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## WEEKEND MAGAZINE



The Star Weekend Magazine explores the prospects of sustainable farming methods to avoid an environmental catastrophe. Besides the regular features, read the Special Report on Nafis Sadik Kanak's murder and Bangladesh in the Olympics.

—Editor



Shantinagar Road in the city after yesterday's rain.

—Star photo

## Minister tells Jatiya Sangsad Standard of edn fell due to lack of policy in 21 years

By Staff Correspondent

Education Minister A S H K Sadek informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that a national education policy with vision was now being formulated and it would not lose its relevance even in 50 years from now.

He said absence of an education policy for long 21 years resulted in a fall in the standard of education in the country. "Those who got educated during the period were deprived of quality education. Our rate of literacy is lower than that in our neighbouring countries and I fear that in the near future we will be faced with shortage of teachers capable of teaching science subjects properly," said the minister.

During question-hour in yesterday's sitting of the House the education minister replied to a good number of starred questions and supplementaries.

He, however, declined to say when the new education policy would be ready. The main thrust of the policy would be on science and technology, he noted.

The minister told the House that the government was now conducting a survey to collect data relating to education and to know which educational institutions, nationalised by the previous government, were still lacking adequate academic facilities.

Replying to a supplementary question from Awami League lawmaker A S M Feroj, the minister said all con-

## JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury took some time to understand the 'bidhi' (rule) mentioned by Treasury bench lawmaker Mohibur Rahman during disposal of notices in yesterday's sitting of the Jatiya Sangsad.

"Under which 'bidhi' (rule) you want to speak?" the Speaker asked Rahman after giving him the floor.

The Speaker failed to understand the ruling party legislator who replied, "Amar bidhi baam (my luck is bad)".

As the Chair repeated his question, a smiling Mohibur Rahman said, "I can't find the bidhi".

All the lawmakers burst into laughter when the backbencher clarified, "For the first time I've been elected. But I'm unable to sit on the seat given to me. The seat is damaged and I'm now sitting on another's seat."

"Is the leg of your seat broken?" the Speaker asked the MP who replied, "Yes, it has been lame."

"Sottjee Apnar bidhi baam (Really it's your back luck)".

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## DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1126.89 (+1.52%)  
Market capital Tk 7731.14 cr  
Transactions in volume 687296  
Transactions in value Tk 15.30 cr

## CSE MARKET

CSE price index 471.89 (+0.58%)  
Market capital Tk 4297.73 cr  
Transactions in volume 24940  
Transactions in value Tk 3529690 cr

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## NEWS BRIEFS

**JS session adjourned till 10 am tomorrow**

Parliament session was adjourned till 10 am tomorrow. Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury announced the adjournment at 10 pm yesterday reports UNB.

## Concern over increasing trade gap Dhaka seeks access to N-E Indian market

NEW DELHI, Aug 8: India and Bangladesh discussed a territorial dispute over common rivers and Bangladesh's yawning trade gap with its giant neighbour in high-level talks today, officials said, reports agencies.

The two neighbours continued their talks on outstanding bilateral issues for the second day today.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, who is leading the Bangladesh delegation at the talks, today raised a number of points about Bangladesh's concern over the increasing trade gap when he called on Indian Minister of State for Commerce B B Ramiah.

He urged the minister for giving Bangladesh zero tariff access and lifting market barriers which, he said, India has been promising for the last several years, a member of the delegation told BSS.

During the meeting Sobhan pointed out that Bangladesh has virtually given free market access to India in the natural course of liberalisation but, he said, in return Bangladesh has not yet got anything.

He pleaded for giving access to Bangladesh goods particularly in the market of

north-east India and added that Bangladesh encouraged Indian industrial investment in Bangladesh with buy-back arrangement with preferential tariff concession.

During the meeting, the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary hoped that the Indian government would take immediate measures to remove the impediments to Bangladesh's exports to India with the imposition of countervailing duty levied by Indian Customs on a number of Bangladesh exports, a spokesman said.

The Indian Commerce Minister assured Sobhan that

he would give necessary directives to quickly attend to all the concerns of Bangladesh, the spokesman added. The Bangladesh side during the meeting also handed over to the minister a short list of items of particular interest to Bangladesh on which India could announce immediate concessions.

During the meeting Sobhan conveyed Bangladesh Minister for Commerce and Industry Tofael Ahmed's invitation to his Indian counterpart to visit Bangladesh in September to strengthen contact between

them.

Farooq Sobhan opened the secretary-level talks here with his Indian counterpart, Salman Haider yesterday.

"They (the foreign secretaries) spoke about trade and water. Bangladesh is keen to balance the trade," an Indian foreign ministry spokesman told Reuters by telephone.

Yearly exports to India by Bangladesh stand at just 50 million dollars, while it imports around 1.0 billion dollars in Indian goods, the spokesman said.

Several thorny bilateral issues have been raised, including the question of common waters in the Ganges river, which originates in India and is known as Padma in Bangladesh.

India releases excess water at a barrage during the rainy monsoons, causing floods, while holding back water in the dry season.

The changing water levels cause serious problems for navigation, irrigation and the environment in Bangladesh. The spokesman said Indian foreign minister Inder Kumar Gujral was likely to visit Bangladesh in September to strengthen contact between

## Case against baby IO suspended for negligence of duty

Star Report

A police Sub-inspector was suspended yesterday in connection with naming a two-year-old boy in the charge-sheet of a case on land dispute and extortion lodged with Tejgaon thana in the city in May 1994.

At the age of four, two years after the case was filed, the boy Maksudul Hasan Masud, son of Ali Hossain of Halmchar thana under Chandpur district, surrendered before the Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on Wednesday in the lap of his father as warrant of arrest had been issued against him. The court granted him bail against a surety of Tk 1,000.

## 15 more firearms surrendered

Fifteen firearms with some ammunition were surrendered yesterday, slightly raising response to the government-declared amnesty for illegal arms holders, reports UNB.

With these, the number of total surrendered arms rose to 17. On the first day of the four-day amnesty, son of an MP in Narsingdi surrendered two firearms.

Official sources said the surrendered arms and ammunition included seven pipeguns, three country-made guns, two revolvers, two pistols, one shattergun and 10 rounds of bullet and cartridges.

The breakup of arms surrender is as follows: three pipeguns, one country-made gun and one pistol in Narsingdi Sadar, two pipeguns and one pistol in Mirpur thana of

## BA 37pc : BSc 47 pc : BCom 48 pc Degree exam results published

The results of the Degree (Pass) examinations of 1995, held under National University for the first time in 1996, were published yesterday, reports UNB.

The percentages of pass in arts, social sciences, commerce and science groups are: 37.47 (BA), 38.43 (BSS), 47.71 (BCom) and 46.74 (BSc).

The pass percentages in Certificate Course Examinations and Bachelor of Music (BMus) are 40.20 and 35.29 respectively.

A total of 1,81,135 students, including 49,015 females, from 645 Degree colleges appeared in the examinations in 429 centres across the country.

Of them, 1,20,220 students appeared in BA (Pass) examinations and 45,055 came out successful. Seventy of them got First Class, 19,625 Second Class and 25,360 Third Class.

Abul Barakat Mohammad Fakhruddin, a private examinee from Jessore MM College centre, stood first in BA obtaining 664 marks.

In BSS (Pass) examinations, 12,415 students passed, out of 32,303 appeared. Of them, only one secured First Class, 4,552 Second Class and 7,862 Third Class.

M Abdul Kabir of Chittagong College stood first in BSS securing 601 marks.

A total 19,947 students appeared in the BCom (Pass) examinations, of which 9,517 came out successful. Nine of them were placed in First Class, 3,993 in Second Class and 5,515 in Third Class.

Nahid Ismail of Siddheswar Degree College topped the merit list of BCom securing 671 marks.

In BSc (Pass) examinations, 2,916 students passed, out of 6,238 appeared. Of them, 66 obtained First Class, 2,170 Second Class and 680 Third Class.

Edlin De Cruz of Tejgaon College stood first in BSc obtaining 661 marks.

## Kalpna Chakma now in Tripura, claims BHRC

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) yesterday claimed that the "so called" abduction of Kalpna Chakma was done under a pre-planned plot by her own people.

In a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, representatives of the BHRC, who prepared a report on the basis of

## Bill seeking ban on retd, fired govt officials contesting polls rejected

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday rejected the introduction of a private member's bill, The Representation of the People (amendment) Bill, 1996, reports BSS.

The bill proposed by BNP member Major (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed sought to debar a retired government officer or an officer terminated from the job for misconduct or for corruption from contesting the Jatiya Sangsad election for a period ranging from three to five years.

When the BNP member got permission from the Speaker to seek introduction of his bill, State Minister for Law Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru raised objection to introduction of the bill saying that it was a

**BNP's 5-point proposal turned down**

By Staff Correspondent

Parliamentary Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister Suranjit Sengupta has brushed aside the five-point BNP proposal put forward by Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury and said "parliamentary affairs are not trade unionism."

Exchanging views with newsmen at his office in the

## Field survey for uranium in Sylhet region begins soon

By Iqbal Siddiquee

An extensive field survey would be launched soon in the north-eastern region of Sylhet to explore the existence of uranium ores, a high official of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) said yesterday.

BAEC took up the survey programme with an estimated expenditure of Tk 1.5 crore from the government's own fund last year. The survey began last winter but for only two weeks, it had to be suspended due to various reasons. It would start again in the coming winter, the official added.

Dr M A Wazed Miah, Member, Physical Science, BAEC, while talking to The Daily Star, said nothing can be predicted now about the existence of quality uranium in the Radioactive Anomalous Zone in Sylhet region.

According to preliminary studies, there is a minimum possibility of having quality grade uranium ores in the region but those may be found at a greater depth where extraction will not be viable, he pointed out.

Dr Wazed said the field survey which began last winter could not proceed properly due to non-cooperation by the Geological Survey Department, which was also involved with the task. He however, hoped that the department would extend assistance during the field survey in the coming winter.

It may be pointed out here that the BAEC held a seminar on Mineralogical Tests of uranium ore samples from Canada and Bangladesh in Dhaka on June 4, 1994.

Dr Euzus Akon, a senior geologist of the BAEC, referring to the tests carried out at a laboratory in Japan, said at the seminar high grade uranium ores have been discovered at Fullala in Hararganj of Moulvibazar. Thorianite and uranothorine ores were confirmed after mineralogical tests of the sample taken from "Radioactive Anomalous Zone" in the region, he noted.

The Fullala Radioactive zone was discovered in 1985 by the scientists of BAEC under the Uranium and Thorium Exploration Project, which was started at the initiative of the government in 1976. But work on the project was abruptly suspended by the government in 1986 when a high grade uranium ore was detected at Fullala, sources concerned pointed out.

In 1992 the government revived the project and some scientists from the BAEC went to Japan under the Scientists Exchange Programme between

## Ticket selling agents evicted from ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAA) yesterday evicted the ticket selling agents from the Zia International Airport (ZIA) under a court order and took control of the ticket selling business itself, officials said.

Haffar Enterprise, a private agency took lease of the ticket selling for the Prantik Bhaban for financial year 1995-96 and its leasing period ended on June 30.

But Haffar obtained a status quo order till September from the court on the ground that it had lost revenue on account of the political unrest.

Following an appeal by the

## Demonstrate tolerance during by-polls, CEC urges parties

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena, said in Dhaka yesterday that the Election Commission was fully committed to hold the September 5 by-elections to 15 vacant seats of the Jatiya Sangsad in a free, fair and impartial atmosphere.

In an interview with BSS at the Election Commission Secretariat Abu Hena said that the Commission had already taken all necessary steps in this regard.

He urged the contesting candidates and political parties to follow the Election Code of Conduct, demonstrate tolerance to other's views and maintain mutual respect.

Replying to a question whether there might be any difficulty in enforcing the Election Code of Conduct in the light a party government in power at present, the Chief Election Commissioner said that the enforcement of Election Code of Conduct does not depend on the nature of government in power. The Code of Conduct is obligatory on the part of all political parties, leaders and workers, he said.

In reply to another question, Abu Hena said since there are scopes to utilize different state facilities by the party in power, so the Election Commission must be alert against the abuse of the government facilities.

In this connection, the CEC said that either the government or the opposition parties must not make any commitment of taking any development projects in the constituencies where by-elections are taking place.

The use of state-run media, government officers and employees and public transport by the contesting candidates and political parties are banned since the announcement of the election schedule and all concerned must refrain from using state facilities, he said.

Replying to a question regarding maintenance of law and order during the by-elections, Abu Hena said it was imperative to take adequate and effective measures to ensure law and order in the interest of holding a free, fair and impartial election.

He said necessary instructions

## Two school boys missing

By Staff Correspondent

Two students of Motijheel Ideal School in the city have been missing since yesterday morning when they were going to school.

The two were identified as Utkarsh Alam Evan, 14, son of Shaiful Alam of 404/B, Malibagh Chowdhurypara, and Golam Mostafa Sumon, 14, son of Md. Aminuddin of 1096/1, Malibagh. Both started for school from Evan's residence in a rickshaw at about 11:30 am, family sources said.

Both were wearing white shirts and blue trousers. Their Teachers said they did not turn up at the school.

A general diary has been filed with Shabujbagh thana. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the missing boys have been requested to contact their families or call them over telephone no 839845.

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