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# Merit to be only yardstick for promotion in Armed Forces: PM

Steps will soon be taken to amend some existing outmoded laws and rules of the country's armed forces, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced yesterday, reports UNB.

Some colonial laws and rules are still guiding the armed forces, which the Prime Minister observed are not suitable for an independent, sovereign nation.

"My government will soon take steps to reform those rules and laws to cope with the changed situation", she said addressing the officers and jawans of the 9th division of the army at Savar garrison.

Hasina said the Armed Forces do not belong to any person or party. Armed Forces are a national resource, pride of the nation and protector of the country's sovereignty, she added.

The Prime Minister said government would come and government would go, but the country, its people, constitution and hard-earned flag would ever remain.

The main function of the government, Hasina said, is to fix national goals and to reach those goals the government would prepare plans and strategies. The function of the armed forces is to discharge their institutional responsibility to attain a fixed national objective within its domain.

Pointing to many "irregularities" committed in the armed forces in the past, the Prime Minister said: "I shall keep this institution above unwarranted interference from outside and make sure that armed forces work as per chain of command through the chiefs of the three services."

She appealed to the members of the armed forces to sink differences, if any, close ranks and work unitedly for building the institution.

The Prime Minister said there was no need for review of what happened in the past. "As the head of government and minister in charge of de-

fence, I give you assurance that merit, professional competence will alone be yardstick for appointment and promotion in the armed forces."

Referring to development and expansion of the armed forces, she noted with anguish that onward march of this national institution had been impeded by different persons and parties' bid to use it for their personal or collective aggrandisement.

It is not desirable for the armed forces to get involved in the country's internal politics, Hasina said stating that during the past 21 years the armed forces had been hurt and afflicted by a handful of selfish and ambitious persons.

"As a result, our armed forces were subject often to painfully undesirable activities one after another and often to bloody incidents, adding many a tragic chapters to our national history."

It is not desirable for the armed forces to get involved in the country's internal politics, Hasina said stating that during the past 21 years the armed forces had been hurt and afflicted by a handful of selfish and ambitious persons.

"As a result, our armed forces were subject often to painfully undesirable activities one after another and often to bloody incidents, adding many a tragic chapters to our national history."

Dismissing the propaganda that Awami League government tried to weaken the armed forces in the past and would do so in future, she said: "It is merely a reflection of a tendentious conspiracy."

She said Bangabandhu, despite adversities and war-shattered economy, took initiative to reconstruct Bangladesh's armed forces on a priority basis.

"Bangabandhu made efforts to collect military hardware from friendly countries, made arrangements for the training of our boys abroad and laid the foundation of the Military Academy in 1973 in an effort to rebuild the armed forces," she said.

"All this goes to prove beyond any shadow of doubt that Bangabandhu realised the imperative of patriotic armed forces for safeguarding sovereignty of Bangladesh," she

added. Over and above, Hasina recalled, Bangabandhu's eldest son joined the regular armed forces and fought the Liberation War and his second son also joined the armed forces on completion of his military training abroad.

Referring to trust and confidence reposed by Bangabandhu in the armed forces, she said it is on the strength of that confidence that Bangabandhu requested the then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to take back the Indian soldiers of the allied forces by March 17, 1972.

Listing other measures Prime Minister said armed forces would be supplied with required resources and training. She also made it clear that professional skill, strength of character and conduct will be yardstick for promotion in the armed forces.

Expressing her satisfaction with the performance of armed forces who joined the UN Peacekeeping Force, the Prime Minister said whole world praised the performance of Bangladesh armed forces and are requesting to deploy them for maintaining peace and security.

The Prime Minister also joined in an open discussion with the jawans and enquired about their condition.

Earlier, infantry and artillery troops of the 9th division demonstrated a training exercise, including mock fighting.

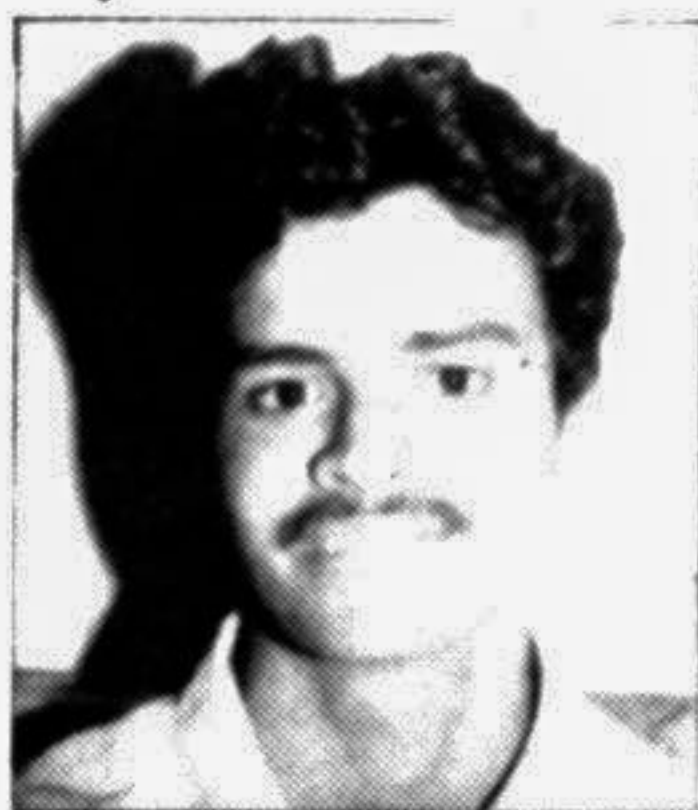
Industries and Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed, Food and Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Home Minister Major (Retd) Rafiqul Islam and Lt Col (Retd) Faruque Khal MP were also present on the occasion.

Upon her arrival at the Savar Cantonment, the Prime Minister was received by Army Chief Lt Gen Mahabubur Rahman and GOC of 9th division Major General Imamuzzaman.



Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan (R) and his Indian counterpart Salman Haider (C) discussing bilateral issues at the Foreign Ministry yesterday. Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Dev Mukherjee is seen on the left. — Star photo

## Results beyond my expectations, says Shibazi Rana



Star Report

Shibazi Sarker Rana of Government Laboratory High School who secured the first position in the combined merit list of science group in the SSC examinations under the Dhaka Board intends to go for higher studies in computer engineering and business administration simultaneously.

Rana was talking to The Daily Star at his Tejturbazar house in the city.

Son of Natish Chandra Sarker, a school teacher, Rana said, "I am happy... and my result is beyond my expectations." "My aim is to study computer engineering and then go for MBA," Rana said.

"This is the trend... these days," he said explaining the reasons for choosing the subject.

Rana said his parents, teachers, relatives and friends inspired him in the studies. Rabinadrath Tagore is his favourite personality.

## Protocol at airport

ing of the government as well as rise in unnecessary expenditure, said the official. Meanwhile, a 42-member delegation will accompany Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her scheduled trip from tomorrow to Makkah in Saudi Arabia for performing Umrah.

The delegation includes a 20-member team of dignitaries who will travel on their own cost. Close relations of the prime minister and some MPs are part of the 20-member delegation, Foreign Ministry sources said.

## Farrukh wants to be a doctor



the Government Laboratory High School who secured the second position in the combined merit list of Science Group in the SSC examinations under the Dhaka Board intends to be a physician.

Farrukh, the eldest of three sons of Dr Farrukh Ahmed, a professor of the Dhaka University and Dr Maki Akhtar of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, was talking to newsmen at their Mirpur residence yesterday.

"I would like to go abroad for higher studies in medicine after completing HSC in the Dhaka College," he said.

## Fresh areas flooded

are: Mesta, Kendua, Adra, Pugalida, Gomaritola and Syamganj Kalibari. With this, 22 unions of the district's six thanas - Sadar, Melandah, Sarisabari, Madarganj, Boxiganj and Dewanganj - were affected by the moonsoon flooding.

A large portion of Daluparaghat in Sarisabari pourasava were eroded in the last few days due to strong current in the Jamuna, which was flowing above its danger mark at Jagannathganj ghat and Bahadurabad ghat.

Road communication between Sarisabari and Jamalpur district headquarters remained snapped for last eight days after a diversion road at Kendua was washed away by flood water.

In Bogra district, flood situation deteriorated further with the inundation of fresh areas in Sariakandi, Dhunat and Sonatala thanas, leaving some 30,000 people marooned.

## Indo-Bangla talks

between the two closest neighbours. At the talks, Haider was assisted by Dev Mukherjee, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh and Ranjan Mathai, Joint Secretary in the Indian foreign ministry.

Sobhan was assisted by Additional Foreign Secretary Ahmed Tariq Karim and Director General Shamim Ahmed.

The two foreign secretaries had an exclusive meeting before the commencement of the formal talks.

Earlier, the Indian foreign secretary called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and had talks with him for nearly half an hour. He also called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury.

The Indian foreign secretary is due to call on the finance minister, the water resources minister and the home secretary today.

He is also due to address a press briefing at 4 pm prior to his departure.

## Jessore Board

the fifth position with 919 marks. The next five positions went to the JCC, Abu Saleh Muhammad Karim Ullah became sixth with 918 marks followed by Md Moniruzzaman with 915 marks. The 8th position went to Md Mahfuzur Rahman (914 marks) followed by Muhammad Saiful Islam with 905 marks. The tenth position was obtained by Al Meraz Ahmed with 903 marks.

## Social science group

In social science group combined merit list of male and female students, Ishita Rony of the Barisal Government Girls High School stood first with 877 marks. She was followed by Md Sarwar Hossen of the Hogladanga Kajirgram Secondary School with 867 marks.

The third position went to Kaniak Kumar Das of the Manirampur Government Secondary School who secured 860 marks. Md Jalal Hossain of the Rajapur Pilot High School stood fourth with 858 marks.

Md Shiblee Sadik of the Khulna Zilla School secured the fifth position with 850 marks.

# Indian foreign Secy calls on PM Delhi keen to solve water issue soon

The new Indian government is very keen to resolve the existing problems with Bangladesh, including the water-sharing issue, in the shortest possible time, reports UNB.

Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider stated this while delivering a message of the Prime Minister of India, HD Deve Gowda, to Bangladesh premier Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

Prime Minister Hasina laid emphasis on speedy resolution of the water-sharing problem which, she said, has been a serious concern in Bangladesh.

She said both Dhaka and New Delhi should try seriously to resolve the bilateral issues between the two neighbouring

countries. Noting Bangladesh's special concern about the problem of water, the visiting Indian External Affairs Secretary indicated the willingness of Indian new government to address these problems in the shortest possible time.

Another report adds: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said resolution of the issue of "fair and equitable" sharing of Ganges water was of highest priority for the new government in Bangladesh.

Talking to the visiting Indian Foreign Secretary, Salman Haider, who called on him at the Foreign Office, Azad hoped that India would address the issue "with an open mind".

The minister also hoped that India would solve the problem taking into consideration the concern and expectations of the people of Bangladesh in this regard.

## Samad Azad

From Page 1  
Bangladesh's relation with the United States following the changed global scenario, the foreign minister said Awami League had excellent relations with the United States even before the party came to power.

He said the United States had welcomed the June 12 general election in Bangladesh and added that the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would further strengthen the ties with the United States.

On China, Abdus Samad Azad recalled that it was the Awami League government of the late Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy in the then Pakistan which had established diplomatic ties with China in 1956.

He referred to the visit of Sheikh Hasina to China in 1993 as the Bangladesh's opposition leader. He said good relations already existed between the Awami League and the Chinese Communist Party and now the government to government relations would be promoted through economic cooperation.

In reply to a question, the foreign minister said the Awami League government was the builder of strong Bangladesh-Japan friendly relation in the wake of the nation's Liberation War.

## Portrait removed

Khandakar Delwar, however, told newsmen later he was not aware of anything in this regard.

According to witnesses, BNP lawmaker Maj (retd) Akhteruzzaman earlier had debate with Khandakar Delwar and other MPs of his party at the cabinet room on removal of Bangabandhu's portrait.

Akhteruzzaman argued that the BNP should first decide its stand on the Awami League government's decision of hanging the portrait of Sheikh Mujib and then, if needed, protest it in the House or in any other forum. "We did not hang the portrait. It does not matter if it remains in the room or not," he said as he came under fire from his party colleagues. None of the BNP top leaders including party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan supported his contention.

Akhteruzzaman also reiterated his argument at the BNPPP meeting.

## Dhaka Board

and Girls High School with 930 marks. Nuzhat Yasmin of the Motijheel Government Girls High School and Redwan Zakaria of the Government Laboratory High School jointly secured the eighth position with 929 marks. The ninth position was jointly secured by Ashfiqua Tahseen Connie of the Agrani Girls School, Sadruddin Imran of the Government Laboratory High School and Masrur Akbar Khan of the Mirzapur Cadet College with 928 marks each. The tenth position in the merit list went to three students. They are Shama Rashid of the Viharunna Noon School, Sharif Shibly Siddique of the Government Laboratory High School and Md Khaled Maruf of the Mirzapur Cadet College. Each of them secured 927 marks.

## Social science group

In social science group, Tania Rahman of the Ideal School and College stood first with 886 marks in the combined merit list of male and female students under this group. Muhammad Mazedur Rahman Khan of the Bindu Basini Government Boys High School came second scoring 883 marks. He was followed by Mohammad Rezaul Kabir of the Ali Akbar High School with 874 marks. The fourth position was obtained by Saira Banu of the Viharunna Noon School who scored 870 marks. The next position went to Md Mazharul Anwar of the Adamjee High School. He secured 869 marks.

## Death sentence

under Manikganj district. A case was registered with Mohammadpur police in this connection.

The accused confessed her guilt under Section 164 Cr P. During the trial the court examined 18 witnesses and after the hearing Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Abdul Majid gave the verdict.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Masud Ahmed Talukdar conducted the prosecution case while the accused was defended by Advocate Abdul Latif Talukdar.

# WB for privatisation

From Page 1  
be easier than commercialising or restructuring it to make it more efficient, competitive and commercially oriented."

Regarding the railway sector, the WB suggested the government to adjust tariffs and improve collection, reduce labour force, rationalise services and sell surplus assets.

About natural gas sector, the single largest energy source, the WB suggested that the government establish a regulatory framework for the sector providing for a mixed ownership structure and divestiture eventually.

"The restructuring and privatisation of the public gas operating companies which has been avoided is now long overdue," the WB added.

The WB urged the government to take action so that the Power Development Board (PDB), the single largest gas consumer, pay its gas bills to the Petrobangla. According to the Bank, the PDB's worsening financial position is a threat to Petrobangla as well.

To improve the functioning of the ports, the WB urged the government to increase the autonomy of port authorities.

The Bank recommended for establishing an apex task force comprising representatives of ministries, port authorities and the private sector with a mandate to suggest investment plans, set performance evaluation

criteria and establish procedures for accountability. The Bank also suggested the government to allow the private sector to run internal container depots outside Chittagong port, in Dhaka and other places, operate rail container movement on the Chittagong-Dhaka corridor under contract with Bangladesh Railway and operate container barges to link Dhaka/Narayanganj with Chittagong and Mongla and drop the government's plan to buy and run such barges.

In the road communication sector, the government should declare its full support for the ongoing capacity building aimed at transforming the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) into a maintenance-oriented organisation with computerised cost accounting practices, the Bank suggested.

The WB also recommended for establishing a planning cell in the Road Transport Division of the Ministry of Communication and setting up of a National Road Safety Secretariat.

The Bank said with the swelling of urban population, the country is faced with two dominating issues to be addressed immediately - the need for massive funds to provide basic municipal services, and the need for improving management capacity for these services.

He is the son of Md Selim Mollah, a businessman of Jhenidah, Stadiumpara. He wants to join the army. His hobby is reading different types of books and composing poems. He usually read eight hours a day.

## Meraj wants to be a doctor

By Staff Correspondent  
Mohammad Merajul Islam Mollah who stood third in the combined merit list of Science Group in the Secondary School Certificate examinations under the Dhaka Board intends to build his career as a doctor.

Son of A Mannan Mollah, a customs inspector, and Begum Rabiya Khanum, a housewife, Meraj is third of the eight children of his parents.

## Hasina

From Page 1  
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"We'll take revenge of the killing of Father of the Nation by materialising his dream of 'Golden Bengal' and bringing happiness and smiles on the faces of all people."

Bangabandhu brought the Independence of the country and presented the nation a constitution. "And now after 21 years we got the opportunity to serve the people," she said seeking cooperation and help of the lawyers enabling her government to fulfil its pledges for building a terrorism and corruption-free country.

## Rokanuzzaman wants to join army

From Our Correspondent  
JHENIDAH, July 6: Sheikh Mohammad Rokanuzzaman of Jhenidah Cadet College topped the combined merit list of science group, in the SSC examinations under Jessore Board.

He secured 935 marks with letters in seven subjects (English, Mathematics, Geography, Islamic Studies, Agriculture and Higher Maths).

Rokan is the son of Sheikh Mollammad Qamruzzaman, production manager of Sonali Jute Mills in Khulna.

Rokan wants to serve the nation by joining the army. His hobby is reading books on various subjects and stamp collection. Rokan used to read eight hours a day.

## Suman wants to join army

From Our Correspondent  
JHENIDAH, July 6: ASM Suman Mahmud of Jhenidah Cadet College secured second position in the combined merit list of science group in the SSC examination of Jessore Board.

Suman got 931 marks, having letters in eight subjects (English, Mathematics, Geography, General Science, Agriculture, Higher Maths and Islamic Studies).

## Meraj wants to be a doctor

By Staff Correspondent  
Mohammad Merajul Islam Mollah who stood third in the combined merit list of Science Group in the Secondary School Certificate examinations under the Dhaka Board intends to build his career as a doctor.

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# DB, JB SSC results

From Page 1  
candidates secured first division, 27,703 second division and 427 third division. In Jessore Board 14,930 candidates got first division, 17,224 second division and 817 third division.

Out of the 63,009 candidates from science group under Dhaka Board, 37,767 passed the examinations. Of them 27,860 got first division, 9,897 second and 10 third division.

Under social science group from the Dhaka board 20,644 students passed the examinations out of 75,391. Of them 5,421 secured first division, 14,806 second division and 417 third division.

In the science group under the Jessore Board 14,365 examinees came out successful out of 21,805. Of them 10,161 obtained first division, 4,196 second and only eight third division.

In the social science group from the same board, 18,066 candidates passed the examinations out of 53,146. Of them 4,769 were placed in the first division, 13,028 in the second division and 809 in the third division.

A total of 35,074 boys and 23,337 girls passed the examinations from the Dhaka Board and the percentage of pass was 45 and 38.60 respectively.

In Jessore Board 20,680 boys and 12,291 girls passed the examinations and the percentage of pass was 46.97 and 39.75 respectively.

There was no private candidate from science group in any of the boards. But from the social science group under the

Dhaka Board 68 private candidates came put successful out of 2005 and in Jessore Board it was 47 out of 683.

In the combined merit list of science group under the Dhaka Board Shibazi Sarker Rana of Government Laboratory High School stood first securing 942 marks with distinctions in eight subjects.

In the combined merit list of social science group under the same board Tania Rahman of Ideal School and College stood first securing 886 marks with distinctions in six subjects.

Among the female candidates under the Dhaka Board, Fahmida Nusrat of My-mensingh Girls Cadet College topped the merit list in science group securing 934 marks with distinctions in eight subjects while in social science group Tania Rahman of Ideal School topped the list securing 886 marks with distinctions in six subjects.

In the combined merit list of science group under the Jessore Board S K Mohammad Rokanuzzaman of Jhenidah Cadet College stood first securing 935 marks with distinctions in seven subjects.

In the combined merit list of social science group under the same board Ishita Rony of Barisal Government Girls High School stood first securing 877 marks with distinctions in five subjects.

Among the female candidates under science group Susmita Saha of Government Coronation Secondary Girls School topped the list securing 919 marks with distinctions in seven subjects.

# CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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