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## Inside Today

### Article

Politicians and  
Public Perception:  
The Need for  
Openness  
by Manzoor Hasan  
Page 4

### Focus

Today's Focus Page  
contains two articles  
— one on the power  
generation in Bangladesh  
and the other on the  
refugees seeking  
asylum in the United  
States and Canada  
Page 5

### International

Clinton advisers face  
Senate questions on  
Dhahran blast

World Court refuses to  
declare N-arms illegal  
Page 8

### Business

Bangladesh's exports to  
Netherlands increase  
considerably in 3 years

India's jute industry  
seems to be in  
perennial crisis  
Pages 6, 7

### DSE MARKET

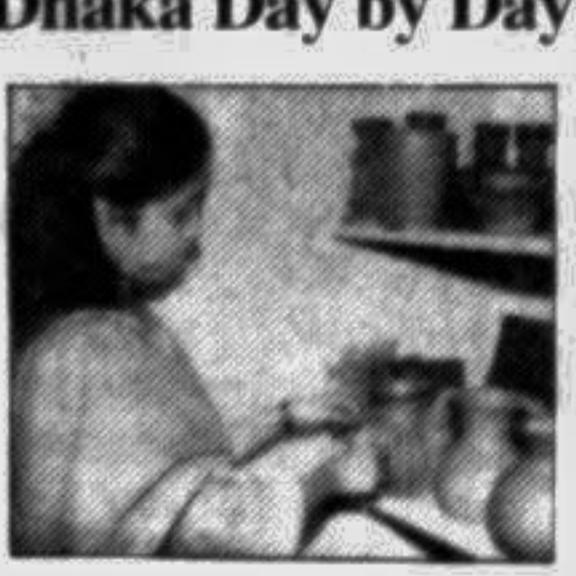
DSE price index 1047.03 (+0.21%)  
Market capital Tk 7109.27 cr  
Transactions in volume 400000  
Transactions in value Tk 12.05 cr

### CSE MARKET

CSE price index 445.79 (+2.14%)  
Market capital Tk 2011.87 cr  
Transactions in volume 16402  
Transactions in value Tk 1.09 cr

### Metropolitan

#### Dhaka Day by Day



A Source of Beauty  
Page 3

# Power shortfall to reach 450 MW in winter

By Sharier Khan

An Energy Ministry committee on power generation, transmission, distribution, load shedding and its solution forecast an 'inevitable' power shortfall of 450 MW in the coming winter, official sources said.

The committee headed by a joint secretary of the Energy Ministry recommended to the government to immediately initiate negotiations with private sector companies for setting up power plants, they added.

In its report, the committee comprising experts and officials of the Petrobangla and the Power Development Board (PDB) also suggested the government to augment gas production by drilling new wells where there are already proven reserves.

Currently, the power plants in the country are generating around 1800 MW against a peak demand exceeding 2000 MW.

According to PDB sources, some natural gas-based power plants were unable to go for optimum production due to short supply of gas.

The sources said that because of the huge demand for gas by the fertiliser factories, specially the KAFCO, the power plants were getting less gas supply.

Implementation of the Ashuganj-Bakrabrad pipeline project, which was initiated to improve the gas supply network in the country, has been delayed by a year, the sources pointed out.

"But our plants are also performing poorly," a PDB official said. "Even if we had the required gas supply to these plants, the power production could only reach 1975 MW, which is 25 MW less than the current demand."

Different private sector companies have expressed their keenness to undertake feasibility study for the 310 MW Meghnaghata power plant. But even if the study is undertaken immediately, it would take at least three years to complete the project, PDB sources pointed out.

British company Midland Power International will submit a feasibility report for a gas-based 110 MW power plant

later this month. It is conducting the study in Haripur.

Sources concerned pointed out that once agreement is signed between the Midland and the government, the company would set up a plant within 15 months.

Cairn Plc of Scotland, which discovered a huge gas field in February last in the shallow waters of the Bay of Bengal, will also submit a feasibility report for power plants after site survey in Baghabari, Haripur, Semutang and Barisal this month.

The Cairn has started its work to build platform, and plans a 50 km pipeline from the Shangui-1 well in Block-16 in the Bay. The company would submit its appraisal plan and development plan for the Shangui-1 well in December and declare it as commercial. The sources said.

The Cairn has also conducted a 1200 km-seismic survey for hydrocarbon reserves in Sandwip with "very optimistic outcome", the sources said adding, it would also conduct a 1100 km seismic

See Page 12 Col 2

and 151 third division.

The percentage of pass in the Science Group was 66.59 while it was 30.47 in the Social Science. In the Science Group, a total of 36,876 students sat for the examinations, of whom 24,554 passed. The cadet colleges captured nine, except the second place.

As many as 80,464 examinees appeared in the examinations under the board, of which 37,634 came out successful.

Of the successful candidates, 22,546 got first division, 15,137 second division

and 151 third division.

The percentage of pass in

the Science Group was 66.59

while it was 30.47 in the Social Science.

In the Science Group, a total of 36,876 students sat for the examinations, of whom 24,554 passed.

See Page 12 Col 6

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In the Science Group, a total of 36,876 students sat for the examinations, of whom 24,554 passed.

See Page 12 Col 6

## 47 pc pass Comilla Board SSC exams

# Cadet colleges yet again dominate merit list

By Staff Correspondent

The results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations, 1996 under the Comilla Education Board were published yesterday.

The percentage of pass was 47.02.

The cadet colleges yet again dominated the merit list.

Out of the top ten positions

First: Habib-e-Rasul

Second: Amita Bikram

Third: Kamrul Hasan

## Sudden credit growth in '95 mysterious: Kibria

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria yesterday questioned the economic achievements by the BNP government saying much of its claim does not reflect the true picture.

Speaking at a discussion meeting with members of the Economic Reporters Forum at the National Press Club, he alleged that there had been a mysterious increase in credits in the last year of the BNP government and said that much of the acclaimed domestic credit mobilisation was made by borrowing.

The finance minister pointed these out while noting a recent statement made by the secretary general of BNP Mannan Bhuiyan, blaming the AL government of mismanagement.

Kibria said there had been a sudden spurt in the growth of credit disbursement in the last year of the BNP government and questioned the quality and reason behind this sudden credit disbursement.

See Page 12 col 6

BARISAL, July 9: Three members of a family drowned when a passenger boat sank in the Arial Khan river in Babuganj thana of Barisal district yesterday afternoon. Babuganj thana police recovered the bodies of Rabeya Begum, 36, and her son Suman, 8, but failed to trace the body of her husband, Abdur Rashid. He is also feared dead.

According to police, the boat capsized and sank when it was caught by a storm.

### Ctg Board SSC results tomorrow

The results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations of the Chittagong Education Board will be announced tomorrow. Prof Ahsan Ullah, Chairman of the Board, disclosed this while talking to UNB over telephone today.

### Boat capsized: 3 of a family drown

BARISAL, July 9: Three members of a family drowned when a passenger boat sank in the Arial Khan river in Babuganj thana of Barisal district yesterday afternoon. Babuganj thana police recovered the bodies of Rabeya Begum, 36, and her son Suman, 8, but failed to trace the body of her husband, Abdur Rashid. He is also feared dead.

According to police, the boat capsized and sank when it was caught by a storm.

### CMC reopens

July 14

CHITTAGONG, July 9: The Chittagong Medical College (CMC) will reopen on July 14, a college press release said tonight. The decision was taken at a meeting of the academic council of the college today with Principal Syeda Nurjahan Bhuiyan in the chair. The hostels will be open to the students from July 13. The CMC was closed sine die on June 30 following clashes between rival groups of students.

The WB report titled "Pursuing Common Goals: Strengthening Relations Between Government and Development NGOs" was made available to

General Science merit list

By Staff Correspondent

The following is the combined merit list of the Comilla Board General Science group 96.

1st: Saad Habib-e-Rasul

Mullah, Sylhet Cadet College (932) - seven letters (E. M. G. IS. GS. AG-S. EM).

2nd: Amita Bikram Deb

Sylhet Govt Pilot High School (928) - seven letters (B. M. G. Hind GS. AG-S. EM).

3rd: Mohammad Kamrul

Social Science merit list on page 2

Hasan, Sylhet Cadet College (926) - seven letters (E. M. G. IS. GS. AG-S. EM).

4th: Md Golam Aminul

Mahbub Bhuiyan, Comilla Cadet College (919) - seven letters (E. M. G. IS. GS. AG-S. EM).

5th: Muhammad Sharif Ul-

Alam, Sylhet Cadet College (915) - seven letters (E. M. G. IS. GS. AG-S. EM).

6th: Md Ahsanul Hoque

Bhuiyan, Comilla Cadet College (912) - seven letters (B. M. G. IS. GS. AG-S. EM).

7th: Md Oliur Rahman

See Page 12 col 5

Giving out a comparative picture of credit growth, he said in 1991, it grew by 10.14 per cent, in 1992 by 7.25 per cent, in 1993 by 7.59 per cent, in 1994 by 3.84 per cent and in 1995 by 19.16 per cent.

"What is the mystery of this growth?" asked the finance minister. "Imagine how much of this loans will become bad debts. This abnormal jump in credit disbursement on the eve of the election. This was not done for the interest of the country. This answers the reason for inflation in the last year.

Kibria also said the reason for increased resource mobilisation in the ADP is failure of the BNP government in utilising foreign aid. The statement on domestic resource mobilisation is not objective."

The ADP was financed from local resource by borrowing he claimed saying this had increased the domestic debt of the government.

Kibria said there had been a sudden spurt in the growth of credit disbursement in the last year of the BNP government and questioned the quality and reason behind this sudden credit disbursement.

The WB report titled "Pursuing Common Goals: Strengthening Relations Between Government and Development NGOs" was made available to

## Top priority to ties with Riyadh, says Hasina

JEDDAH, July 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said that her government has initiated a move to give voting rights to the 60 lakh Bangladeshis working in Saudi Arabia and other foreign countries, reports BSS.

"My government is pondering very seriously on franchise to the Bangladeshis living abroad," Sheikh Hasina told Saudi Gazette in an exclusive interview.

The interview first ever to any Arab press since she took over the responsibility of the government was given at her Dhaka office and was published today on the front page with her photograph prominently.

Sheikh Hasina said her government gave top priority to Bangladesh's relations with Saudi Arabia and hoped that her current visit to the kingdom would "give a new sense of direction to the existing relations between Dhaka and Riyadh."

Sheikh Hasina said her government would take all possible steps to further consolidate and strengthen the relations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. "We will exchange ideas on issues of common Islamic, regional and international concern."

"We will encourage cooperation in the areas of investment, manpower training facilities, trade and commerce. See Page 12 Col 1



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was received by acting Governor of Makkah and Western region Prince Saud Bin Abdul Mohsin on her arrival at Jeddah. — PID Photo

## EC proposal to form electoral law reform commission soon

The Election Commission (EC) will soon put forward a proposal to the new government to form an electoral law reform commission for making the election rules suitable to present time and effective in the interest of fair election, reports UNB.

This was stated by Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena while inaugurating a workshop for district- thana election officials, TNOs, OCs and thana Ansar-VDP officers organised by the electoral training institute in the city yesterday.

The CEC mentioned that there were limitations and inadequacies in the existing election laws and rules. "Some fundamental changes should also be considered," he said.

Abu Hena called upon the officials to conduct the forthcoming by-elections in free, fair, impartial and transparent manner.

According to the Election Commission Secretariat, the by-elections in 16 vacated seats of parliament are likely to be held in the first week of September.

The CEC told the officials to keep themselves above all influences in holding the by-elections impartially and ensuring transparent voting.

He urged the officials to enforce the election rules and regulations strictly. "Only existence of laws is not enough... See Page 12 Col 2

## Shibir gheraoes CU VC's office

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 9: Several hundred Shibir activists gheraoed the office of the Vice Chancellor of the Chittagong University for five hours from 2 pm today