

SSC exams of Eng I, II Apr 8 & 10

The examinations of SSC English first paper essay type only and English second paper (objective and essay type) will be held in the morning of April 8 and 10 respectively, an official handout said yesterday. reports BSS.

The decision to reschedule the dates of the examinations of English first and second papers was taken at an emergency meeting held at the Ministry of Education. The practical examinations will be held as per earlier schedule, the handout said.

The meeting with Education Minister ASHK Sadeq yesterday decided to take tough measures against unfair means adopted during the examinations in some centres.

UNB adds: Education Minister ASHK Sadeq yesterday said the government would take drastic action against the officials and teachers involved in the leakage of SSC question papers.

Talking to some journalists at his Gulshan residence in the evening, he said actions would be taken immediately on the basis of enquiry reports by the probe committees and CID.

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DSE price index falls by 86pts

By Staff Correspondent

The major market indicators of the Dhaka Stock Exchange dipped further yesterday with the All Share Price Index declining by over 86 points or seven per cent.

The DSE price index declined to 1153.62 points yesterday from the previous days 1240 points. The market capitalisation was down by Tk 672 crore and closed at Tk 8,960.08 crore from Tk 9,632.16 crore.

Prices of 108 issues suffered losses while only 9 gained out of 119 traded issues.

However, the volume and value of the day's transaction increased by 24 per cent and 15 per cent respectively over the previous days position as more than 3.03 lakh shares and debentures valued at Tk 7.06 crore changed hands against the trading of 2.44 lakh scripts valued at Tk 6.16 crore on the previous day.

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Prospectus

Today's 16-page issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page prospectus on Rahima Food Corporation Ltd' Pages 13-16

Welcome, Mandela, Arafat, Demirel

By Staff Correspondent

Warm welcome will be accorded to three world leaders who arrive here today to attend the state functions of the Silver Jubilee of independence.

President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and President Nelson Mandela of the Republic of South Africa will fly in the city this afternoon on three-day state visits.

The state functions will be held tomorrow.

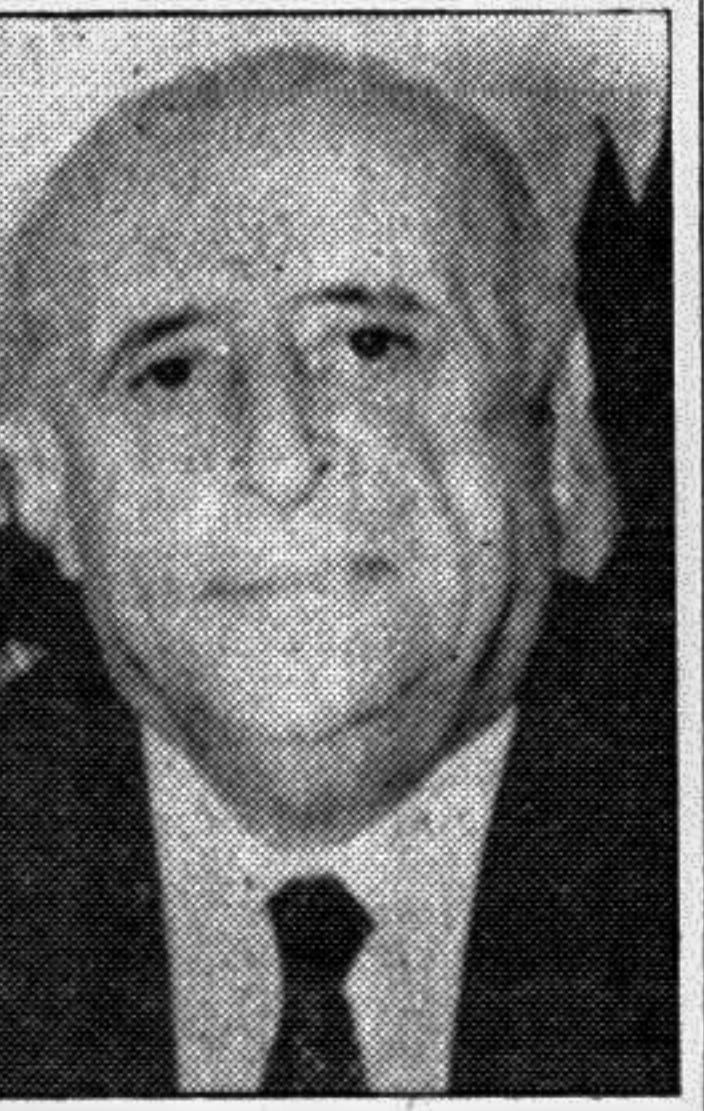
Four jets of the Bangladesh Air Force will separately escort



Nelson Mandela



Yasser Arafat



Suleyman Demirel

Stage is set for the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the country's independence on March 26, reports BSS.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh in the wake of an all-out attack by Pakistani troops on unarmed civilians in Dhaka and other parts of the country on the night of March 25, 1971.

Bangladesh was liberated on December 16, 1971 following the surrender of the occupation forces after a nine-month long Independence War, which claimed three million lives.

The government has taken elaborate preparations to celebrate the country's independence anniversary and national day in a befitting manner.

'Blacknight' of March 25

Last post will be played for five minutes at different points of Dhaka city at 12 midnight to night by bugle parties of Army, Navy, Airforce, BDR, Police and Ansars, to mark the 'black night' of March 25, 1971.

However, there will be no countrywide blackout at zero hour which was scheduled earlier, a press release of the Armed Forces Division of the Prime Minister's Office said last night.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will issue separate messages on the occasion of Independence and

National Day — March 26, according to UNB.

The day will be a public holiday.

National flag will be hoisted atop at all government and private buildings and establishments. Main roads and road islands in the city will be decorated with miniature flags and bunting.

Commemorating the martyrs of the Liberation War, President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lay wreaths at the National Mausoleum at Savar.

Wreaths will also be placed on the portrait of country's independence leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Museum at Dhanmondi in the city at

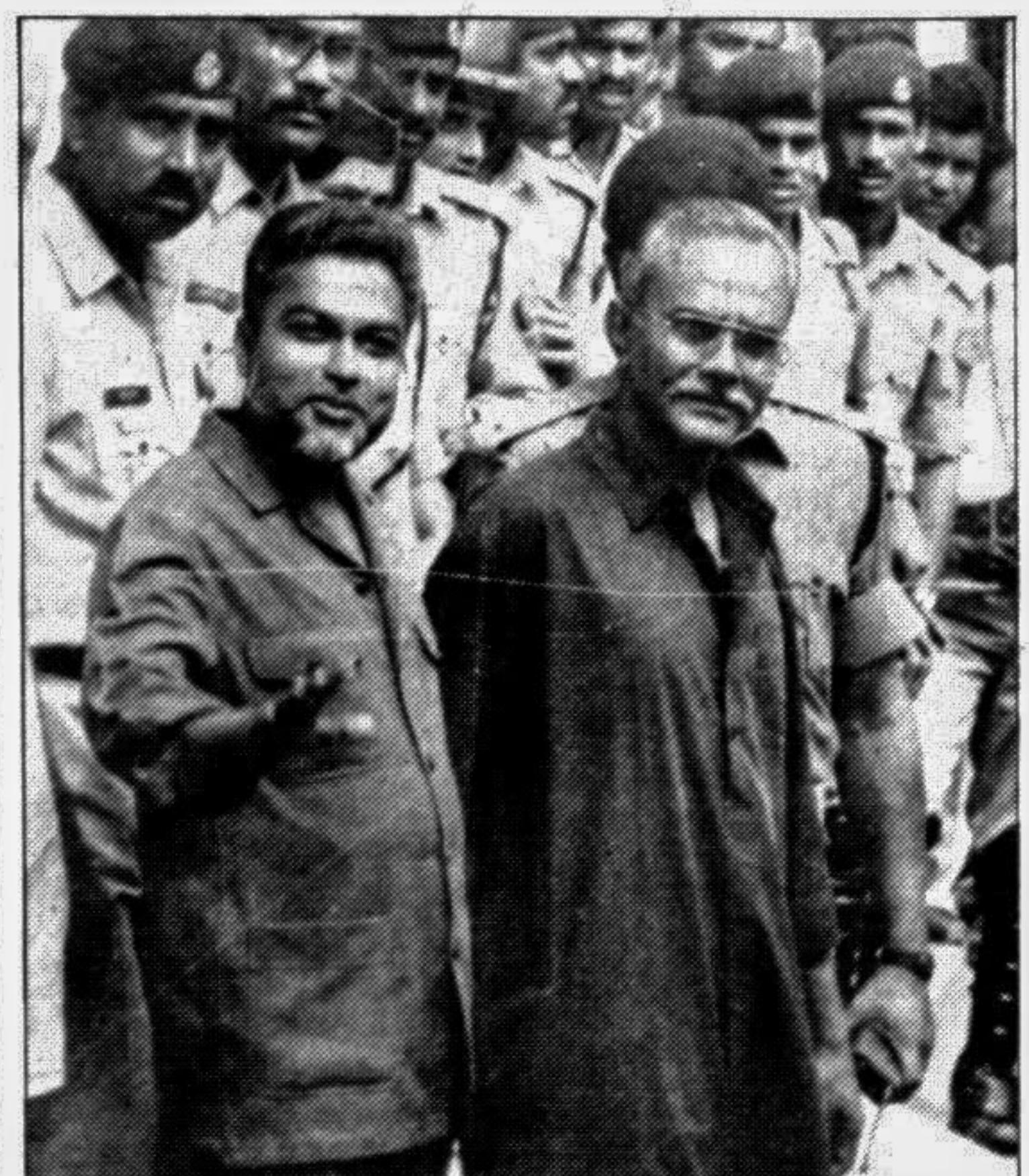
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last night.

Police said they were wanted in connection with a number of criminal cases including murder.

Bangabandhu murder case

Charge-framing deferred to Apr 6



Col (retd) Shahriar (L) and Col (retd) Farooq — accused in Bangabandhu murder case — were produced before court yesterday.

— Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

The charge-framing of the Bangabandhu murder case was deferred to April 6 after yesterday's proceedings at the court of District and Sessions Judge.

The date was shifted as the defence lawyers of the six arrested submitted before the court for supply of certified copies of statements of witnesses which were recorded under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), before the framing of the charges.

Special Public Prosecutor Serajul Haq informed the court that the necessary papers were supplied to the authorities concerned in time.

But he admitted that preparation of 25 copies of the necessary papers and documents was not possible within a short time.

After hearing both the defence and the prosecution sides, judge Kazi Golam Rasul rescheduled the date for charge framing.

The court, in its previous sitting on March 12, had fixed yesterday for the framing of charge.

One of the accused, former Military officer Mohiuddin, was allowed to see his family for 10 minutes before he was being taken to jail after he was produced before the court.

In their second group match, Bangladesh will meet West Africa at the PKNS ground today.

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Bangladeshis in US worried as tougher immigration law takes effect Apr 1

NEW YORK, Mar 24: With a new US immigration law set to take effect from April 1, New York's huge immigrant community is facing its worst crisis, reports UNB.

Many of them are worried that they will be asked to leave the country with no legal recourse at their disposal to challenge such an order. Bangladeshis will be among those to be seriously affected.

The immigration law passed last year by the US Congress and signed by President Clinton in an election

year, makes it hard for many immigrants to stay in this country and find jobs legally.

It makes equally difficult for many legal immigrants to sponsor their close relatives unless they meet certain requirements.

Immigrants who are allowed to live and work in the US while their applications for legal status are being processed now have six months to straighten their documents. The clock begins ticking for them from April 1 and it will stop on September 30.

The New York Times, quoting US immigration officials said last week, legal immigrants and citizens wanting to

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Govt to appoint some woman joint secys

The government has decided to appoint some women officials to the post of joint secretaries on contractual basis or deputation from the President's 10 per cent quota for a two-year term, reports BSS.

An official handout said the woman would be selected from those who are working in different ministries, divisions and autonomous bodies, organisations and offices under the government.

The officials who are working in the 7800-9000 taka scale will be selected for the proposed posts.

Indian team due today to see repatriation arrangements

All arrangements have almost been finalised for repatriation of 6,700 Bangladeshi Chakma refugees from camps in Indian state of Tripura in the first phase, officials in Dhaka said yesterday, reports UNB.

Preparations are underway for repatriation of another batch of the refugees within a month, they said, adding that adequate security and proper rehabilitation measures have been taken for the returnees.

Refugees who will be returning from two points — Ramgarh and Tabalchhari — will be re-

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Double murder: Two arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were picked up by police in connection with the killing of two young men on Saturday in Motijheel.

Without giving further detail, the duty officer at Motijheel thana said that the two had been taken into custody late Sunday night for interrogation.

Shishir and Amal were gunned down by an unidentified gang inside the office of a private recruiting agency, Metro Trade International, located at Motijheel Commercial Area in the city on Saturday evening.

3 BCL leaders arrested in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 24: Three Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders including the general secretary of MES college students union were arrested by Detective Branch police last night.

Police said they were wanted in connection with a number of criminal cases including murder.

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ICC TROPHY



Bangladesh beat Argentina by five wickets

Bangladesh beat Argentina by five wickets in the ICC Trophy in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, the opening day of the meet, reports UNB.

Naimur Rahman Durjy hit a breezy 53 off 43 balls as a make-shift opener, helping Bangladesh to reach 142 for five in 24 overs to overhaul Argentina's modest 138 in the Group B opener at the University ground.

The 21-year-old right-handed batsman was also successful with his off-spin claiming three for 21.

In their second group match, Bangladesh will meet West Africa at the PKNS ground today.

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Autonomy Commission recommendations Proposal likely for placing Betar, BTV under special JS body

By Reaz Ahmad

The state-run electronic media — Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television (BTV) — should be made accountable to a special parliamentary committee instead of the Ministry of Information.

This is likely to be included

as one of the major recommendations of the government appointed Radio, TV Autonomy Commission includes making suggestions for autonomy, bringing dynamism, qualitative improvement in radio and TV programmes, enhancing administrative discipline and openning private TV channels.

M Asafuddowla further explained that the three basic points of the code of conduct would be: A) Nation's independence, sovereignty and cultural integrity, B) Propriety and decorum and C) Plugging the loopholes for propagating party-ideology.

News value guideline would

be the most important portion of the report, he said. "We will recommend for discontinuing the 'protocol value' that often superseded news value. TV camera will not necessarily move to a spot just because of the Prime Minister's presence or a minister cutting ribbons, rather news will be covered based on its importance in national interest."

Asafuddowla, also the Chairman of Sonali Bank and a renowned musician, disclosed that "in our report, there will be recommendations for higher pay-scale, fees and royalties, provision for production-on-contract like package drama, recruiting in 10 roving correspondents in Dhaka and ENG (electronic news gathering) units in each greater districts".

Six chapters of the Commission's report would dwell on:

Background: a brief on TOR (terms of reference); existing condition of Betar and BTV; financial and Administrative Rules; what these should be; code of conduct. Of these, four chapters have already been prepared while the remaining two chapters are being prepared.

Recently, the Commission members had exchanges of views with some experts from BBC, Voice of America (VOA) and NHK of Japan. Meanwhile, UNDP agreed to provide fund for arranging Commission members' visits to the headquarters of NHK, BBC, Doordarshan and

mission to monitor radio and TV programmes on a weekly basis, a code of conduct, a news value guideline and drastic economic and administrative reforms.

The Commission Chairman told this correspondent last week that the terms of reference (TOR) of the Commission includes making suggestions for autonomy, bringing dynamism, qualitative improvement in radio and TV programmes, enhancing administrative discipline and openning private TV channels.

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