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Army Selection Board told Promotion should be competitive: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government wants to utilise the skilled, disciplined and well-trained workforce like Army for the welfare of the country and its people, reports UNB.

"You can fulfill this expectation of the nation by improving your efficiency through hard training and regular practice," she told the members of the Army Selection Board at Dhaka Cantonment.

The Prime Minister said her government's main goal is to alleviate poverty through rapid economic development.

"We have been working to improve the standard of living and ensure food, education and medicare facilities to the people," she said.

Hasina told the selection board to consider physical fitness as well as education, attitude, sociability and moral character of an officer while promoting him to higher post.

The PM, also in charge of the Defence Ministry, outlined guidelines for building a strong and efficient army. She stressed the need for attaining professional skill, leadership quality, discipline, honesty, loyalty, trustworthiness, moral character and physical fitness.

"We want to make it stronger and more skilled... Leadership should be vested in qualified, efficient, able, conscious and patriotic officers," she added.

The Prime Minister lauded the role of army in various nation-building activities and resolving different problems of the people.

"Our national army earned fame both at home and abroad by dint of its discipline, professional skill and sense of responsibility," she added.

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Launching ceremony of commemorative volume on S M Ali today

By Staff Correspondent

Launching ceremony of a commemorative volume on eminent journalist and founder-editor of The Daily Star late S M Ali will be held today at 5:30 pm at the National Museum auditorium (ground floor).

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui will preside over the ceremony, while Prof Rehman Sobhan, K G Mustafa, A M A Muhi, or A M Chowdhury, Syed Manzurul Islam and Mahfuz Anam, among others, will speak on the occasion.

5 drown in Sunamganj

SYLHET, Aug 26: Five people, three of them children, drowned when two engine boats capsized in haor area under DfI (ratha) of Sunamganj district this afternoon, reports UNB.

Sumua Das, 30, Nirmala Bala, 7, Amaya Das, 30, and Sujit Dev, 5, of village Paharpur drowned when a boat sank in Baram haor at village Potka.

Another unidentified person drowned in a separate boat capsized in Chapati haor under the same thana.

Fishing trawlers collide: 1 killed

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 26: One person drowned in the Karnaphuli river this morning when two fishing trawlers collided near Kallar depot ghat, police said.

The dead was identified as Md Hanif, police said.

Habib's condition

From Page 1

an unconscious state. The medical board which was formed Sunday to treat Habib held an emergency meeting last night to discuss his condition and further treatment.

He did not regain consciousness till 10 pm last night, the hospital sources said. The medical board will again examine him today.

Jute, textile

From Page 1

Tofael Ahmed and State Minister for Jute and Textiles AK Fazul Huq.

Among the labour leaders, Abul Bashar, Shahidullah Choudhury, Shaha Alam, Badrul Alam Khan, Iqbal Mujumdar, Abdus Salam Khan and Ahsanullah Master, MP, represented the PPSKSP.

The meeting was held after workers began an agitation programme following a cabinet decision last week approving the sale of six SOE's including Karim Jute Mills and Pylon Industries, which produces mosquito nets and nylon fabrics.

AL city unit

From Page 1

took some other decisions. The meeting demanded arrest of the terrorists responsible for attacking the meetings of Sammito Nari Samaj and Awam Ainibi Parishad. It held the terrorists belonging to BNP responsible for those attacks on Sunday.

The joint meeting also prayed for the early recovery of injured photo-journalist Habibur Rahman Habib.

Confce on direct air link among SAARC states begins today

By Staff Correspondent

The first three-day meeting of the civil aviation authorities and national airlines of SAARC countries begins in the city today.

During the meeting, the officials concerned will discuss ways to improve direct air services among the seven SAARC capitals, since in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism said yesterday.

The idea of direct air links follows a proposal by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the 9th SAARC summit in Male in May that the enormous tourism potential of the region could be exploited for the benefit of the member countries.

The officials will also discuss how the direct air services can help improve trade in the region.

Changes in BCS exam sitting arrangements

From Staff Correspondent

The sitting arrangements for the ongoing written part of the 18th BCS examinations, scheduled for September 1 and 3, have been partially changed, reports UNB.

According to the fresh sitting arrangement, the candidates bearing reg No. 14913-26123 will sit for examination at Government Titumir College on September 1.

On September 3 (afternoon session), the examinees bearing reg No. 00021-58831 (math) and No. 00013-13578 (applied math) will sit at Dhaka College. No. 13689-45555 (applied math) at Sarkari Biggan College, and No. 45560-58847 and 85004 (applied math) at Titumir College, said a PID handout yesterday.

The sitting arrangements for other examinations will remain unchanged, the handout said.

Salman Shah's death

From Staff Correspondent

The CID is learnt to have found important disclosures about the alleged involvement of some police officials in arranging the confession statement of Rezvi regarding the death of film star Salman Shah, reports UNB.

The Criminal Investigation Department got hold of the disclosures during the its day-long interrogation of some police officials of Cantonment thana yesterday.

The police officials, who were questioned by CID, include officer-in-charge Shahabuddin and SI Badrul, the investigation officer in the case of Rezvi's alleged trespass into Salman's parental house at the DOHS.

They were interrogated by CID officials SSP Abdul Hanan Khan, Additional SP Subodh Chandra Chanda and ASP Khalequzzaman. But the interrogators were tightlipped about the disclosures.

Sources close to the investigators, however, said they (investigators) asked the police officials why they arranged the confession statement by Rezvi and who instigated them to do it.

BNP march

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People are now with us", he said. Chaired by city BNP convenor Saik Hossain Khoka, MP, the public meeting was also addressed by among others, party Vice-President MK Anwar, MP, Standing Committee members Abdus Salam Talukdar and Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqi, joint secretaries Mirza Abbas, Abdullah Al Noman and Ashraf Hossain, Amanullah Aman, MP, Abdul Hasnat and MA Jalil.

Bangabandhu Murder Case

From Page 1

headquarters of the 46th Brigade. On my arrival at the Brigade Headquarters, Khaled Mosharrar told me, "The situation is now uncertain. Prepare a plan for the station security." Then I returned to my office and concentrated on preparing the plan.

"I went to the residence of Sheikh Shahab located at Dhanmondi Rd No 32 on instructions from Maj Gen Shafulullah. Shafulullah gave the instruction over phone at around 3:00 pm.

"As I arrived there I saw the forces of Armoured Corps and Artillery deployed around the house. They allowed me to enter after I disclosed my identity. Maj Aziz Pasha and Maj Bazil Huda received me at the gate.

Hamid was also cross-examined by the lawyers of four of the 14 absconding accused. Adopting the cross-examination of their previous lawyers, the other 10 lawyers of the absconding accused declined to cross-examine him as he did not mention the names of their clients in the deposition.

The deposition of Hamid was taken down by Chief Special Public Prosecutor Serajul Huq and SPD Ramzan Ali Khan. They were assisted by Mosharrar Hossain Kajol and Toheedul Islam Bahar.

"I was first taken to the reception room... I saw the blood-soaked bullet-hit body of Sheikh Kamal lying on the floor and next to it was the body

present position of air links among the member countries and the economic viability of the proposed 'pool services' to link the capitals.

The three-day meeting will also discuss the problems in introducing direct air services as airlines of some member countries home 'fleet constraints' to operate among SAARC capitals.

In the Male summit, Sheikh Hasina said that Bangladesh would be willing to participate in a 'pool service' involving the airlines of the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Under the 'pool service', twice-a-week flights linking Kathmandu, Dhaka, Colombo and Male could be introduced initially. She had proposed.

She had also suggested that the SAARC countries could launch another 'pool service' linking Islamabad, Delhi and Dhaka. The two 'pool services' could be merged into one later.

Trader shot in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 26: A businessman was shot when armed terrorists, attacked him this afternoon at his shop at Strand Road, police said.

The injured, Sirajul Islam, owner of a fertiliser shop, was admitted into Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Police said the terrorists attacked Islam as he declined to pay toll money.

Sunset rule

From Page 1

about 9 pm. At one stage they confined the on-duty house tutors in a room at the hall's administrative office.

Later, Provost Prof Nurun Nahar Rahman came to the office to resolve the problem. But the agitating students also held her hostage.

The authorities said the students started demonstrating against the provost as she was very strict about the closure of the gate by the deadline. They alleged some students often come to the hostel even after 10 pm causing anxieties for the teachers.

The female students forced the hall authorities to change the earlier gate closure time at 7 pm about a year ago.

Police was deployed around the hall following the incident while the proctor of the university went there to resolve the crisis.

Train dacoity

From Page 1

dacoits in an attack on the Samanta Express near at Barabour Railway station Sunday night.

Two of the other injured were released from the hospital today.

Meanwhile, when contacted, police Super of Jessore said that a massive hunt was going on in the area to nab the culprits. But none was arrested till the filing of this report tonight.

Muggers stab

From Page 1

Two patrol policemen on duty there tried to catch the muggers but failed as they did not have any vehicle or walkie-talkies.

Blood-stained Dara was immediately taken to the nearby Bangladesh Medical College Hospital and was operated upon.

Dhanmondi police said they had heard about the incident. But no case was lodged or none was arrested in this connection till last night.

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DU Prof Altaf Hossain dead

By Staff Correspondent

Prof Dr Muhammad Altaf Hossain of Dhaka University died of cancer in the city yesterday. He was 51.

Professor of the Department of Applied Chemistry, Dr Hossain is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the central mosque of Dhaka University after the Zohr prayers yesterday. He was buried at the Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur.

His qulshwari will be held on Friday after Aar prayers at his residence at 59/A Isha Kha Road on the university campus.

GSP certificates

From Page 1

Leather Exporters Association AKM Rahmatullah MP, Commerce Secretary, NBR Chairman, Secretary of Banking Division, presidents of FBCCI, MCCI, DCCI, BJMA, BTMA, BGMEA, BKMEA, Frozen Food Exporters Association, Bankers Association, Employers Association and representatives of ministries concerned.

The industries Minister said the government is to ensure the best utilisation of every opportunity created out of GATT Uruguay Round agreement and WTO declaration with the proactive advices from the business leaders.

Stating all regarding GSP, including its inception and subsequent development, the minister said more than 45 per cent of total exports from Bangladesh goes to EU countries. "And we are enjoying GSP on all the export items including garments, frozen goods, leather and jute."

He said for the interest of country's overall exports as well as to get EC's support to duty-free entry of Bangladeshi products to developed and developing nations, the government would have to respond positively on the queries of irregular GSP certificates in the Geneva meeting scheduled for October.

The minister told the meeting that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had requested the heads of G-8 countries to support Bangladesh's appeal for duty-free access.

Besides, he said, efforts are continuing at diplomatic level and in bilateral discussions to get this duty-free access which will be the gateway to massive export expansion.

Fresh overdue loans

From Page 1

against its total loans of Tk 1497.20 crore. Uttara Bank recovered Tk 24.70 crore and rescheduled Tk 33.70 crore, showing an overdue portfolio of Tk 461.22 crore. The bank's total outstanding amount to Tk 1225.30 crore on July 31, 1997.

United Commercial Bank Limited, whose total overdue loans stood at Tk 240.40 crore till July against the total outstanding loans of Tk 562.76 crore, recovered Tk 83.33 crore and rescheduled Tk 4.91 crore during the period.

Arab-Bangladesh Bank recovered Tk 91.18 crore and rescheduled Tk 150.65 crore, showing a total overdue of Tk 298.02 crore against its outstanding loans of Tk 807.56 crore.

City Bank recovered Tk 61.27 crore and rescheduled Tk 11.86 crore, leaving an overdue amount of Tk 319.86 crore against its total loans of Tk 617.50 crore.

Eastern Bank Limited recovered Tk 4.46 crore and rescheduled nothing during the period.

showing an overdue portfolio of Tk 22.97 crore. The bank's total outstanding amount to Tk 466.96 crore on July 31, 1997.

National Bank Limited whose total overdue loans stood at Tk 490.12 crore till July against the total outstanding loans of Tk 1410.89 crore, recovered Tk 24.52 crore and rescheduled Tk 42.26 crore during the period.

Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited recovered Tk 149.06 crore and rescheduled Tk 4.22 crore, leaving an overdue amount of Tk 258.73 crore against its total loans of Tk 1540.15 crore.

Al-Baraka Bank Limited recovered Tk 41.97 crore and rescheduled Tk 264.30 crore, showing an overdue portfolio of Tk 221.51 crore. The bank's total outstanding amount to Tk 602.29 crore on July 31, 1997.

International Finance Investment and Commerce (IFIC) Bank, whose total overdue loans stood at Tk 490.15 crore till July against the total outstanding loans of Tk 1387.53 crore, recovered Tk 186.17 crore and rescheduled Tk 71.96 crore during the period.

National Credit and Commerce Bank Limited recovered Tk 21.57 crore and rescheduled Tk 6.13 crore, leaving an overdue amount of Tk 107.76 crore against its total loans of Tk 302.35 crore.

The banks of which the proportion of overdue loans compared with total loans reduced during the seven-month period are Sonali, Agrani, Rupali, Uttara, AB Bank, City, EBL, NBL, Al-BBL and IFIC.

The overdue loans of Janata, Pubali, UCBL, IBBL and NCCBL increased from what were seven months back.

Concern

From Page 1

that are friendly to the environment," said Motia. Turning to the intellectual property rights on plant genetic resources, the minister said, developed countries are now eager to establish patent rights or plant breeder's rights (PBR), which the developing countries see as a threat to the rights of farmers.

If this is allowed, it will be highly unfair and contrary to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), which declared sovereign rights of a nation over its biological resources.

In this regard, the minister quoted a report published in The Daily Star on Monday last that says, India compelled the US government to cancel a patent given to two scientists to use turmeric for healing wounds.

Referring to the concept of TRIPS (Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights), introduced by WTO (World Trade Organisation) through Uruguay Round, Begum Motia Chowdhury said, under the agreement developing countries could develop their own intellectual property rights.

"Our government is closely studying this issue... Formulation of intellectual property rights regulation requires an in-depth study," she said.

Rocket launcher

From Page 1

Later, he kept one of the launchers while the rest were kept by another person whose name DB investigators did not disclose.

The name of the youth leader, came up in the press when the DB recovered the rocket launcher on June 27. But the leader later in a press conference denied the allegation.

Shibir leader

From Page 1

Panic-stricken students ran helter-skelter during the bomb explosions and ransacking. In the afternoon, Shibir activists brought out a mourning procession carrying the body of Pasha. Tension was prevailing in the town.

To protest the killing, Shibir called strike in the educational institutions tomorrow and a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the district town on Thursday.

WE MOURN. We are deeply grieved at the sudden demise of Mr. Wazedul Islam, Director of Uttara Bank Limited and Vice Chairman of Islam Group who died on 25th August, 1997 (Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Ilahe Rajewoon). The Board of Directors, all Officers and Employees of Uttara Bank Limited pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of the departed soul. May Allah give strength to the members of the bereaved family to bear the loss. Uttara Bank Ltd. Editor: Mahfuz Anam. Printed by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 and published by him on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi RA, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

শোক সংবাদ. দেশের প্রখ্যাত শিল্প গৌষ্ঠী ইসলাম গ্রুপের ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান, আলহাজ্ব ওয়াজেদুল ইসলাম পথ ২৫শে আগষ্ট, ১৯৯৭ সোমবার রাত ৯:৩০ মিঃ স্থানীয় একটি ক্রিনিকে ইন্তেকাল করেছেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহে.....রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তাঁর বয়স হয়েছিল ৬৩ বছর। তিনি বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি এবং ইসলাম গ্রুপের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা মরহুম আলহাজ্ব জহুরুল ইসলাম সাহেবের ছোট ভাই। বাফু সাহেব নামে সুপরিচিত মরহুম ওয়াজেদুল ইসলাম মৃত্যুকালে স্ত্রী, চার কন্যা, বহু আত্মীয়-স্বজন ও গুনগ্রাহী রেখে গেছেন। তিনি ডায়াবেটিক সংক্রান্ত জটিলতায় ভুগছিলেন। আগামী শুক্রবার, ২৯ আগষ্ট ১৯৯৭, বাদ জুম্মা বাফুজুল মোকাররম জাতীয় মসজিদে মরহুমের নামাজে জানাজা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে এবং পরে তাঁকে বনানী গোরস্থানে দাফন করা হবে। মরহুমের কুলখানী আগামী শনিবার ৩০ আগষ্ট, '৯৭ বাদ আসর তাঁর নিজ বাসভবন বাড়ী নং-২৫, সড়ক নং-৬৪, গুলশান-এ অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। মরহুমের আত্মীয়-স্বজন, বন্ধু-বান্ধব, তত্ত্বাবধায়ী এবং ইসলাম গ্রুপের সকল কর্মকর্তা, কর্মচারীদের উক্ত মাফিকলে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য বিনীত অনুরোধ জানান হচ্ছে। আরজ ওজার মরহুমের স্ত্রী, কন্যা, ভাই ও বোনরা এবং চেয়ারম্যান, ইসলাম গ্রুপ