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68.20 pc pass Dakhil Examinations

Results of Dakhil Examinations, 1997 held under Bangladesh Madrassah Education Board were published yesterday, reports BSS. A total of 1,04,641 students appeared in the examinations from four groups - General, Science, Mujabid and Hizful Quran. Of them, 71,367 came out successful, the pass percentage is 68.20. Of the successful candidates, 22,590 got first division, 44,823 second division and 3,954 third division. Mohammad Morshed Alam of Dhamoti Islamiya Kamil Madrassah, Comilla, (Roll No 6728 science) topped the combined merit list securing 894 marks. He got letter marks in eight subjects. Mohammad Fakhrul Islam of Doulatganj Gazimura Kamil Madrassah, Comilla, (Roll No 6921 science) got the second position securing 886 marks with letters in eight subjects while Mohammad Delwar Hossain of Dhamoti Islamiya Kamil Madrassah, Comilla, (Roll No 6730 science) stood third in the merit list securing 878 marks with letter marks in six subjects. A total of 7,418 students appeared from the science group. Of them 3,794 got first division, 2,447 second division and 60 third division. The percentage of pass is 84.94. In the General Group, 64,322 candidates out of 96,019 came out successful. The percentage of pass is 66.99. Of the successful candidates, 18,552 got first division, 41,892 second division and 3,878 third division. Mohammad Harunur Rashid of Noly Charak Gachia Etm Manzil Alim Madrassah, Barguna (Roll No 92234) stood first in the merit list securing 877 marks. He got letter marks in four subjects. Mohammad Anwarus Salam of Khalashpur Darul Huda Senior Madrassah, Rangpur (Roll No 55016) secured the second position obtaining 875 marks. He got letter marks in seven subjects. Abdul Qadir of Tamirul Millat Kamil Madrassah, Dhaka (Roll No 10186) stood third securing 866 marks. He got letter marks in eight subjects. As many as 1,192 students appeared from the Mujabid group. Of them, 735 came out successful. The percentage of pass is 61.66. Of the successful candidates, 236 got first division, 483 second division and 16 third division. Masudur Rahman (Roll No 8057) of Narsingdi Jamayae Kasmehia Kamil Madrassah topped the merit list securing 877 marks. Shaful Islam (Roll No 8886) of Pataharat Senior Madrassah, Barisal got the second position securing 854 marks. Mohammad Jalaluddin (Roll No 8003) of Qaderia Tayebia Kamil Madrassah, Dhaka secured the third position obtaining 801 marks. In the Hizful Quran Group, a total of 12 students appeared. Of them, nine passed. The percentage of pass is 75. Of the successful candidates, eight got first division and the remaining one got second division. Mohammad Joydul Abedin (Roll No 9508) of Rangunia Alamshahpara Kamil Madrassah, Chittagong topped the merit list securing 836 marks. Mohammad Ridwanul Rahman (Roll No 9510) and Mohammad Abu Zafar (Roll No 9509), both from the same Madrassah, got the second and third position respectively.

Amu Besides, he added, Parliament on July 6 unanimously adopted a resolution at the initiative of the ruling party strongly condemning the heinous act. About hartal, the acting Awami League chief said it is usually called as a democratic means to protest any injustice or undemocratic acts of the government. "And in that case, we are not opposed to hartal, but this hartal is inconceivable to anyone." Referring to BNP's support to Tuesday's hartal, he said that since losing power, BNP has been trying inside and outside parliament to create obstacles to all constructive works of the Awami League government. Al-acting President called for refraining from such "illogical" hartal on Tuesday and in future. Replying to a question, Amu said Awami League would not resist the hartal, "but conscious people will certainly evaluate their activities."

Yasmin murder From page 1 Kumar told the court that police showed indifference to preparation of the inquest report. Out of total 54 F.Ws, 45 testified today. The next 10 F.Ws are likely to testify before the court on July 28 and 29. Hearing will resume on July 28. All the nine accused in the case were on the dock. They are facing trial under section 201(34) of the Penal Code.

Anybody can appeal regarding Bills placed in JS Any citizen of the country can appeal to the 'Petition Committee' of Jatiya Sangsad regarding any Bills placed in the House and any other unsettled matters or issues of public importance, reports UNB. The committee, formed with the Speaker as its Chairman, will take up all issues, excepting those under trial in court or under investigation, said a Jatiya Sangsad press release yesterday. It said relevant forms and detailed rules for making petitions have already been sent to all Deputy Commissioners of the country. Intending petitioners may collect the forms and the rules free of cost from the DC's offices. Each petition, written in sober language and attested by a member of parliament, must contain the petitioner's full name, address and signature or thumb impression in case of an illiterate person.

N'ganj killings From page 1 Sensing the police presence the people fled the scene and police found four of the muggers dead while the other in critical condition. He was rushed to the Narayanganj Hospital where he died soon after admission. Three of the victims were identified as Sabuj of 460, East Dania, Bubu of East Dolariparh and Alam. The autopsies of the five bodies were completed at the hospital but the reports were yet to reach the police. Until 9 pm, the bodies were lying at the hospital. One Mohammad Ali Hossain claimed the body of Sabuj, but he was not given the body till the filing of this report at 9:30 pm. Police filed a case with Fatullah thana late last night in connection with the five killings. However, none was arrested till to-night. Meanwhile, the SP of Narayanganj, HM Nuruddin at a meeting of the district law and order committee today informed the members of the five killings and other acts of violence in different places of the district. Addressing the meeting, the SP said an organised gang of culprits was sponsoring various incidents to deteriorate the law and order situation in a planned way.

Bangabandhu From page 1 Mujib, his family members and close kins. Later, the state defence counsels for the fugitives and lawyers of arrested accused Shayed Farooq Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Muihuddin and Abdul Wahab Joarder questioned him. During the cross-examination in the court of Judge Kazi Golam Rasul at Lal Bhaban near Dhaka Central Jail, Muihul Islam said he filed the Bangabandhu murder case driven by his own conscience. He denied that government or police influenced him to lodge the case on October 2, 1996, 21 years after the killings on the fateful night of August 15, 1975. Replying to the defence counsels, the resident PA and receptionist to Bangabandhu, informed the court that he wanted to go to police station in 1976 to lodge a case. The arrested accused in the case retired army officers Farooq, Shahriar, Muihuddin, retired dafadar Joarder and ex-minister Nuruddin Thakur will be brought to the court during the deposition of the witnesses.

Investment climate From page 1 Kaneko said that despite overall cut in the Japanese budget and 10 per cent cut in the ODA, "our assistance to Bangladesh would be bigger than that in the previous year." The Japanese ambassador said that the entrepreneurs who visited the Chittagong EPZ were very impressed. He praised BEPZA for its efforts to encourage investors to come. However, the power situation in the EPZ needed to be improved as there were still disruptions in power supply, often three or four times a day. It is also important to improve the power situation in the Chittagong city where too there are frequent disruptions, he said. Foreign personnel who stay in the city feel acute discomfort if they face power cuts, he added. Kaneko said that there was tremendous scope for improvement of infrastructure like road communication and electricity supply in both the Chittagong EPZ and the port city. Chittagong has an excellent golf course and additional recreational facilities will definitely encourage foreign investors by making their stay comfortable, he pointed out. Asked if a special economic zone would be preferred by the Japanese businessmen, he offered by Bangladesh, he replied, "We are at the moment not interested in a special economic zone, or an exclusive EPZ. Our investors would be more attracted by further improvements in infrastructure facilities." The envoy said Savar EPZ may be able to attract more investors if it can be further expanded and the existing infrastructure facilities are still more developed. Kaneko said, "Bangladesh has an excellent workforce and excellent regulations for foreign investment" and stressed again that improvement of existing facilities including infrastructure, particularly uninterrupted electricity supply is vital. "Bangladesh has taken positive steps to improve its investment image, and it can be improved still further if you can resolve the complaints," the Japanese envoy observed.

Ctg port From page 1 up in the office of the Terminal Manager to deal with any problem of the port users, Chittagong Port Traffic Director Sanwar Hossain said. Port users may contact the control room over telephone (No 714888) round the clock for quick solution to any problem regarding cargo handlings. The bank at the port will function between 9 am and 3 pm on Fridays and between 9 am and 8 pm on all working days including Saturdays, during the period. The CPA requested the Customs department to resume their activities during the period to realise revenue. Sanwar Hossain said that due to a strike July 3-8 at the port over working rights of two groups of stevedores, a serious cargo and container congestion was created at the seaport. He said due to incessant rain since July 9, just after resolving the long-standing stalemate, the congestion got further stroke to take more serious turn at the port. The traffic director, however, hoped that the jam would be eased out shortly. He informed that 30 cargo vessels were waiting at the berth and out-anchorage of Chittagong Port for unloading.

3-pronged drive From page 1 to give loan on projects with larger equity," he said, noting that the possibility of a project becoming viable is higher if it has 40-50 per cent equity. Asked about government plan for liberalising the currency regime further, making the taka fully convertible in the capital account, the minister said the economy was "not yet ready for the full convertibility." "We'll definitely go for full convertibility in course of time," he said, "but before that, we would have to closely monitor the monetary and exchange rate situation." The minister, however, said the government would continue to negotiate with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) a loan under the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) that will improve the reserve position. For the ESAF loan, the IMF calls for further liberalisation of the trade and currency regime. About the inflow of foreign private capital to the country, Kibria said the government had received foreign investment worth more than one billion US dollars during last one year. Excluding the gas, energy and telecoms sector, the investment was 450 million dollars, he said.

Shima murder From page 1 policemen while going to her village home in Raozan thana along with her boyfriend, Abdul Hafiz, on October 5 in 1996. Police then took her to Raozan thana where she was allegedly raped by the policemen in the OC's room, the temporary custody, at midnight on October 9. A case was filed with Raozan thana against five people - Abdul Hafiz, SI Uttam Kumar Majumder and constables Sadeq Ali, Goura Chandra Karmaker and Abdul Bashir. Later, Shima was sent to Chittagong jail for safe custody where she died mysteriously on February 9 this year. A UD case was filed. Afterwards, the home ministry formed a probe body to enquire into the mysterious death of the girl. A parliamentary committee was also formed with Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad as its chief to investigate the death in jail, which is still conducting investigation. After their arrest, the four accused policemen were sent to Chittagong jail. First, they were temporarily suspended under Police Officials' Special Ordinance. The court, after hearing, exempted Abdul Hafiz from charge. After the verdict of the rape case, Public Prosecutor Advocate Nurus Safa Talukder told UNB that they would think about appeal to the High Court after getting the copy of the judgement. Officially, two days may be needed for getting the judgement.

Most of PM's visits meaningless, says Moudud BNP Standing Committee member Moudud Ahmed yesterday said the Prime Minister's going abroad leaving lakhs of marooned people at home is nothing but her neglect of the nation, reports UNB. "It is not possible for the Prime Minister of a poor country like Bangladesh to get enough time to sleep, whereas our Prime Minister is going abroad every now and then and attending less important functions," he said. Addressing a rally organised by Motijheel thana Jatiya-atadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Fakirerpool in the afternoon, Moudud pointed out that Sheikh Hasina visited more than a dozen countries in last one year. "But most of her visits were meaningless as there was no important job in those trips, he said, accusing her of making pleasure trips at the cost of public money. Moudud termed Sheikh Hasina's recent visit to Japan a complete "pleasure trip" as it was not a state visit and she did not have any official talks.

Chandpur killings: 8 arrested CHANDPUR, July 13: Police arrested nine persons from different areas of the district in connection with the murder of eight persons in Gorkhal under Matlab thana on June 29, reports BSS. Eight members of the family of Hazarat Ali, a farmer, were murdered by some miscreants at dead of night while they were sleeping in their home at village Gorkhal. SEC chairman From page 1 pointed Senior Adviser to the SEC. Sekandar Ali has been put in the Commission to give advice on the capital market, the announcement said. Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria said the government accepted the resignation of Dr Haroonar Rashid as the SEC, the capital market regulating body, was not performing well. "The SEC has not satisfactorily performed, that is my overall assessment," he told UNB in an interview. Dr Rashid, whose son-in-law was accused of manipulating the share market by an independent enquiry committee during an abnormal ups and downs in 1996, tendered his resignation last month. Asked to comment on the former chairman's allegation that he hardly got any cooperation from the finance ministry, Kibria said it was very easy to pass the blame onto other's shoulders. "I can say that the government has gone out of the way to strengthen the SEC to fulfill its responsibilities, its duties," the minister said. In this connection, he said he asked the Bangladesh Bank and the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) to lend the SEC some manpower and provided it with funds for recruiting some additional manpower. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have also been requested to provide technical assistance, and it was done, Kibria pointed out. Unfortunately, all this did not lead to the kind of dynamic and vigorous actions or effective action that I'd expected," he said. The minister hoped that the two men would bring about the required change in the SEC and help stabilise the market with their vast experience about the capital market.

Flood From page 1 Our Cox's Bazar Correspondent Monayer Khan said the flood waters tore through the Rajapur embankment in Ramu thana. Flood situation in 15 unions of Chokoria thana have deteriorated. "However, the monsoon is weakening, the rains will decline despite intensity of rainfall in the catchment areas. It will continue to decline with less intensity in the next few days", Sajedur Rahman said. The weather expert said it had been unusual this season. In Dhaka city between July 1 and 12 there had been 354 mm of rainfall against 386 mm of monthly average. In Sylhet it was 551 mm against 719 mm; in Chittagong 581 mm against 687 mm; in Rajshahi 475 mm against 350 mm, and in Rangpur 464 mm against 453 mm of monthly averages. In Rangamati the rains totalled 372 mm in four days, July 9-12. But there had been no records in Bandarban as there is no weather office. The statistics showed that the distribution of the rainfall had been uneven this season, he added. Division-wise, the rainfall in Dhaka was 182 mm against 386 mm monthly average of 47 per cent of it. In Sylhet, it was 328 mm against 528 mm (62 per cent), in Chittagong 231 mm against 690 mm (33 per cent), in Rajshahi 254 mm against 395 mm (64 per cent) and in Khulna 111 mm against 358 mm (31 per cent). The flood information centre said overall flood situation in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban and Khagrachhari districts may remain unchanged although most of the rivers in the south-eastern hill districts registered fall during the past 24 hours, ending at 9 am yesterday.

Political parties differ From page 1 statement and said, "why it opposed hartal? Tomorrow's hartal is not called against the government." Jamaat leader Abdul Kader Mollah justified the hartal saying, "Through our main issue of protest is the blasphemous act, there are other issues to protest." He explained, "Through tomorrow's hartal we also like to register our protest against the intellectuals in the country who speak against Islam and the Prophet, and demand dropping of such people from the education commission formed by the government." Different factions of the Muslim League have also extended support to the hartal call. Bangladesh Islami Biplobi Andolan and Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat opposes the hartal programme. Islami Biplobi Andolan categorically said that Islam does not allow hartal in the name of protesting a blasphemous act. UNB adds: Jatiya Party (JP) leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury criticised the July 15 hartal call. Chowdhury said it is not conceivable why this hartal has been called for an against whom. He said there is no reason behind this hartal particularly after unanimous resolution adopted by Parliament consisting of Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party and even Jamaat-e-Islami. BSS adds: Central leaders of the National Sunni Movement, Bangladesh yesterday strongly condemned the programme of hartal and long march tomorrow and termed it "a conspiracy" against Islam. Chairman of Bangladesh Muktijoddah Sangsad Central Command Council, Principal

PM at Hamburg From page 1 Meanwhile, Bangladesh nationals in Germany today accorded a reception to Sheikh Hasina at a city hotel here today. Apart from those residing in different German cities, Bangladeshi expatriates in Austria, Britain, and the Netherlands also attended the reception. President of Bangladesh Society of Hamburg Mohammad Adel welcomed the Prime Minister, while general secretary of Awami League Germany unit Mohammad Atiqullah conducted the function.

Govt-PCJSS From page 1 Shudhasindhu Chakma and Rakta Utpal Chakma are likely to represent the PCJSS in the meeting. In the last round of talks, held in the capital from May 11-13, both the sides reached a consensus and agreed to sign an agreement to bring about peace ending two decades of conflicts in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Important dimensions of the two-decade-old problem are repatriation of Chakma refugees from Tripura in India to their homeland, their proper rehabilitation and cessation of insurgency being committed by a section of tribals. A ceasefire announced by the guerrillas on August 10, 1992 is still holding after several renewals. In the last meeting, the truce was extended up to June 30. It has now been extended up to September 30.

Govt to ensure fair price of raw jute: Tofael All possible measures, including provision of financial support to genuine jute traders, will be taken soon to ensure fair price of raw jute at the growers level. This was decided at a high-level meeting here yesterday with Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed in the chair. It reviewed jute prices, financial arrangement, and export of jute and jute goods, reports UNB. Food and Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, State Minister for Jute and Textiles AK Fayezul Haq, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, MPs Fazole Rabbi, Rezaul Karim and Khandaker Asaduzzaman, former minister and Bangladesh Jute Mills Association chairman AM Zahiruddin Khan, former minister MA Sattar and Jute Secretary MA Hannan were present.

Employees of DEPZ From page 1 manding the release of two workers and for pressing a 11-point demand that included removal of the factory's personnel manager. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority officials last night said that the Korean factory, located at the Dhaka export processing zone, will reopen tomorrow. The factory was closed on Thursday last following labour unrest. The management closed the factory when its workers demanded immediate removal of their personnel manager. The workers had also put pressure on the management for increasing their salary and other incentives. The officials of BEPZA and the factory met yesterday to discuss the labour problem. BEPZA Chairman Moezzem Hossain told The Daily Star that he spoke to Youngone Chairman Kihak Sung, who had indicated that he was going to implement some of the demands raised by labourers, by Tuesday and re-open the factory. Meanwhile, the South Korean firm in a press release yesterday expressed its concern over the violent actions committed by the company's normal functioning during the past few weeks. It said, "the company had so far shown utmost patience over the unfounded allegations against some of the managers, acts of sabotage and attempts to disrupt production." The Management of the South Korean company expressed all concerned for their support to resolve the stalemate in the interest of the employees and also for fulfilling the export commitments of Bangladesh. A large number of workers held a rally in front of the National Press Club yesterday demanding early re-opening of the factory and removal of the personnel manager for his alleged misbehaviour with workers. Meanwhile, pointing to a news item published in some newspaper Sunday, the BEPZA Chairman said labour unrest has never shut down a factory in an EPZA. A BEPZA press release said Leni Fashions Ltd and the Welford had been temporarily closed but were operating now. It also said Hi-Tech Knitwear was closed by its management.

7 drown as boats capsize in Ctg CHITTAGONG, July 13: When flood situation in the district started to improve with the recession of water, seven people drowned in separate incidents of boat capsize today, reports UNB. Five people, four of them children and a woman, drowned when a country-made boat with 40 passengers overturned in a bed near Sarkarhat in Hathazari thana this evening as it was caught by violent wind. The victims could not be identified immediately. In Chandanai thana, two people - Ali Ahmed, 55, and Badsha Mia, 57 - drowned as the boat in which they were travelling sank in the river Shanka at Kadurpara village in the afternoon.

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