

Exams of 6686
HSC candidates
to be cancelled

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Sept 5: The decision of Rajshahi Education Board to cancel examination of 6,686 HSC candidates for alleged irregularities has been approved by the Education Ministry, highly placed sources in the Board said today.

Of the total, examinations of 6,230 candidates were cancelled for changing colleges without legal Transfer Certificate, 206 for changing their names and address in the registration card and 250 for appearing before expiry of their terms of expulsion or other punishment, the sources said.

Controller of examinations of the Board M. Mozammel Haque, when contacted, said that the decision was taken in early August to take action against the examinees and the colleges concerned. It was sent to the ministry for approval.

**Mosque built on
runway of
Tejgaon airport**

By Staff Correspondent

A group of people has built a mosque on the runway of Tejgaon old airport, sources in the Military Estate Office (MEO) said.

The mosque was built overnight recently on the extreme northern side of the runway, mainly used by Aero Bengal and Air Force planes.

The MEO had recently evicted several other occupiers from the runway but spared the mosque.

"We will write to the ministry concerned to see what they say about it and then act accordingly," said an official, alleging that the occupiers were aided by the local ward commissioner.

SAFF Football

**Maldives hold
Bangladesh 1-1**

From Al-Amin

KATHMANDU, Sept 5: Bangladesh were held 1-1 by the Maldives in their opening Group B encounter of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship at the Dasharath Stadium here this afternoon.

Bangladesh striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib broke the deadlock ten minutes into second half.

The Maldives hit back in the 59th minute through Lirugam Saeed.

The result left both teams on one point.

Tomorrow Pakistan take on Sri Lanka at 3:45 pm (NST).

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US Open

**Chang moves
in semis**

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan
NEW YORK, Sept 5: The lone American survivor of the Open crash wilted from the strain of a "heat-seeking" Chilean slobbed and prayed as he made the semifinals where others, more worthy, Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi had failed.

Michael Chang, in his brilliant best, wavered too, and almost crashed out with a two set lead. The calm, ponytailed number 10 seed Marcelo Rios of Chile, played his hand to the best of his ability but in the end the more experienced and bouncy Chang prevailed 7-5, 6-2, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3. Rios had never crossed the quarter-final stage which he reached in Australia

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Mother Teresa passes away



Mother Teresa — champion of the world's poor — died of cardiac arrest in Calcutta yesterday. — File photo

CALCUTTA, Sept 5: Mother Teresa died today of cardiac arrest in her religious order's headquarters in eastern India, an order spokeswoman said, report agencies.

The spokeswoman for the missionaries of charity said the Roman Catholic nun died at 9:30 pm (1600 GMT).

Known as the "saint of the gutters," she became an international byword for devotion to the poor, destitute and dying during nearly 50 years of work.

She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for bringing hope and dignity to millions of unwanted people. "The poor must know that we love them," was her simple message.

When told, in 1979, she had won the Nobel Peace Prize, she said: "I am unworthy."

Mother Teresa, who was 87, said her divine call to work among the poor had come in 1946. She opened her first Calcutta slum school in 1949.

She took the name Teresa, after France's saint Therese of the child Jesus. In mainly Hindu India, she was simply 'mother.'

The legendary nun, handed over the reins of the missionaries of charity, the religious order she founded in March because of her fragile health after 47 years of service to the 'poorest of the poor.'

She leaves behind an organisation with around 4,400 sisters and brothers in 600 homes across the globe.

This same nun, years ago, was described as "a novice who would not even know how to light a candle."

The diminutive Mother Teresa, however, has never worried about what others

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**PM addresses Indonesian businessmen
Dhaka seeks massive investment
in power, gas & oil sectors**

JAKARTA, Sept 5: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said her government has taken a series of reform measures to bolster the market-oriented economy, laying importance on the private sector, reports UNB.

Addressing a luncheon hosted by the Indonesian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KADIN) at Borobudur Intercontinental Hotel, Hasina said the government has liberalised its policies and has been offering attractive incentives to the foreign investors.

Inviting the Indonesian investors to avail this opportunity, she said, "Let me take this opportunity to invite the business and industrial entrepreneurs of Indonesia to visit Bangladesh and see for themselves the opportunities for trade and investment."

We also welcome foreign investment in high tech products," she said, adding that considering the energy sector as the

Please extend to us your

hand of support to forge fruitful partnership as we step towards the new millennium."

The Prime Minister said that except for a handful of fields, like arms and ammunition, nuclear energy, forest resources, security printing and minting, "We have opened all other fields" to foreign investors.

"Some of the areas, where we specially welcome investment, are export-oriented industries like textile, leather goods, electrical and petro-chemicals, agro-based industries, green jute, pulp, paper, rayon products, frozen foods, tourism, agriculture, light industries, software and data processing."

We also welcome foreign investment in high tech products," she said, adding that considering the energy sector as the

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holding exclusive talks with Indonesian President Soeharto in Jakarta yesterday. — PID photo

Remarks by Khaleda, Saifur politically motivated: Kibria

Commenting on opposition leader Begum Zia's interview with VOA wherein she said that the country's economy was on the verge of collapse, the finance minister said these remarks are "part of a calculated and orchestrated campaign to create an artificial sense of crisis in the country."

Talking to UNB about the recent comments on country's economy by the BNP leaders, particularly by Begum Khaleda Zia and Saifur Rahman, he said, "Those are baseless statements and such politically motivated remarks will harm the country."

"I am really sad that responsible persons like the former prime minister and the former finance minister can make this type of comment," Kibria said.

About Saifur Rahman's

statement that there had been a shortfall of Tk 900 crore in revenue collection during the first two months of the current fiscal year, Kibria said the government has exceeded the target by Tk 43.07 crore.

Quoting figures, he said, the target of August, 1997 was Tk 1,106.33 crore and the collection was Tk 1,149 crore. In 1996, the revenue collection of August was Tk 868.46 crore.

Admitting a shortfall in July, he said the total amount collected in July and August was Tk 1,930.27 crore against the target of Tk 2,121.93 crore.

The actual shortfall during the first two months of the fiscal is Tk 191.66 crore and not Tk 900

crore as stated by Saifur Rahman.

Kibria said, "I have already provided facts and figures about bank loans and I don't see why the BNP leaders are crying hoarse on something which just doesn't exist."

He said the latest position of liquidity with banks as was

stated by the Governor of Bangladesh Bank is over Tk 2,300 crore, "about Tk 900 crore more than what is needed for smooth operation."

Similarly, he said, the loans and advances are also running at very satisfactory rates and industries also getting adequate supply of working capital.

New industries are also com-

ing up because the term lending rate is satisfactory, he added.

Kibria said the reserve is holding steady at nearly 1713 million US dollars and in addition there is a foreign exchange reserve of 300 million US dollars with the commercial banks.

"What is equally significant is that our exports are doing very well and I am certain the export growth will be higher than last year," he added.

Regarding retail sale of consumer durables, the finance minister said from his talks with the managements, he found out that Singer sales growth is strong, over 12 per

cent, while Rangs sales has

dropped.

The annual rate of inflation

is below five per cent, he said.

Saifur clarifies

In a clarification on a UNB report published on the back page of The Daily Star yesterday under headline 'Govt will have to go for deficit financing to implement pay scale', former finance minister Saifur Rahman said, "Together with the carry forward revenue shortfall of Tk 600 crore from the 96-97 fiscal, the cumulative shortfall as of end of August stands at around Tk 900 crore."

Jubo Dal worker shot dead in Feni

FENI, Sept 5: An activist of the Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal was killed by some miscreants at Birinchi village here today, police said.

A gang of miscreants called Mainuddin Bablu, 24, son of Faiez Ahmed, out of his residence in the afternoon and shot in his chest by sawed off rifle. He died on the spot.

Local units of BNP and Jubo Dal have blamed the ruling Awami League for the killing.

126-km funeral procession today

No one will ever forget Di: Queen



LONDON, Sept 5: Queen Elizabeth paid a glowing tribute to Diana, the Princess of Wales, who she described as 'exceptional and gifted' in an unprecedented live broadcast to the nation today, report agencies.

Meanwhile, Diana's funeral cortege will begin tomorrow at Kensington Palace, where she lived in an apartment amid an array of royal neighbours.

The funeral procession bringing the late Princess to her final resting place will cover some 126 kilometres before arriving at Althorp in Northamptonshire, northwest of London, where she will be buried next to her ancestors.

In the live broadcast to the nation, the Queen said she was speaking to the nation 'as your Queen and as a grandmother' and 'from my heart.'

Speaking from Buckingham Palace, with the crowds paying tribute to Diana in the background, the Queen said: "Since last Sunday's dreadful news we have seen, throughout Britain and around the world, an overwhelming expression of sadness at Diana's death."

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Three royal generations mourn as Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain (C) joins her grandson Prince Harry (L) and son Prince Charles to see the floral tributes at her Balmoral estate following an evening church service Thursday. — AFP/UNB photo

BTV to telecast funeral live

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Television (BTV) will telecast live from BBC World Service the funeral of Princess Diana at 1:45 pm today.

BTV sources told The Daily Star that the programme would be telecast in full. Due to this, there will be no 4 pm news bulletin today.

BTV had telecast live the wedding of the Princess Diana and Prince Charles on July 29, 1981.

None to represent Dhaka at funeral

By Staff Correspondent

None from Bangladesh will represent the country at Princess Diana's funeral today, Foreign Ministry sources said last night.

As the occasion would not be a state funeral and Princess Diana had never visited Bangladesh, Dhaka did not receive any invitation for representation at the funeral.

The British Foreign Office had said that invitations had been sent "primarily on the basis of close personal association with the Prince" and to countries Diana had visited.

Dhaka, like several other countries, would be represented by the Dean of Diplomatic Corps in Britain and the Secretary General of Commonwealth.

Last gifts

LONDON, Sept 5: Princess Diana gave boyfriend Dodi Fayed a gold cigar clipper with a tag inscribed "With love from Diana," the Fayed family said Friday, reports AP.

And he gave her in return, the family confirmed, a magnificent dirs 205,400 diamond solitaire ring shortly before they were both killed in a Paris

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Search for more bodies continues at Shayestaganj

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 5: No other body could be recovered today from the river Khowai at Shayestaganj in Habiganj district where three persons were killed when hit by a train on the railway bridge yesterday, according to district administration sources.

Fifty others had jumped into the river to escape being crushed by the inter-city train — Parabat Express — on the bridge.

The Deputy Commissioner of Habiganj, talking to The Daily Star said that the rescue