

Workshop on vocational training project Setting up of skill dev board recommended

By Staff Correspondent

Policy framers at a national workshop in the city yesterday endorsed the Bangladesh Vocational Training Project (BVTP) aimed at creating skilled manpower for productive employment.

"The general objective of the project is to contribute to the development of human resources by providing vocational training and skill development in order to further alleviate poverty and assist the economic development efforts of the country," said the study on the formulation of the BVTP which was presented at the workshop.

The inaugural session was addressed by Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali as chief guest. Dr Mohammad Harun-ur-Rashid, secretary of the ministry, Bhanuphol Horayangura, ADB mission representative in Dhaka and Dr Yun Kim attended the session which was presided by Shah Mohammad Nazmul Alam, joint secretary, Ministry of Labour and Manpower.

The inaugural session was followed by three working sessions where secretaries of different ministries and experts spoke on the study findings.

The study, a Tk 1.6-crore Asian Development Bank technical assistance project, has recommended that a National Skill Development Board be set up as the implementing agency of the proposed project under the general direction of the National Council for Skill Development and Training. The secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Manpower will act as its project director, it added.

Dr Yun Kim, professor and director of the Centre for International Studies of Utah University in the US, headed a team to design the project consisting of three major components and 12 sub-components. The major components are: strengthening public and private sector

vocational training systems, establishing entrepreneurship training and micro credit programmes, and policy and administrative reform.

According to the study, there will be a provision of a

'comprehensive, demand-oriented' national vocational training policy that would be responsive to the needs of the labour market, acknowledge the national economic and social development priorities, and provide better career opportunities for individuals.

AU Ahmed joins BNP

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said the BNP would go ahead with its popular support as the people have total confidence in her party, reports UNB.

"People like the BNP as it serves them with utmost sincerity and devotion, and always stands by them at time of their weal and woe," she said to a large number of leaders and workers of opposition parties who defected to the ruling party.

Among them are business tycoon and Gano Forum Treasurer AU Ahmed and former MP Mia Abbas. More than 2,000 people from Khulna, led by them, formally joined the BNP.

JP to launch fresh agitation

The Jatiya Party (JP) yesterday decided to launch a fresh agitation in line with two other opposition parties — the Awami League and the Jamaat-e-Islami.

The presidium meeting chaired by the acting JP chief, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, also discussed the fresh programmes, including hartals, to press the demands for a caretaker government.

Hasina

wrecked the Constitution with the stroke of weapons and distorted the national history to misguide the nation, said the Awami League chief.

"This is why I had to come back to politics, to uphold the ideals of Bangabandhu."

The morning session, presided over by litterateur Shawkat Osman, was addressed, among others, by Zillur Rahman, Prof Qamruzzaman, Tofael Ahmed, Abdul Razzak, Dr Neelima Ibrahim, Mostafa Nurul Islam, Hasan Imam, Belal Chowdhury and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Mava.

Co-chairman of the Celebration Committee Gazilul Haq read out a declaration.

Ideal High School tops the list

The students of the Ideal High School have made their mark in this year's SSC examinations. Twenty five examinees from this school secured positions in the combined merit lists of both the Science and Social Science groups.

Twenty students of the Ideal High School got places in the first 20 positions in the Science group's merit list, which have been shared by a record number of 129 students of different schools under Dhaka Board.

Five other students of this school also secured places in the 20 positions of the combined merit list of Social Science group. A total of 35 students of different schools shared these 20 positions.

The names of Rahim Mustafa and Ehsanul Islam, first and second respectively in Science Group and Sanjida Hossain Ripa second in Social Science group, are also included in the Ideal school's bright students list.

12 killed

From Page 1
died off the Sherpur-Jamalpur road at Porabazar in sadar thana yesterday.

The dead are Goutam Dev, 30, of Muktagachha in Mymensingh, Sarwar, 28, of Sadar thana in Tangail, Engraj Ali, 30, of Sadar thana in Sherpur and an unidentified young man aged about 30.

Two of the injured — Kashem and Motalab — were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition and another eight admitted to Sadar Hospital. The rest of the injured were released after first aid.

Police said the Sherpur-bound bus plunged into a roadside ditch at about 4 pm when the driver lost control.



WOMEN AWAKEN WITH DETERMINED VOW: The concluding session of the first national conference of women's bodies at the Rice Research Institute in Gazipur yesterday.

Kanta wants to study computer science

By Staff Correspondent

Shamima Sharmin Kanta of the Mohammadpur Preparatory and Girls' High School, who secured the first position in the combined merit list of Science group in the SSC examinations, could not fully enjoy the happy moments of her life as she was totally upset following the dismissal of her father.

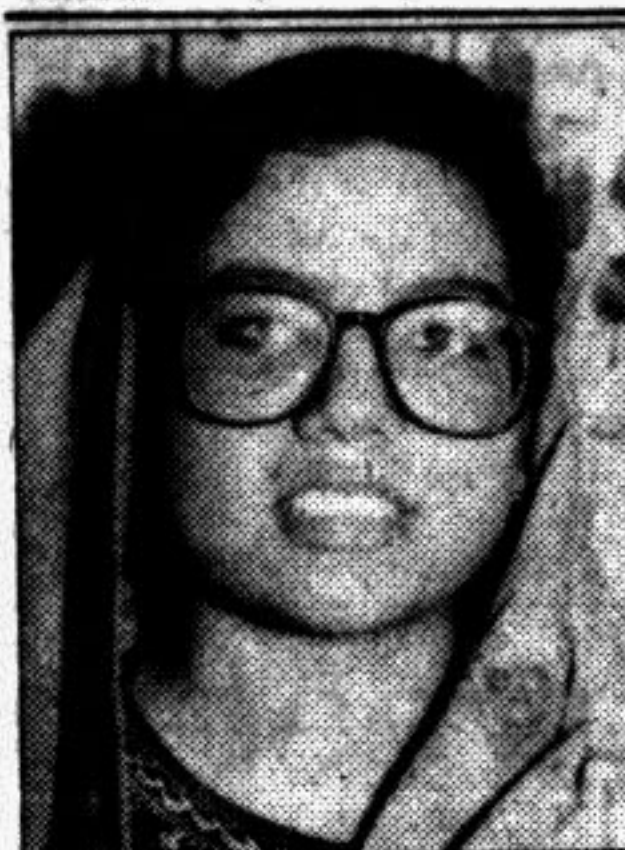
A brave Kanta, however, told this correspondent, "My only delight is that by dint of my bright result I may get the chance to meet the Prime Minister and will appeal to her to do justice to my father, who had 'illegally' been sacked. He was a Manager of Milk Vita."

Kanta scored 898 marks with distinction in seven subjects to top the merit list jointly with Rahim Mostafa of the Ideal High School.

Kanta used to study for eight to nine hours a day and had a house tutor for two months. She wants to study computer science.

She made no comments on the political scenario of the country. Reciting poems and listening to music are Kanta's pastime.

Kanta is the eldest among three issues of Md Nurul Islam.



Ripa
2nd in Social Science

Record crowd

From Page 1
Ideal High School's Sanjida Hossain Ripa scored 859 marks and seven letters to secure second position while Azizun Nessa Smriti of Vigarunna Noon School got third position scoring 856 marks and distinction in seven subjects.

In the merit list of female candidates in Science group, Shamima Sharmin Kanta stood first followed by Fatema Ahmed of Kamrunnesa Government Girls' High School and Joysree Saha of T & T Adarsha Girls' High School, who held the second position jointly. Third position was shared by three students namely, Papiya Sultana of Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College, Jessie Dewanjee of Mohammadpur Preparatory and Girls' High School and Rifat Zabin of Mohammadpur Girls' High School.

In the merit list of female candidates in Social Science group, Sanjida Hossain Ripa stood first while Azizun Nessa became second and Sima Rani Sarker of Bindu Basini Government Girls' High School secured the third position.

Dream results

From Page 1
In this group, 55,285 male students sat for the examinations of whom 87.02 per cent or 48,111 passed. Out of 23,832 female students, who appeared from Science group, 87.79 per cent or 20,922 came out successful.

A total of 1,56,712 students including 75,019 female examinees sat for the examinations from Social Science group. In total 1,06,420 or 67.91 per cent passed of whom, 41,682 got first division, 62,047 second division and 2,691 third division.

The percentages of pass of male and female students in Social Science are 68.45 and 67.32 respectively.

Women's confce ends

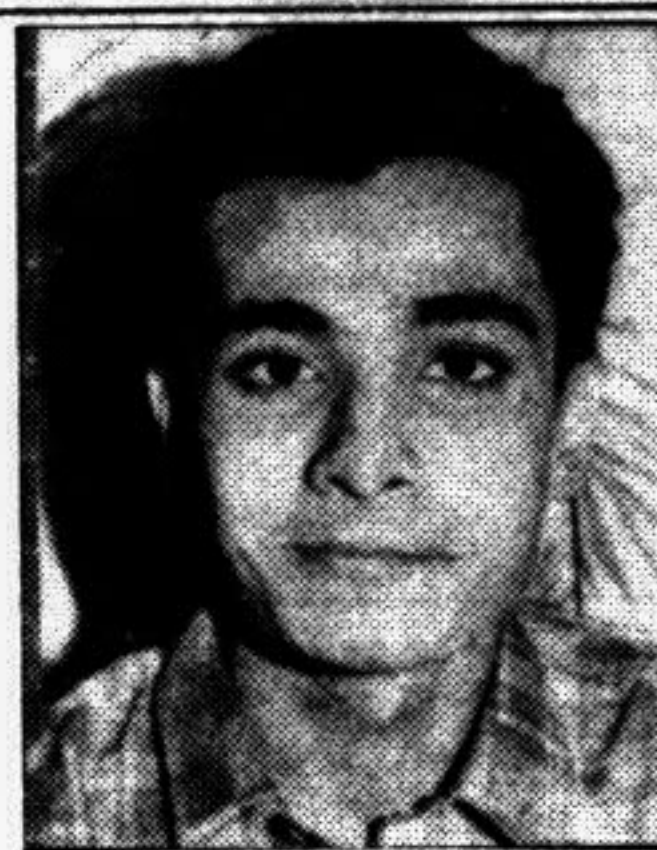
From Page 1
approach would make our work easier and more effective.

During the three days, eight issue-based workshops were held which gave rise to many commonly agreed points that needed to be worked on. Issues such as law, healthcare, economic and educational opportunities, religion and culture, public life and political representation were discussed keeping in view the interests of women.

The main emerging issue was that women needed to achieve their rights on the principles of freedom and equality. Also that there needed to be social changes. To make that change possible, there has to be changes in attitudes, law and educational curriculum.

It was emphasised that the participants in the conference were not against men but against male domination. In fact, many of the participants emphasised the need for including men in seminars and workshops of this nature. "The world is made up of both men and women. Thus, to achieve true change, we need to include both," said Indira Chakma, a participant.

The closing session was chaired by Prof Najma Chowdhury, who is also leading the NGO delegation that



Ehsan
2nd in Science group

A pleasant surprise for Ehsanul

By Staff Correspondent
For Ehsanul Islam, second on the combined merit list of the Science group with 897 marks, the placing came as a pleasant surprise.

"I had watched the entire Asia Cup Cricket on satellite TV during the revision period," the cricket buff told The Daily Star. "I had hoped to do well, but not this well!" he quipped.

Ehsan, a student of the Ideal High School, attributed his exceptional result to his mother, Selina Islam, who "would shout at me every two hours or so to ask me to devote to studies", and his school teachers.

"I had no private tutor. I took part in group study and the teachers at school kept the pressure on us by holding frequent mock exams," said Ehsan, who studied 10 to 12 hours daily.

About the 'question bank' system, he said: "It should have been abolished much earlier. Under it, a lot of students manage to get star marks and true merit can not be judged."

Smriti supports violence-free student politics

By Staff Correspondent

Azizun Nessa Smriti, who secured the third position in the combined merit list of Social Science group in the SSC examinations, wants to become an economist.

Smriti, third among the four daughters of Abul Kashem, a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Industries, said, she did not support 'student politics of arms' and added, "violence-free, healthy student politics can help build up future leadership."

Manzur murder case Dhaka Dist Judge receives record

Dhaka District and Sessions Judge M Abdus Salam yesterday received the case-record of the Major General Manzur murder case, reports UNB.

The court fixed August 16 for appearance of all the accused including former President H M Ershad, in the special trial court.

Snatching

From Page 1
counter of the bank when the customer arrived there. As he was filling up a paper before handing over the cash to the cashier, he suddenly noticed that half of the cash was gone.

Looking back, he saw a man running away from the room. The victim raised alarm and shouted at the armed guard at the bank's door to arrest the man.

By this time, the snatcher reached the bus station just outside the bank. The second guard of the bank at its main gate, usually unarmed, gave the thug a chase.

"First, the man tried to board a speedy bus towards Mirpur. Then he crossed the road and started running towards the Lab Aid by the Green Road petrol pump. There was nothing I could do other than shouting," said the guard who gave the chase.

Inside the IFIC bank the measure of security was nothing short of ridiculous. The manager was sitting before the screen of a Close Circuit camera installed at the counter area downstairs. The screen in front of him showed nothing but blurry images of customers downstairs.

"The close circuit camera does not have a recorder, it is blurry because we cannot find technicians to repair it," said the manager of the branch.

The armed guard of the bank when asked why he did not chase the culprit, said he was not authorised to go out of the bank premises with his arms, a double barrel hunting gun.

This is the second recorded incident in a bank in the city within the last 24 hours. A briefcase containing Tk four lakh was stolen from the office of the United Commercial Bank at the city's Motijheel area on Monday.

Rahim for abolition of 'question bank' system

By Staff Correspondent

Rahim Mostafa, who topped the combined merit list of the Science group with 898 marks, attributed his outstanding success to Allah, his mother Nazma Ahmed and his teachers at the Ideal High School.

Rahim, only son of the late Mohiuddin Ahmed, said, extensive reading and regularity in studies are the keys to good results.

"I used to study six to seven hours a day, I had no house tutor," Rahim told The Daily Star.

Rahim, whose father was a businessman, wants to be a computer analyst or an engineer. His hobbies include reading and playing cricket.

Rahim believes, the abolition of the 'question-bank' system is a good move as "it will make students read their textbooks."

The Midnight File

50000 refugees trapped on Croatia-Bosnia border

ZAGREB, Aug 8: Tens of thousands of refugees were Tuesday trapped on the Croatia-Bosnia border after a bridge in the area was bombed as UN and Red Cross officials stepped up efforts to cope with the humanitarian crisis spawned by the Croatian army's recapture of the Krajina region. A total of about 50,000 refugees are blocked on the road between Gilina and the border town of Dvor, south of Zagreb, and in the Slatina region further to the north, after a border bridge was bombed, reports AFP.

Power disruption in phone exchange

The Sher-e-Bangla Nagar "81" Digital Exchange and Tenthred Exchange went out of order totally for half an hour yesterday due to sudden power disruption, reports UNB.

The officers and staff of T&T Board, however, started the restoration work of the exchanges on an emergency basis and made the exchange fault-free and operational.

N'ganj doctors

From Page 1

lier, a group of Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal activists had entered the room of the registrar, swore at him and left the scene only to beat him up "mercilessly" later in the corridor.

Malaysia

From Page 1

Chairman and Chief Executive of Technology Resource Industries Berhad (TRI) Tan Sri Dato Dr Tajudin Ramli led the delegation.

The TRI has already undertaken a joint venture with Integrated Service Limited Bangladesh for providing rural telecommunications service in the country.

During the meeting, the minister informed that at present, 18 international telecommunications circuits are being operated with Malaysia via European countries.

The meeting agreed that possibilities would be explored to establish more direct international circuits with Malaysia.

Quail cage

From Page 1

the delicacy cages full of medicines worth about Tk 10.9 lakh carried by a Pakistani national from Karachi.

The passenger Md Shaban, 35, arrived at the ZIA with two cages of noisy 172 quails by a PIA flight at 11 am.

The customs officials acting on a tip-off challenged Shaban with his winged companions in the cages when he attempted to cross the green channel which signifies nothing to declare.

After an initial check on the cages customs officials soon discovered the false plywood partitions inside the cages.

"The authorities usually give priority to clear all official formalities if a passenger brings in any livestock," said a customs official at the ZIA adding, "I do not recall anything like this happening before."

The restricted medicine items included 36 thousand pieces of Melleril and 73 thousand pieces of Mathergin, sources at the customs office at ZIA said.

However, the quails were sold in the airport on auction.

Saifur

From Page 1

the envoys of the G-7 countries to impress upon their governments to provide adequate fund for IDA-II replenishment.

Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Charge d'Affaires of the Group of Seven countries — Japan, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy — made the call on Saifur at his office.

Saifur, said an official release, impressed upon the envoys about the importance of International Development Agency (IDA), the soft-lending arm of the World Bank, and continuation of its support to the least developed countries who qualify for IDA assistance.

While advocating adequate fund for IDA-II replenishment, the minister mentioned that the role of IDA is even greater now as bilateral ODA assistance to most of the Third World countries had been reduced over the years.

He said the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia felt very strongly that the role of IDA in alleviating poverty and bringing about global social equilibrium should be continued.

In this connection, the Finance Minister handed over a letter from the Prime Minister addressed to the heads of government of the G-7 countries.

Diarrhoea

From Page 1

units were working in the slum areas to keep the situation under control.

The meeting formed a Task Force headed by the Director General of Health Services Prof A. K. Shamsuddin Siddiquey to monitor regularly the post-flood diarrhoea and health situation in the city and its adjoining areas and report it back to the Health Minister every week.

The Task Force comprises representatives from the ICDDR,B, Dhaka City Corporation, Department of Public Health Engineering, Dhaka WASA, Health Education Bureau, NGO Bureau and Communication Disease Control Wing of the Health Directorate.

The meeting decided to set up five temporary health centres in Islambagh, Chawkbazar, Mugdapara, Demra and Tejgaon areas which will work round the clock to provide health services to the people.

Rayerbazar incident

3 remanded for two days

By Staff Correspondent

The three persons arrested Monday for their alleged involvement in the attack on the police outpost at Rayerbazar in the city were remanded for two days yesterday.

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