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VOL. VI NO. 171 REGD. NO. DA 781 ASHAR 28, 1403 BS, DHAKA FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1996 SAFAR 25, 1417 HIJRI 12 PAGES REGULAR PLUS MAGAZINE: PRICE TAKA 8.00

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DSE MARKET
DSE price index 1018.00 (+2.31%)
Market capital Tk. 5916.93 cr
Transactions in volume 59074
Transactions in value Tk. 16.02 cr

CSE MARKET
CSE price index 438.00 (+1.12%)
Market capital Tk. 3941.53 cr
Transactions in volume 33155
Transactions in value Tk. 84.32 lakh

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FM seeks cooperation of all parties Move to resolve Ganges issue before next lean period

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said the government was trying to resolve the outstanding issue of sharing of the Ganges water with India before the next lean period, reports UNB.

Addressing his first press conference after assumption of office of the Foreign Minister, Azad sought cooperation from all political parties, including BNP, to effectively take up the issue with India on the basis of national consensus.

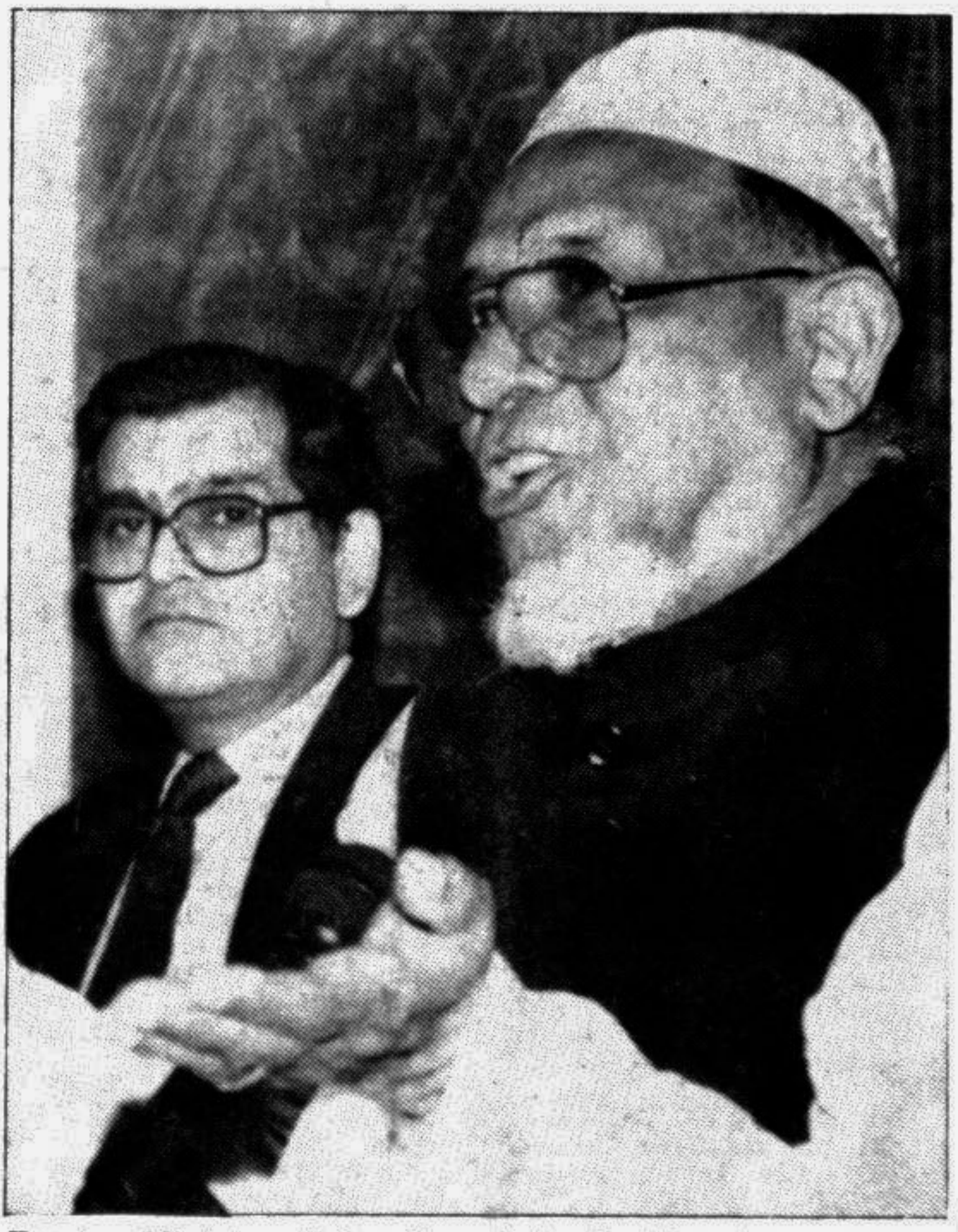
"Don't make it a political issue considering its importance," said Azad, who was also the Foreign Minister in the cabinet of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

About BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia's demand for 38,000 cusec water from the Ganges as a condition for solution of the problem, he said, "I don't understand why she demanded less quantum of water than the agreement we signed with India in the past for 44,000 cusec of water."

At the outset, the new Foreign Minister in a prepared statement narrated the main features of the foreign policy of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government.

"Our government will continue to pursue the same policy of friendship with all nations, without malice to any, which has been the bedrock of the foreign policy of Bangladesh since the very early days of her birth," he said.

Azad stressed the need for



Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad addressing a press conference at the ministry yesterday. — Star photo

Failure in June 12 polls BNP to investigate 'sabotage' by partymen

By Nazmul Ashraf

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has decided to form a committee to investigate the alleged acts of sabotage and non-cooperation by a section of the party leaders in the June 12 parliamentary elections.

The decision was taken at an extra-ordinary meeting of BNP candidates who lost the elections at the party's Kakrail office in the city yesterday, meeting sources said.

The decision followed allegations by the unsuccessful candidates that most of the party leaders who were denied nomination in the polls acted

Doors open for nationalists, says Khaleda

Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the small democratic and nationalist political parties to merge with the BNP for strengthening the politics of Bangladesh nationalism and patriotism, reports UNB.

"There are now two trends of politics in the country — one is democratic and nationalist and the other against it," the BNP chairperson said while addressing the meeting of 'aggrieved BNP candidates for the June 12 election'.

Some 18 out of 184 BNP candidates who failed to return attended the meeting and submitted their respective papers of allegation of rigging and various irregularities to the Legal Aid Committee of the party at the meeting.

The Leader of the Opposition said the doors of the BNP were wide open and it is now time for those forces and per-

44 pc pass Ctg Board SSC exams 31 students capture top 20 positions

By Staff Correspondent

The results of the Secondary School Certificate examinations 1996 held under the newly set up Chittagong Board was announced yesterday and the top position was again bagged by a cadet college student.

The percentage of pass was 44.20.

In the combined merit list of the Science Group, Abu Zafar Mohd Dayemullah of Fauzderhat Cadet College captured the first position (917 marks, 8 letters) and the institution occupied a total of eight positions in the list of top 20.

In total, 31 students secured positions in the top 20 merit list.

Aashna Yasmen Rahman of Ispahani Public High School, GPO Chittagong topped the Social Science merit list with 891 marks and 9 letters.

The Ispahani and Collegiate Schools of Chittagong secured seven positions each respectively in the top 20 merit list, while the Chittagong Government High School and Chittagong Public School and College secured two places each.

The Chittagong University

Evaluation of answer scripts Computerised system questioned again

By Mizan Ali

The computerised system of checking the answer scripts has been once again questioned by many of the parents and guardians of those who appeared in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations of 1996 under Dhaka Board but could not come out successful.

Board officials, however, said that the evaluation of scripts was made on the basis of predetermined criteria.

Secretary of the Ministry of Education Abdullah Harun Pasha, when contacted, said that there was no way to help them out as 'that was also a part of the examination'.

He, however, said that he had issued instructions to the Board officials to take necessary action against those investigators who failed to detect the mistake of the examinees in not writing the set code correctly.

Another official of the Education Ministry, when contacted, said, how could a new system be introduced for the same examination after the publication of the results.

Some officials of the ministry said that there were various recommendations for re-

Body to probe DMC incident

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Medical College (DMC) authorities have formed a committee to investigate the incident of violence during the Golden Jubilee celebrations on the campus on Wednesday.

The three-member committee has been asked to submit its report within three days.

The DMC was closed for an indefinite period after a series of clashes between the activists of pro-Awami League Chhatra League and pro-BNP Jatvatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) during the lunch break of the

Nasim, 6 others banned from entering cants

Former army chief Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim and six other senior army officers, who were earlier dismissed by the President, were recently banned from entering the cantonment areas, according to Probe news agency.

The ban was imposed through a circular by the Army Headquarters recently, it said.

According to the order, those ex-army officers would not be allowed to enter into Dhaka Cantonment as well as any other cantonment area of the country.

They will also be prevented from going to meet their relatives living in cantonment areas, the circular said.

The other army officers are Maj Gen (dismissed) Anuddin, Maj Gen (dismissed) Helal Morshed, Brig (dismissed) Abu Baker, Brig (dismissed) Saif Mahbub, Brig (dismissed) Miron Hamidur Rahman and Brig (dismissed) Fazlur Rahman.

PM tells Bangladeshis in Jeddah Wage earners to get investment facilities

JEDDAH, July 11: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the Bangladeshi expatriates here to make their best contributions for country's economic development and said that necessary facilities would be provided to them for investment at home, reports BSS.

She was addressing the Bangladeshis in Jeddah who accorded her a reception yesterday on her election victory and assumption of the head of the new government of Bangladesh.

Held at the Hotel International here, the reception was also addressed by Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury while Mosharraf Hossain, Md Anwarul Haq and Kazi Amir Ahmed spoke on behalf of the Bangladeshi community.

Lauding the role of the Bangladeshi expatriates, the Prime Minister said that the wage earners could help a lot the national economy by investing their hard-earned money in positive and potential sectors in the country.

The Prime Minister said that her government would establish cordial and fruitful relations with neighbours and all Muslim countries including Saudi Arabia.

Referring to her meeting with King Fahd Tuesday night at Al-Salam Palace, Sheikh Hasina said that the King had assured her of all kinds of co-operation for the development of Bangladesh.

Turning back to the various problems of the Bangladeshi expatriates, the Prime Minister said that her government was quite aware of the genuine problems of the Bangladeshi living abroad and assured them that those problems would be solved in phases.

The Prime Minister said necessary measures would be taken so that nobody was harassed while seeking jobs abroad. She urged them to be respectful to the laws of the land where they are working and render their services to enhance the images of the country.

Earlier in the morning, the Prime Minister addressed the officials, employees and their

Kibria, Merrill talk financial reform programme

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria and US Ambassador David N Merrill held a meeting here yesterday discussing the just concluded financial reform programme, reports UNB.

The Financial Sector Reform Programme, aided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and carried out by the Bangladesh Bank, ended last month.

An official announcement said they also discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral issues during the meeting held at the Finance Ministry. USAID Director Richard M Brown was present.

The meeting discussed the need for human resource development with local and foreign training in order to infuse dynamism in the banking

ALPP may take important decisions tomorrow

By Reaz Ahmad

The Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) meeting tomorrow is likely to be a very important one before the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad goes into its maiden session on the following day, July 14.

Prime Minister and leader of the ALPP Sheikh Hasina, who returns from her first foreign trip to Saudi Arabia this morning, would find only a day to think over some important matters before chairing Saturday's meeting of the parliamentary party scheduled for 10:30 am.

According to sources in the party, other than choosing the Speaker, Deputy Speaker of the House, Deputy Leader of the ALPP and four whips of the ruling party in Parliament, Sheikh Hasina might consider further expansion of her yet relatively small-sized council of ministers.

Besides, a preliminary discussion may take place at the ALPP meeting on Awami League's choice for the election of a new president of the country. President Abdur Rahman Biswas' tenure ends in October next and an election for the presidency is expected to be held sometime in August, the sources said.

Well-placed party sources indicated that former Foreign Minister and a newly elected MP, Humayun Rashid Chowdhury is likely to replace Shaikh Razzak Ali as the new Speaker. Advocate Abdul Hamid, MP, and Rahmat Ali, MP, are also being considered for the office of Deputy Speaker, the sources said.

The sources further hinted that if Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad is not chosen by Sheikh Hasina as her deputy in the ALPP, prospects of Tofael Ahmed or Abdul Mannan would

DU student leaders pledge peace on campus

Student leaders yesterday pledged that they would play role in maintaining peace on the Dhaka University campus for normal academic activity, reports UNB.

The assurance came in a meeting between the leaders of major student organisations and Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed at the Administrative Building in the afternoon.

The student leaders discussed the campus situation and came into consensus that the student organisations would help the authorities maintain a peaceful atmosphere in the present political context.

All the student organisations also agreed to play effective role in stopping the roaming of non-students, armed musclemen and terrorists on the university campus, including residential halls.

The police administration

39pc pass RB SSC exams

By Staff Correspondent

The results of the SSC Examination, 1996 under the Rajshahi Education Board were published yesterday.

The combined percentage of pass was 38.86.

A total of 1,26,234 students appeared at the Secondary School Certificate Examinations of whom 49,050 came out successful.

The number of male students was 76,140 and the percentage of pass was 39.70. The number of female students was 50,094 and their percentage of pass was 37.58.

Abinash Roy of Bogra Zila School stood first in the combined merit list of Science group. He got 940 marks with letters in seven subjects.

Sheela Sarker of Government Girls' High School stood first in the combined merit list of Social Science group with 877 marks. She obtained six letters.



SSC examinees and their guardians brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting irregularities in results. — Star photo

Percentage of pass in SSC exams falls due to abolition of QB system

The percentage of pass in the SSC examinations under all the education boards remarkably declined as the question bank system was abolished from the current year, reports UNB.

Only 42.61 per cent candidates came out successful in the 1996 Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations held under five education boards. The percentage of pass was 73.20 per in 1995.

Official sources said 4,64,267 students appeared in the examinations this year under the five education boards. Of them, 1,97,811 succeeded.

In 1995, the total number of students appeared under four education boards — Dhaka, Comilla, Rajshahi and Jessore — was 7,65,135. Of them 5,60,114 had passed the examinations.

The newly set up Chittagong Education Board started its functioning from this year.

Board officials as well as the school teachers attributed the sharp fall in percentage of pass to the abolition of question bank system.

The number of examinees also came down this year compared with the previous years due to the same reason, they said.

The announcement of SSC examination results were completed with publishing the results of Chittagong and Rajshahi boards yesterday.

A total of 1,38,400 students sat for the SSC examinations under Dhaka Board this year. Of them, 58,411 came out successful putting the percentage of pass at 42.20.

In 1995, a total of 1,75,453 students out of the appeared 2,35,829 candidates had passed the examinations under the Dhaka Board. The pass percentage was 74.40.

This year, the number of appeared students under Comilla Board was 80,464, of them 37,834 succeeded. The percentage of pass is 47.02.

In 1995, a total of 1,42,062 candidates out of 1,89,605, appeared students came out successful under Comilla Board, putting the pass percentage at 74.93.

In 1996, a total of 1,26,234 students participated in the SSC examinations under Rajshahi Board. Of them, 49,050 passed the examinations and the percentage of pass was 38.86.

In the previous year, the percentage of pass under the board was 71.90. The number of appeared and successful candidates were 1,97,334 and 1,41,888 respectively.

The figure of Jessore Board is: 1996, appeared 74,951, passed 32,971 and pass percentage 43.99. 1995, appeared 1,42,367, passed 1,00,711 and pass percentage 70.74.

A total of 44,218 students took part in the SSC examinations under the newly launched Chittagong Board this year. Of them, 19,545 came out successful and the pass percentage was 44.20.

This year, the highest 47.02 per cent students passed under Comilla Board while the lowest 38.86 per cent under Rajshahi Board.

In 1995, the Comilla Board topped the position with 74.93 percentage of pass while the Jessore Board scored the lowest with 70.74 per cent.

Suranjit PM's parliamentary affairs adviser

Star Report

Awami League leader Suranjit Sen Gupta has been named Parliamentary Affairs Adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The appointment was officially announced yesterday. "I will be happy to serve the nation in this new capacity" said Gupta, who became a member of the AL presidium on July 1.

Suranjit Sen Gupta failed to return in the June 12 election