

SAVE DHAKA



Life goes on as usual with garbage lying piled up near Bangla Bazar, very close to the old headquarters of the Dhaka City Corporation. Such sights are commonplace in this dirty capital. —Star photo

Nat'l edn curriculum at final stage

By Morshed Ali Khan
The process of re-crafting national education curriculum is now at an advanced stage with the authorities launching workshops to finalise the draft of the projected modifications, sources in the National Curriculum and Textbook Board said.
In the curriculum the system will be divided into two sections. One is Lower Secondary — comprising classes six to eight — and the other is Secondary and Higher Secondary, from classes nine to twelve, the sources said.
The new curriculum is expected to be introduced phase-wise in the schools and colleges of the country by next year, a senior expert of the Board told The Daily Star.
The expert — Saleh Matin — said that the new curriculum will replace the age old system of education with one of modern international standard.
The structure has been designed in such a way, claimed an official of the Textbook Board, that the students will be taught to develop moral values and arrange self employment and will be imparted knowledge in the context of development of the country.
Senior experts of the board pointed out that 44 subject committees have been formed to finalise the draft of the curriculum. The members of these committees are renowned experts in the field.
Once the draft pass through

PM discusses issues with Adhikary, Gayoom

NEW DELHI, May 4: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had a meeting with Nepalese Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikary here today during which they discussed SAARC issues, bilateral matters and other subjects of common interest, reports BSS.
The two prime ministers discussed harnessing of the water resources, transit facilities, trade and other issues of bilateral concern.
A spokesman of the Bangladesh side said a high-powered delegation from Nepal led by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister is expected to visit Bangladesh shortly to discuss the transit matters and other issues.
The Nepalese Prime Minister requested Begum Zia for import of newsprint and fertilizer from Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Prime Minister explained to him difficulties in exporting the items at the moment.
Another report adds: Bilateral and other issues of common concerns came up for discussions at a meeting between Begum Zia and Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom here today.
The two leaders discussed the outcome of the Eighth SAARC Summit and the next summit, which will be held in the Maldives capital Male.
They also discussed areas of possible bilateral cooperation.

One murdered in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Mar 4: One person was murdered, reportedly by two of his brothers, over a land dispute at village Noapara under Devhata thana here last evening.
The victim, Dawood Ali Sheikh, was hacked to death with sharp weapons, allegedly by his brothers Neamat Ali and Keramat Ali.
Neamat, his wife Khodeza and Keramat have been hiding since the killing. A case was registered with the Devhata thana in this connection.

Leghari slams India's missile programme

ISLAMABAD, May 4: Pakistani President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, back here today from a South Asian summit in New Delhi, said India's missile programme was compounding tensions in the region, reports AFP.
Leghari, speaking at an airport news conference, said the short-range Prithvi missile, which has been developed by India, was "Pakistan-specific and a tension multiplier."
"Pakistan considers its serial production as deployment," Leghari said of the surface-to-surface missile, which has a maximum range of 250 kilometers (156 miles) and is reportedly capable of carrying a small nuclear warhead.
The US has opposed development of missiles in the region and Pakistani leaders have warned it would touch off an arms race as their country would have to counter Indian moves.

Jubo League, BCL men clash with police in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, May 4: At least 20 people were injured in a clash with police here today.
Police, at one stage, were forced to open fire to disperse a mob protesting the arrest of a Jubo League worker.
The angry activists of the Awami League-backed Jubo League and Chhatra League hurled cocktails at the police and damaged eight vehicles in the Chashara area.
They were protesting the arrest of Farooq, a local Jubo League worker, picked up by police from the Narayanjan Hospital with a foreign made pistol and four bullets in his possession at 6 pm today.
Drivers at a rent-a-car centre at BB Road said, one driver was shot by Farooq this afternoon when he refused to provide a microbus to a group of youths. The injured driver, Abdus Salam, was admitted to the Narayanjan Hospital. When Farooq later went there to see the condition of Salam, police nabbed him.
Following the clash at Chashara police picked up three other youths from there, believed to be League activists.
The injured including Khandaker Shah Alam, the Narayanjan district correspondent of the daily Al-Mojadded, were treated at local clinics.

Delhi declaration

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with a view to increasing cooperation to deal with the menaces and promoting developmental activities.
The declaration also called for special treatment to the least developed countries in the matters of global and regional economic interactions.
Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, in his concluding remarks, said poverty eradication was the greatest challenge facing the seven countries, which have a combined population of more than 1.2 billion people.
"Our primary focus at this summit has been on poverty eradication and economic cooperation," he said.
The eighth SAARC summit opened here on Tuesday with heads of state and government of all seven member nations in attendance.
Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga left for home on Wednesday, however, and did not attend the closing ceremony or a one-day retreat in a northern Indian hill resort.
The Sri Lankan leader cut short her visit following the upsurge in fighting on the island between government troops and Tamil separatist guerrillas.

3 passports with forged US visa recovered

By Staff Correspondent
Detective police recovered three Bangladesh international passports with forged American visa from the city's Motijheel commercial area Wednesday.
Four persons were arrested in this connection. They are Asaduzzaman alias Rumi, 30, Humayun Kabir, 45, Salimullah alias Selim, 35, and Md Nurul Islam, 36.
Police said an organised gang has been forging visas of different countries of Europe and America for quite some time now.
In a drive Wednesday they arrested Rumi and, following his confession, picked up the other three who have been cheating unsuspecting people.

3 killed in road mishaps

By Staff Correspondent
Three persons including a woman were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in the city yesterday.
Ranu, 40, and Abdur Rab, 35, died in the spot when a truck hit their scooter in Khilkhet area yesterday noon.
Seriously injured Monir Hossain, 22, and Faruque, 25, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.
In another incident, one Hasmat Ali, 10, was killed when a truck ran over him near Dakshinban Bazar at Uttara in the afternoon.

Lankan Tigers return to separatist war

From Waruna Karunatileke

COLOMBO, May 4: The Sri Lankan Tamil rebels have re-started the separatist war with a bang, introducing anti-aircraft missiles into the 11-year-old conflict for the first time, and throwing the military into confusion. The rebels have killed close to 150 soldiers in the first ten days of the war which Sri Lankan newspapers are calling 'Eelam War 3'.
Two British-made 'Avro' troop transporters were blown up with missiles by the rebels, killing all 94 soldiers and three journalists on board in the first week of the war, gaining a major psychological advantage over the military.
"The key advantage the military had in the past 11 years was that it has total air supremacy. The LTTE (the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) only had 150 machine guns till the early 1990s. They acquired a few anti-aircraft cannons in the early 1990s but the air force has no big problems about these. But the heat seeking missiles are a different story," a senior air force official conceded.
Even with the limited anti-aircraft fire power the rebels did manage to hold off helicopters from landing in the crucial Elephant Pass army camp in northern Sri Lanka in their abortive attempt to overrun the camp in June 1991. The missiles attacks took the armed forces completely by surprise.
"Although we knew that the LTTE have been trying very hard to acquire anti-aircraft missiles we had no information that they had succeeded," military intelligence officials said.
The Air Force provided crucial support in the form of air cover and close group support for the army in offensive operations and in defending their camps. Air Force provided the crucial ground support and casualty evacuation that allowed the military to operate in rebel controlled areas without having to keep a land supply line with its camps. Some of the camps in the north are also totally dependent on air supplies. With the air force not having total



Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting in Mohanganj yesterday. — AL photo

Rao on water issue

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the problem.
Asked when he will visit Bangladesh as the chairman of SAARC, Rao said he had already told Begum Zia of his intention to be in Bangladesh but added that he could not say at this stage when the visit would take place.
Rao said with a smile that on his last trip to Bangladesh he remained mostly confined within the Sonargaon Hotel and at the meeting venue. "I would like to visit other places of this beautiful country," he observed. Rao was in Dhaka in April '93 for the seventh summit.
Answering other questions, the Indian Prime Minister said he did not believe that there were irritants among the SAARC countries and added that certain things were the fallout of history which sometimes caused problems.
"But we have a common history and that should be the basis of positive developments," he said, expressing his confidence that things would improve.
He told another questioner that he was not aware that the Nepalese Prime Minister had offered to mediate in any bilateral disputes and added that the SAARC charter did not include such mediatory efforts.
About improvement of relations with Pakistan, the Indian Prime Minister said his country wanted to see an improved climate in bilateral ties and added that the matter was discussed at his meeting with Pakistani President Leghari.
In a lighter vein, Rao wondered how the Pakistani Pres-

The Midnight File

Battle erupts in Croatia

PAKRAC, Croatia, May 4: Furious artillery and small arms battles erupted today in a pocket of central Croatia, retained by rebel Serbs after a lightning advance by government troops over UN truce lines earlier in the week. Die-hard Krajina Serb units refusing to surrender after much of the separatist western Slavonia region was recaptured by government troops shelled the town of Pakrac on the edge of the pocket, unleashing heavy fighting witnesses said, reports Reuter.

150 massacred in Freetown

FREETOWN, May 4: Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front rebels massacred about 150 people in an attack on the diamond centre of Koidu, state television reported. "RUF rebels in the early hours of the 29th of April attacked Koidu town and massacred about 150 people," the television said in a filmed report on Wednesday night. Witnesses fleeing to the capital Freetown put the number of dead much higher, reports Reuter.

SEC draft on 'green field' projects ready

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) will soon announce guidelines for allowing 'green field projects' to raise capital from the market. SEC sources said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.
They said the final draft of the guidelines, which had been prepared by the SEC and copy of which had been sent to different related bodies for their opinion, was expected to be approved by the SEC authorities in the next few days.
Sources said the arrangement would certainly create great enthusiasm among the small entrepreneurs to go for bigger projects by raising fund from the country's stock market against a green field company, that is, a project which has not yet gone into production but has acquired land for the purpose.
The process will be much more viable and easier than getting bank loan for the implementation of a new project, they said.
However, they said in the draft guidelines it has been strongly recommended that a good track record of the entrepreneur should be a prerequisite for allowing a green field company to raise funds.
Officials said that it had also been suggested in the guidelines that the green field project should be allowed to raise

Cattle markets Fresh programme

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authorities have cancelled the tender for Rayerbazar market at the last moment considering the traffic-jam there, said Bijon Kanti Sarker, Senior Estate Officer of the DCC.
The sacrificial animals, which are being brought to the capital from different parts of the country, will be on sale in the markets from May 8 to 11, the Eid day. The markets will be at Hosainy Dahan Road, Banani ground, Dhophkhola, Dolaikhal, Late Delwar Hossain ground (Lalbagh Smashan Ghat), Karwan Bazar, Postogola cremation centre (near Alam Market), Azampur Primary School ground, Golapbagh ground, Bangladesh Bank Colony ground, Kamalapur-Mugdha ground, Dayaganj truck terminal, Nayabazar, Mohammadpur Shaheed Park, Rahmatganj sports ground, Dhanmondi sports ground and Hazaribagh ground.
Besides, sacrificial animals will be on sale at Gabtali, which is a permanent cattle market and leased at Taka 5.29 crore in July 1994 for one year.
The DCC has fixed this year's *Hashil* (some sort of toll) at four and half per cent of the buying price of animals. The lessees will collect their *Hashils* from the buyers and share a certain portion of the money with the DCC to keep the market places clean.
The Conservancy Department of the DCC would take necessary steps to ensure hygienic environment in the sacrificial animal markets using its own fund and the money collected from the lessees, said a DCC official.

DU Senate polls

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Dr A A M S Arefin Siddique, Chairman of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of the university, secured the highest number of votes, 2172.
Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury and Ramendu Majumder secured second and third positions respectively, bagging 2007 and 1992 votes.
The others elected are: Ismat Kadir Gama, Afroza Nahar, Khaleda Habib, Prof Akhtaruzzaman, A T M Nurur Rahman Khan, Mahfuz Khanom, Abdus Salam Talukder, Dr Md Enamul Huq, Md Obiduzzaman, Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Md Enamul Huq, Habibur Rahman Khan, Dr Md Harun-Ur-Rashid, Manzurul Islam, Shahjalal Majumder, Wazeer Faruque, Nilufar Begum, Kazi Akramuddin Ahmed, Syed Ahmed, Syed Muddasser Ali and Syed Rezaur Rahman.
The elections were held in two phases — outside Dhaka on Sunday and in Dhaka on Wednesday.
As many as 3481 voters out of some 5400 cast their votes in Dhaka at the TSC of the university