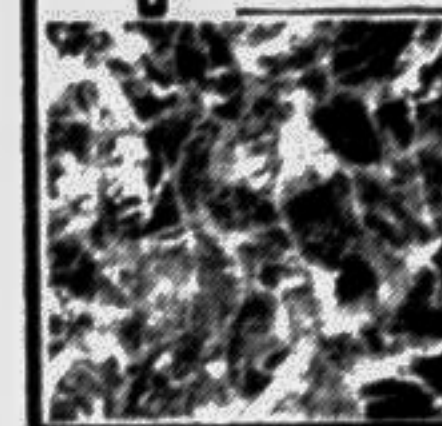


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Notice

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains 2 pages of the Jessore Board SSC Examination results. Therefore, one page of the regular feature and one page of the Business have been dropped.

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NEWS BRIEFS

German MPs meet Hasina today

By Staff Correspondent

A six-member German parliamentary team will meet the Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina this morning at her office at the Jatiya Sangsad.

College girl mugged

A group of three hijackers snatched a gold chain from a girl student near Kawran Bazar in city yesterday. Witnesses said Sharmin Rashid Hasina, an HSC examinee from the Tejgaon Women's College, was mugged when she was going to her college at about 10:00 am. The muggers with lethal weapons blocked her rickshaw near the TCB Bhaban and snatched her gold chain, family sources said, reports UNB.

Ctg-Cox's Bazar road under water

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 8: Chittagong-Cox's Bazar direct road communication was disrupted at two points as the road was inundated by rain waters this morning. The Bus Owners' Association sources said that Chittagong-Cox's Bazar road went under water at Kharulita and Joarjanala of Ramu snapping direct communication between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

BDR seizes 16 Indian cows

LALMONIRHAT, Aug 8: Bangladesh Rifles have seized 16 Indian cows worth Tk 1.20 lakh from Sapitbari area of Aditmari thana in the district on last week. BDR jawans of 15 battalion in separate raids in last July also recovered smuggled goods worth about Tk 2.25 lakh from different areas of the district. At least 34 cases had been filed with police, reports UNB.

Blast at RSS office in Madras : 10 killed

NEW DELHI, Aug 8: At least ten people were killed today when a powerful bomb exploded inside the regional headquarters of the main Hindu fundamentalist organisation in the southern Indian city of Madras, reports AFP.

The bomb went off at 1:50 pm (0820 GMT), demolishing the two-storey building in central Madras owned by the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS-national volunteer corps), the RSS said here.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) reported that ten people died and several were injured in the blast. Many more bodies were feared trapped in the wreckage of the building, the news agency said.

The avowedly non-political RSS which espouses a Hindu cultural revolution, is seen as the fountainhead of Hindu fundamentalism in India.

Rajendra Singh, a leader of the organisation in New Delhi, told AFP that at least three of the dead were RSS cadres. The remaining victims, including two women, were believed to be visitors.

"The law and order situation has become very poor," he said. "Most money seems to be spent on security for VIPs."

"But we still find it strange that someone managed to carry an explosive device right into our building. Normally people not associated with us don't dare to come there," Rajendra Singh said.

He said the women victims were visitors who had come to a blood bank housed in the RSS building.

The RSS was banned in December after the destruction of the 16th century Babri Mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu

zealots which triggered a wave of Hindu-Muslim violence. The ban was later lifted on court orders.

PTI adds: Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao Sunday condemned the bomb blast at the RSS office in Madras and said acts of violence had no place in a democratic set up.

Rao also conveyed his sympathies to the families of the dead and injured in the incident.

BJP president L K Advani condemning the bomb blast Sunday said it does not seem to be an isolated incident.

Asked to comment on the incident, Advani told PTI that lots of explosives, materials and arms were flowing into the country posing a challenge to the country and the government.

63.75 pc pass JB SSC exams

Two cadet colleges steal the honours

By Staff Correspondent

Neck-and-neck competition among students of the Jhenidah and Barisal Cadet Colleges marked the Jessore Board 1993 SSC examination results which were officially published yesterday.

While 17 students of the Jhenidah Cadet College shared 12 positions among the top 20 in the combined list, 13 students of the Barisal Cadet College also featured in that rather longish list of 20 top positions.

Jhenidah students occupied the first and third positions, but were denied a hat-trick by Sanjay Dutta Banik of Barisal CC who placed second.

Out of the 1,34,301 examinees, 85,617 passed. The percentage of pass is 63.75.

Of the successful candidates, 35,833 students were placed in the First Division, 41, 731 in the Second Division while 8,053 obtained Third Division.

Ashiq Mohammad Tariq Mashrur Khan of the Jhenidah Cadet College topped the combined merit list by securing 900 marks out of a possible 1000.

He also received letter marks in all seven subjects.

Muhammad Amir Hossain of the Galachipa Secondary School, Patuakhali, stood first in the Social Science Group. He

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The combined merit list

By Staff Correspondent

1. Ashiq Mohammad Tariq Mashrur Khan, roll no.-Jhenidah (Cadet) 5, Jhenidah Cadet College (900), 2. Sanjay Dutta Banik, roll no.-Barisal (Cadet) 11, Barisal Cadet College (899), 3. Sheikh Ali Murtoza, roll no.-Jhenidah (Cadet) 33, Jhenidah Cadet College (897), 4. Gazi Shaharul Habib, roll no.-Jhenidah (Cadet) 10, Jhenidah Cadet College (896), 5. Md. Enamul Haq, roll no.-Jhenidah (Cadet) 18, Jhenidah Cadet College (894), 6. Md Sayem Sharif, roll no.-Barisal (Cadet) 4, Barisal Cadet College (893), 7. Md Montul Hasan, roll no.-Jessore Cantonment-1, Daud Public School, Jessore, (892), 8. Md. Tajuddin, roll no.-Barisal (Cadet) 13, Barisal Cadet College and S M Zahinuzaman, roll no.-Shailkupa 1, Shailkupa Pilot High

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ADB credit for small industries largely unutilised, says official

By Staff Correspondent

Nearly two-thirds of a 30-million dollar Asian Development Bank (ADB) credit for small-scale industries remain unutilised.

This was disclosed by SAIBB Thalukada, Chief of the Private Sector Operation Division of the ADB Resident Office, yesterday at a discussion meeting organised at the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) auditorium in the city.

The credit was channelled about two years ago through

five private sector commercial banks for providing term loan and working capital to the entrepreneurs of small and cottage industries.

About 19 million dollar of the total credit amount was yet to be disbursed, although only a year is left for disbursement of the entire amount, the ADB official said.

The meeting, presided over by Senior Vice President of the DCCI Syed Jamal uddin Naidor was addressed, among others,

by Director Masudur Rahman and Atzur Rahman.

The private sector banks which were selected for disbursing the fund are the National Bank Limited, the IFIC Bank, Arab Bangladesh Bank, BASIC and the United Commercial Bank Limited.

The ADB official said he visited a few branches of the five banks in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and found many officials of the branches were not even

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The first black woman to become Miss South Africa, Jacqui Mofokeng, 21, of Soweto chats with the press yesterday in Johannesburg. Mofokeng, who is a business student and model, was crowned Saturday, the same day white supremacists were given freedom to march on the small western Transvaal town. — AFP photo

55 dignitaries invited to BNP Council

Fifty-five dignitaries from democratic countries have been invited to the forthcoming council session of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, reports UNB.

Disclosing this yesterday, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman said political leaders from the countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Malaysia, Pakistan, India and Iran had been invited to the fourth Council of the BNP due September 1-2.

Among the invitees, both from the ruling and the opposition parties of those countries, are former US Presidents George Bush and Jimmy Carter.

Iran wants to create empire, says Saddam

BAGHDAD, Aug 8: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein delivered a scathing attack on Iran today, warning his fellow Arabs that Tehran sought to establish a new Persian empire in the region using Islam as a cover, reports AFP.

In a televised speech to mark the fifth anniversary of the end of the eight-year war with Iran, the Iraqi leader accused his larger neighbour of "having caused much pain to Muslims," just like "the Arabs who supported Saudi Arabia" in the Gulf War.

He claimed Iraq had stood up as the champion of the "Arab nation" against Iranian leaders who "wanted to establish a new Persian empire under the cover of Islamic slogans."

Saddam complained that Iran had not returned Iraqi planes entrusted to it during the Gulf War of 1991, and continued its "perfidious and destructive" role after the ceasefire.

Iraq accuses Shiite Muslim Iran of having sparked the uprising of its own Shiite Muslim population in the south in March 1991, which Iraqi security forces put down.

He recalled at length the "Iranian attacks" of September 1980 and of the start of the bloody war between the two countries, which claimed hundreds of thousands of lives between 1980 and 1988.

BNP Dhaka City Unit confce today Mirza Abbas may replace Mir Shawkat

By Staff Correspondent

The conference of the Dhaka City unit of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) today at the Institution of Engineers promises to be a contentious one with rival candidates vying for the coveted presidency of the organisation.

The conference, being held in preparation of the forthcoming national council of the BNP Sept 1-2, will elect the president and general secretary and other executives of the 71-member body.

Party chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the day-long function as chief guest at ten in the morning.

According to insiders, until very recently the conference was being viewed as a routine exercise to formalise the reelection of the present leadership of the vital city unit, headed by Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali, MP, and his general secretary Salahuddin

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FBUTA observes strike

By Staff Correspondent

University teachers refrained from working yesterday in response to the Federation of Bangladesh Teachers' Association (FBUTA) call for a token strike.

No classes were held in any of the universities across the country in protest of the attack on Jahangirnagar University teachers by a group of students on July 29. The FBUTA called the strike as a mark of solidarity with the JU teachers and demanding punishment of those involved.

At the Jahangirnagar University, despite government assurances that those involved would be brought to book, the teachers and officials yesterday reiterated their resolve to abstain from duties.

This was decided at a meeting of JU teachers, employees and officials during yesterday's token strike. Held at the Social

Science gallery, the meeting was presided over by the president of the Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) Prof. Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman.

Prof Rahman, who is also the FBUTA president, thanked the government for 'realising' the significance of the JU crisis and deploring it, albeit after ten days of the incident.

"By assaulting our terrorists have hurt our pride," remarked Prof Rahman. "How will we face our students?" he asked.

"The aim of our movement is to curb terrorism from all educational institutions," the bespectacled professor told the assembled teachers and others all sporting black badges.

Speaking on behalf of the teachers, Prof Antrul Islam Chowdhury, however, cautioned

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Draft report on separation of judiciary by Aug 22

By Staff Correspondent

A draft report on amending the Constitution to separate the judiciary from the executive branch of government is expected to be placed before a select committee of Parliament in its next meeting later this month.

According to parliamentary sources, this was decided in a meeting yesterday of the House select committee on a Private Member's bill seeking the separation of the judiciary from the executive branch by amending some provisions of the Constitution.

The Private Member's bill was placed before the House in July 1991 by Awami League member Salahuddin Yusuf.

Held at the Jatiya Sangsad, the meeting was presided by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Haifz and was attended by State Minister for Establishment and Law Anirul Haq, Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Khalilur Rahman, Salahuddin Yusuf, Shudhangshu Shekhar

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PM opens cellular phone system

The cellular telephone system was formally introduced in the country from yesterday, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated the system, an advanced telecommunication technology, making a call by cellular set to T and T Minister Mohammad Keramat Ali from her office.

Begum Zia while talking to the Minister thanked him and all members of the T and T Ministry and the T and T Board for their cooperation in introducing this high technology telecommunication system in the country.

With the introduction of the cellular system, the country has stepped into the 21st century telecommunication technology. The system was introduced with the involvement of a joint-venture company Hutchison Bangladesh Telecom.

The subscribers of the cellular telephone will be able to take the mobile phone in and outside 50 kilometres radius of Dhaka. The cellular system provides similar services as wireless phone. In near future, the subscribers will be able to make and receive NWD and ISD phone calls.

The T and T Minister said, his ministry would take further initiatives for improving country's telecommunication network.

Hasina urges lawyers to help annul Indemnity Ordinance

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday appealed to lawyers to play their desired role in annulling the Indemnity Ordinance and ensuring rule of law and justice, reports UNB.

Addressing a group of lawyers at her 29 Minsto Road official residence, Hasina termed the Indemnity Ordinance as a black and unwhitened act.

There is no precedence in anywhere in the world that legal procedures for trial of killers have been blocked by enacting laws. But the trial for the killing of the country's founding leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was obstructed by the Indemnity Ordinance, she said.

"How the rule of law could be established by keeping this black law in force", the Awami League president questioned.

Hasina criticised the BNP government for giving "lip service" to independence of judiciary and rule of law. She alleged that the government has been persecuting its political opponents through the Anti-Terrorism Act in the name of curbing terrorism.

A press release of the party said more than 500 lawyers of Awami Lawyers Association and members of the Supreme Court, Dhaka district court and Income Tax Bars met with

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Transactions thin on first day of new banking hrs

M Anwarul Haq

On the first day of the extended hours of banking yesterday, transactions were thin in most branches since almost all the banks were unprepared to meet the requirements of the new order.

A random sampling of two dozen bank branches in the city, and reports coming from outside Dhaka, revealed that most branches were yet to receive written instructions to keep their counters open for an additional two hours.

Senior bank officials, however, said that they were getting themselves prepared to implement the new government order and should be able to provide extended transaction facilities to all customers shortly.

The Bangladesh Bank on Saturday decided to increase the normal banking hours for public transactions from 9 am to 3 pm Saturdays through Wednesdays and from 9 am to 12 noon on Thursdays.

Scores of customers who were asked for their immediate reactions about the new timings expressed overwhelming satisfaction. Employees of government offices and private officials said the new decision would facilitate their dealings with the banks, not only for deposits and withdrawals, but also for payment of urgent utility bills.



Dr Kamal Hossain addressing a function at the NAP office in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Current politics sick : Dr Kamal

By Staff Correspondent

Convenor of the proposed August 27-29 grand national convention of "like-minded" political parties and individuals, Dr Kamal Hossain, said yesterday that the principal objective of the planned gathering was to free national politics and the economy from sickness.

"It also aims at integrating different social forces with the mainstream of national politics and establishing people's authority over state governance", Dr Kamal, chief of the Bangladesh Democratic Forum (BDF), said during a meeting with the leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB-reformist) and the National Awami Party

(NAP) at the NAP's Segunbagicha office in the city yesterday afternoon.

This was the first-ever open meeting of Dr. Kamal with the leaders of the two leftist parties who are likely to float a new party at the convention.

"The society, its politics and economy are now sick due to an absence of true public representation in state-power. Politics was being dominated by black money and illegal arms," the BDF leader said.

Dr. Kamal, as the key-note speaker in the meeting, explained what he called "sick politics" by saying it was a politics dominated by black money and muscle, falsehood and fraud.

"This sickness in our politics and economy had resulted from a faulty administrative structure and defective governance," he added.

According to Dr Kamal, who served the Mujib government as Foreign and Law minister, democracy was restored after the 1990 mass movement but the country was not being ruled

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