

'Education system to be recast'

By Staff Correspondent

The education system in the country will be recast giving more emphasis on vocational training to ensure gainful employment for youths and to improve the overall standard.

This was stated by Ershadul Haq, Secretary, Ministry of Education while talking to journalists during a demonstration of the computer system for checking answer scripts of examinees at the computer centre of the Dhaka Education Board at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

Defending the newly introduced system he said, it ensures impartiality in results as the code given in the cover sheet of the answer script cannot be manipulated. "But if the computer is provided with incorrect information it cannot be helped."

Commenting on a case of anomaly in which some students scored 38 marks each in one subject he said, "It was the fault of 4 moderators who prepared the answer scripts of that particular subject".

"Actions have been taken against them," he said. "These answer scripts will be re-scrutinised", he assured. The education secretary said, plans are underway to integrate class 12 in high schools and popularise vocational training.

Measures are being taken so that all the education boards in the country have same question papers. To ensure transparency in examinations, only the educational institutions in thana headquarters will be made centres for board examinations and senior teachers will be made examiners, he added.

Institutions having large number of students like the Eden College, BM College, Karmichal College and Victoria College may be given the 'degree awarding status in near future to increase management efficiency', he said.

Later the journalists were shown the computer system of tabulating SSC and HSC results of the Dhaka Education Board.

Tk 470cr foreign portfolio investment in 2 yrs

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Nov 4: Total market capitalisation has increased to Taka 5,700 crore from Taka 1,200 crore in last five years.

This was disclosed by Sultan-uz-Zaman Khan, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, today while addressing the inaugural function of Chittagong Stock Exchange at Hotel Agrabad.

He pointed out that the number of listed securities has now reached 198 from 138 in 1990.

The SEC Chairman said "our capital market has experienced an unprecedented growth during the past several years". He mentioned that the trading volume increased 51 times and the share price index also grew three times to 903 from 296 in the last five years.

He also said that in the past two years Taka 670 crore worth of foreign portfolio funds poured into the country and the companies raised Taka 470 crore through primary issue of securities.

Khan informed that out of 45,000 investment accounts of the ICB, about 10,000 (22 per cent) are in Chittagong.

About 28 per cent of the country's total bank deposits are from Chittagong, he said. "Against this background, the new stock exchange here will undoubtedly serve as a channel for investments not only for the region but also for the country as a whole," Sultan observed.

He said that during the last two years of its existence, the Commission has been consistently working for more transparency and accountability in the securities market and a number of steps have been taken for this.

2-day workshop
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"The workshop is going to be an important milestone in Bangladesh agriculture's passage into the next century that will also bring the participants close together towards a strategy for sustained, sustainable and shared agricultural development."

Comprising over 30 per cent of the GDP 1994, agriculture, after services, is the largest sector in Bangladesh economy. Agricultural growth has so far been fuelled by foodgrains, and over the past two decades, Bangladesh has increased its rice production by more than 50 per cent.

However, recent agricultural performance has been stagnating in the country, but the growth of this sector is clearly important in its contribution to overall GDP growth and to poverty alleviation.

The sessions of the workshop will focus on Bangladesh's macroeconomic performance and the role of agriculture, constraints and policies, and the future vision for sustainable agricultural growth.

reliance on competitive markets have got a firm footing, it notes, "their impact has been eroded by ineffective implementation."

To strengthen the country's leverage in export market and to attract foreign investments, the Bank suggests further streamlining of tariff walls, quantitative restrictions and export incentive schemes.

Furthermore, the Bank observes that the necessary legal and regulatory framework works to attract foreign direct investment have not been chalked out.

"Despite the absence of investment controls, bureaucrats still have substantial discretionary authority in enforcing laws affecting customs, excise taxes and labour practices. Strong governance is needed to reform the judicial process, discourage rent-seeking behaviour by officials and create a truly friendly environment for private sector," the report said.

In identifying the problems regarding privatisation in the country, the WB says the political opposition has successfully exploited these concerns — resistance move from the labour unions and bureaucrats — which prompted the government to stall privatisation prior to elections.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the formal inauguration ceremony of the Chittagong Stock Exchange yesterday. — PID photo

Hasina's letter

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Hasina also said the trend of ousting an elected government through killings and conspiracy had started 20 years ago. She pointed out that the declaration of three political alliances in 1990 had addressed the issue but it was yet to be implemented.

When contacted last night, AL leaders refused to disclose the contents of the letter. "It would be unfair to disclose the contents before the Prime Minister receive the letter," AL Presidium member Tofael Ahmed said.

Mannan Bhuiyan declined to make any comment to newsmen after receiving the letter. He is expected to hand it over to the Prime Minister on his return to the capital from Chittagong today.

The Prime Minister in her second letter, disagreed with Hasina and said a fruitful discussion cannot take place with any pre-condition.

Begum Zia said all problems relating to the forthcoming elections can be considered as the agenda for talks.

UK paper praises economic reforms

Democracy in Bangladesh has given hope to the 119 million people of the country through increased economic activities and reforms, the prestigious British newspaper "The Times" said in a news item published Friday, reports BSS.

The newspaper said after nine economically disastrous years of dictatorship, Bangladesh has introduced reforms that would have been inconceivable before the arrival of democracy in 1991.

Student

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was going on and opened fire targeting Farhad. Farhad was previously known to Rafiq, the sources claimed.

The reason behind the incident could not be known immediately but the sources claimed that it was a sequel to an earlier rivalry. Farhad's Father, Mohammad Motiur Rahman filed a case with Mohammadpur thana in the afternoon saying that his son was a student of the institute at Mohammadpur.

Panicked students ran for safety during the incident. Farhad hailed from Katarur at Mohammadpur. None was arrested in connection with the incident.

Dirty dozen

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lion US dollars worth of agrochemicals used in 1988, rice was the single-most important crop for pesticides.

Speaking on health hazards, Dr Ahmed said prolonged exposure to pesticides could cause cardiopulmonary disorders, neurological and hematological symptoms and skin diseases. Any of these symptoms could lower crop productivity due to farmers' absence from work.

Referring to the findings of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) on the use of chemical fertiliser, Dr Ahmed said use of urea fertiliser has increased to 99.3 kg per acre in 1991 from 64.9 kg in 1987 in Kishor/ganj villages.

The use of TSP rose from 30.5 kg per acre to 41.8 kg, MP from 21 kg to 36 kg, Zinc 11.8 kg to 39.2 kg over the same period in the same villages, Dr Ahmed said and informed that the production came down to 1665 kg per acre in 1991 from 1991.3 kg in 1987.

BELA Secretary General Mohiuddin Farouk said his organisation will file a case within a week demanding a ban on hazardous 'dirty dozen' pesticides.

Mahbub-ul-Karim said increasing trend of using pesticides and chemical fertiliser could not increase crop yield. It is not cost effective and environment friendly, he added.

PM inaugurates CSE

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Begum Zia said production in agriculture and industrial sectors had increased manifold. The contribution of services sector in the national economy has increased as well.

Per-capita income has gone up. Opportunities for employment and purchasing power of the people have also increased.

The increasing purchasing power of the people has led to establishment of new industries, mills and factories. The capital market has expanded.

As a result, she noted with satisfaction, the second stock exchange in Chittagong has been established in Chittagong to meet the demand of time.

The Dhaka Stock Exchange has opened another trading post. People's initiative and entrepreneurship combined with the present government's pragmatic and timely policy have led to such expansion of the capital-market.

The Prime Minister said her government adopted free market economy after coming to the helm of state affairs with people's mandate. For, atmosphere of competition sharpens people's talent and generate momentum in productive sector.

It has been possible to rejuvenate the economy shattered by the autocratic rule only because of the estab-

lishment of democracy. Dynamism has now been injected into the economy.

"We have taken all-out measures to encourage foreign investment in the country," she said listing the incentives for overseas investors. These include liberal policy, convertibility of the taka, supportive steps for exports and provision of maximum facilities to investors.

As a result, foreign investors now consider the investment climate in Bangladesh as most attractive in South Asia, Begum Zia told the function urging all to safeguard this goodwill. "You all have to remain alert about those who want to foil this climate of investment. I believe, the people will maintain this climate of investment and development at any cost."

The function was also addressed by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister M Morshed Khan, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission Sultanuzaman Khan and President of CSE Ameer Khasru Mahmood MP and Mirza Salman Ispahani.

Earlier, the Prime Minister visited CSE floor and witnessed the trading in 1st floor of Khaspia Plaza in the Agrabad commercial area.

Typhoon death toll rises to 221 in Philippines

MANILA, Nov 4: Some 282 were reported dead or missing in the Philippines after typhoon Angela lashed the country, disaster relief officials said today, as work to restore power and repair damage got underway, reports AFP.

Local officials and the government news agency said 221 people were reported dead while another 65 were missing following Angela's rampage on Thursday and Friday, although figures were still coming in.

FFs' suggestions to end political impasse

By Staff Correspondent

The central command council of the Bangladesh Mukti Juddha Sangsad yesterday put forward a series of proposals to resolve the political crisis.

The proposals include evolving a permanent arrangement for holding elections under a caretaker government, giving more powers to the Election Commission and preparing an accurate voter list after necessary re-evaluation and corrections.



Students of the Jagannath University brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday celebrating upgradation of the institute to a university. — Star photo

Ctg Int'l Airport project begins

CHITTAGONG, Nov 4: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laid the foundation stone of the Chittagong International Airport development project at the airport site today, reports UNB.

Addressing on the occasion, she said industrialisation would be accelerated and tourism would be flourished in the region with the latest development work of the Chittagong Airport.

The Prime Minister said the project would also help boosting exports through the EPZ that would create more job opportunities and bring positive gains for the country's economy.

The total cost of the project has been estimated at Tk 600 crore including Tk 340 crore Japanese OECF (Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund) credit assistance. Tk 260 crore will be provided from internal resources.

The project, expected to be completed by 1999, will include providing all structural and infrastructural facilities needed for an international airport.

The project consists of construction of a new terminal area, improvement of existing runway and improvement of an Air Navigation System.

Begum Zia said, "Inshallah, in the next Hajj season the people of Chittagong will be able to perform their Hajj through direct flights from this airport."

From next December, the people of the southeastern districts will be able to travel

to the Middle Eastern countries by direct flights from Chittagong, she said.

Housing project

BSS adds: The Prime Minister today also inaugurated a housing project for the people of low-income group by handing over 4144 residential plots to their owners.

The project would ensure housing for about 24 thousand people who earn between Tk 1400 to 5000.

Located at about 14 kilometres north-west of the port city and half a kilometre from the Dhaka-Chittagong highway, the housing project, "Kaibalyadham development project", is being developed with an estimated cost of about Tk 28 crore.

Financed by the World Bank, UNDP and Bangladesh government the 101 acre project will also have 31 industrial plots, 97 shops, improved civic amenities and facilities of schools, medical clinics and mosques.

RU employees begin 6-day strike

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 4: All official work of Rajshahi University came to a halt as the third and fourth class employees went on a six-day strike from today to press their various demands.

The dining hall workers of the 14 residential halls are also on a week-long strike demanding that they be declared university employees.

Passers-by become victims of celebrations

By Staff Correspondent

Jubilant of the students of the newly declared Jagannath University caused embarrassment to hundreds of men and women as the frenzied students sprinkled coloured waters indiscriminately on people on streets in and around the university yesterday.

Hundreds of students brought out a procession from the Jagannath University campus in the old town at around noon to celebrate upgradation of the college into a full-fledged university.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on November 3 declared the century-old college a university.

On their way towards the Jatiya Press Club, they sprayed coloured water on everybody. Passengers of rickshaws, autorickshaws and buses and pedestrians, men and women alike, fell victim to the wild excitement of the students.

At Gulistan, near the Golap Shah mazar, hundreds of students were seen spraying red, black and yellow colours on passers-by and on transports. Many women and office going men begged 'mercy' but to no effect. Many people were seen running away and many others, falling to escape, walked off angrily after being sprayed with colours. A young girl, on a rickshaw, dressed in white was virtually doused with multi-coloured waters.

"I have an interview for job. What shall I do now?" she asked in tears. A group of riot policemen nearby were seen grinning as the innocent civilians fell victim to the situation.

The Midnight File

Nawaz Sharif's brother held

ISLAMABAD, Nov 4: Pakistani authorities arrested Shahbaz Sharif, younger brother of main opposition leader Nawaz Sharif, on his arrival at Lahore Airport today after 15 months abroad, the official news agency AFP reported. It said the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had then flown him to Islamabad for questioning on various alleged crimes and financial irregularities, reports Reuter.

Bangladesh lift title

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in the rear, thwarted an all-out assault from a baffled Myanmar team in the second half.

Performing in front of boisterous local fans at the packed Youth Training Centre, the boys of Otto Pfister, the German coach of the Bangladesh team, presented an attractive brand of soccer, specially during the first 45 minutes.

With Arman, the mercurial midfielder, unearthing his richest vein of talents and medio Rakib Hossain going great guns down the left flank, Bangladesh took control of the middle from the word go.

Some skillful performance right through the team, Bangladesh enjoyed a better share of the early proceedings. But, despite the domination, Bangladesh had to wait till the 26th minute to punch the air.

Prolific Mamun Joarder, latching on to a deceptive left-flank cross from Rakib, sent the ball home with a spectacular header (1-0).

Mamun, who was pushed forward to replace speedy winger Ranjan, sidelined for two yellow cards, should have scored ten minutes earlier. But Mamun spoiled the easy sitter striking the ball straight to the helpless Myanmar custodian.

Bangladesh's joy from Mamun's goal was short-lived as Myanmar hit back three minutes later through their nimble forward (Jersey No 9), who scored a gem of a goal by scooping the ball through a thicket of Bangladeshi defenders.

Undaunted by the quick Myanmar retaliation Bangladesh came up with renewed motivation during the second half. The vigorous display put paid when an air-borne Naqub saddled Bangladesh on the driver's seat once again five minutes after the breather. The lanky striker, in a valiant attempt, headed home a low cross from Rakib for the eventual match winner.

After the goal, the hosts went all out for an equaliser. The remaining part of the thrilling encounter was a harrowing tale of Myanmar sorties fading against the

BTV programmes

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main reason for less interest on BTV programmes, the study, conducted in the city, said. The study covered people of all walks of life; rich, middleclass, educated and less educated or uneducated.

Language is no problem for the viewers of foreign TV programmes like STAR TV, Zee TV, ATN and Doordarshan, fed through the Direct Broadcasting Satellite (DBS).

But other means of mass communication like newspapers have not been affected because most of the TV viewers watch foreign programmes for entertainment, the study pointed out.

According to another study conducted by the Centre for Communication and Research, 37 per cent of the owners of television sets in Dhaka city have satellite connections while 60 per cent are planning to have it. Only 3 per cent do not want satellite connection.

Educated people enjoy the foreign TV programmes more than the uneducated or less educated ones.

Majority of the viewers consider that the satellite communication had both good and bad impact on the society. Some, however, think that this did not influence the society.

The DBS came in the Asian market, when the Hongkong-based Asia Sat-1 was established. Satellite Television for Asia Region commonly known as STAR TV, played a prominent role in popularising the system in the Asian market. Bangladesh introduced the DBS in 1991.

With the advent of ZEE, ATN and DD, the market in satellite communication became more competitive.

With a huge establishment, the STAR owns 5 out of 30 satellite channels covering viewers of 13 million households in 47 countries.

As many as 12 television companies have rented out the transponders of Asia Sat-1 'Analogue System' for a period of 5 years. It is expected to open another 32 channels in Asia under the digital system of Asia Sat-2 by the end of this century.

rock-solid Bangladesh defence led by Monem Munna.

Bangladesh were given a real scare when their usually dependable custodian Pomir was carried off the field sustaining an injury during the middle of the second session. But all credit to the substitute goal-keeper Pannu, who stood firmly under the bar as Bangladesh scraped home with the slender lead.

Bangladesh took part in the meet as part of their preparation for the upcoming SAF Games scheduled to be held in the Indian city of Madras from December 18. The win earned the team 10,000 US dollars in prize money.

Meanwhile, in a faxed message from Yangon, the manager of the Bangladesh team Moazzem Hossain said, "It is a memorable day for me and I cannot express my feeling at the moment". The heroes, who are awaiting a red-carpet reception, are expected to arrive in the capital at 9:30 pm today by a Biman flight.

The victorious Bangladesh Team: Pomir (Pannu), Munna, Sohel Reza, Hasan-Al Mamun, Sohel-Al Masum, Arman, Azimuddin, Masud Rana, Rakib, Mamun Joarder and Naqub.

Khaleda, Hasina congratulate

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday congratulated the Bangladesh booters on their clinching the title of the four-nation football tournament in Myanmar.

In separate messages they felicitated the players, officials and others on the team for their first-ever international soccer trophy.

They hoped that the national footballers would go on repeating their success in the international soccer arena.

Biharis

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ment of Bangladesh. The government of Bangladesh, it said, continues to remain fully prepared to extend all necessary assistance of the government of Pakistan and other concerned agencies to facilitate the immediate resumption of repatriation of these unfortunate Pakistanis in Bangladesh.

Attention of Bangladesh government the Foreign Ministry said, has been drawn to a statement reportedly made by the federal interior minister for Pakistan in the National Assembly of his country proposing to expel Bangla-speaking illegally people living in Pakistan and to the reports of large scale arrests of such people by Pakistan police.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry press statement added that the Pakistani Minister was also reported to have said in the course of the same statement that the government of Pakistan would not accept stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh who have been awaiting repatriation for so many years.

The government of Bangladesh is "surprised" and considers "unfortunate", the remarks of the Pakistan federal interior minister on the stranded Pakistanis, said the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

These stranded people, it said, are Pakistani citizens, who after the liberation of Bangladesh, clearly expressed their option to the ICRC to go back to Pakistan.

Acid thrown at husband, wife

JESSORE, Nov 4: Both the husband and his wife were critically injured when some unidentified persons threw acid at them while they were sleeping at their residence last night at Chhoto Dighara village under Chowgacha police station, reports BSS.

Barricade

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put on highways and railways by mobilising their organisational strength from thana and district headquarters. Steps will also be taken to stop plying river-crafts.

Senior leaders of the opposition parties held a close-door parley at the residence of Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad finalising their strategies to enforce the blockade.

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