

VOL. VIII NO. 189 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Baily Star

LEASE FINANCING Are You Looking For Financial Assistance In

 Capital Machinery Vehicle like Luxury Buses.

 Heavy Construction Equipment Microbuses, Trucks, Tractors Medical Equipment Cargo Carriers, Pick-Up, Cars Marine Transport Lifts/Elevators

* Air Conditioning Plants Phone: 9569007 (Auto Hunting) Fax: 9567787

Agrabed Branch, R.M. House, 31 Agrabed C/A, Ctg. Ph : 710089, Fax : 710086

positions in merit list

did excellent results in the SSC Dhaka Board securing brilliant positions in the combined

School clinched the highest 14 positions, followed by Viqarunnesa Noon School with 11 in the combined merit list of Science, Humanities and Busi-

Holy Cross Girls' High School got 10 and eight positions respectively in the combined merit list. Udayan Bidyalaya secured six places in the list.

the 2nd, 4th, 6th (two), 7th, 8th, 12th (two), 13th (two), 17th, and the 13th place in the Busi-

Viqarunnesa Noon School captured the 1st, 3rd, 9th, and 11th positions in Science Group

cured the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 7th, 8th, 13th, 15th, 16th and 18th posi-

The Holy Cross Girls' School 16th and 17th positions in Science Group while 7th and 16th positions in Humanities Group.

top 3 positions in Ctg Board

They are Devjani Barua of Khastagir Govt Girls' High School in Science Group, Nishat Sultana of Naubahini High School in Humanities and Social Sciences Group and

the results is that girls occupied two-thirds positions in the combined merit list of the stu-

Aug 20 as PW fails to turn up

Chetia and his two associates for illegal possession of satellite telephone and foreign currency could not be started yesterday in the court of Additional District and Session's Judge, Dhaka, due to absence of

The OC of Mohammadpur thana, who is the number one witness in the cases failed to turn up in the court. The court fixed August 20 for hearing the

These two cases were filed by Mohammadpur police under Section 25(B) of the Special Powers Act, 1974. Charges against the accused were framed

Chetia, secretary general of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and his two associates - Laxmi Prasad and See Page 12 Col 1

Inside Today —

Not with a Bang but a Whimper

Column: Perspectives by Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz Page 4

Focus

Undertaking biotechnological research; A pressing need of the time

Page 5

Business

Guidelines for boosting shrimp production in the offing

Grameen Bank says 'no' to jt venture biotechnology project with US co

Bourse again in bear's Pages 6, 7, 8

INTERNET: http://www.dailystarnews.com

SRAVAN 19, 1405 BS

DHAKA MONDAY AUGUST 3, 1998

RABIUS SAANI 9, 1419 HIJRI

16 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 6.00

48pc pass SSC exams, down from 52 last yr

By Staff Correspondent

Results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations 1998, held under the five education boards in the country were announced yesterday.

A total of 7,22,300 students appeared at the examinations. Of them, 3,46,435 came out successful. The average pass percentage is 47.96, which was 52.14 last year.

Of the successful candidates, 2,07,418 were male and 1,39,017 female. A total of 1,53,579 students got First Division, 1,90,162 Second Division and 2694 Third Division. Among those who got First Division, 1,00,754 were male

and 52,825 female. Under Dhaka Board, a total of 2,10,270 students appeared at the examination, of whom 1.07.598 came out successful. The pass percentage is 51.17. Of them, 48,883 got First Division, 57,958 Second Division and 757

Sajia Sadeque of Vigarunnisa Noon School topped the combined merit list in Science

Third Division.

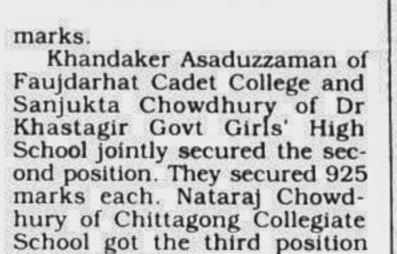
Group under Dhaka Board, se-

curing 955 marks. A B M Rubaiyat Islam Sadat of Govt Laboratory High School got the second position. He secured 951 marks. Sadia Sharmin of Vigarunnisa Noon School got the third position with 946 marks.

Jurana Aziz of Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College topped the combined merit list in Humanities group under Dhaka Board. She scored 863 marks. Md Mahfuzul Haque of Ideal School and College stood first in Business Studies group securing 893

Under Chittagong Board, a total of 59,541 students appeared at the examinations of whom 19,787 came out successful. The pass percentage is 33.23. Of the successful candidates, 9,772 got First Division, 9837 Second Division and 178 Third Division.

Debyanee Barua of Chittagong, Dr Khastagir Govt Girls' High School topped the combined merit list in Science group, securing a total of 935



Nishat Sultana of Nou-Bahini High School stood first in Humanities scoring 856 marks. Monowara Begum of Agrabad Govt Colony High School secured the first position in Business Science group securing 862 marks.

with 922 marks.

Under Rajshahi Board, a total of 1,96,487 students appeared at the examinations. Of them, 94,945 came out successful. The pass percentage is 48.32. Of the successful candidates, 38,537 got First Division, 55,443 Second Division and 965 Third Division.

Chowdhury Sharif Hasan of Rajshahi Government Laboratory High School stood first in See Page 12 Col 3

Sajia against 50 marks in objective type questions

By Staff Correspondent Sajia Sadeque, 15, of

Vigarunnisa Noon School stood first in the Science group and topped the merit list of female students of Dhaka Board securing 955 marks. Daughter of Abdus Sadeque,

Executive Engineer of PWD and Yasmin Akhter. Sajia studied for at least 10 hours every day. In an interview with The

Daily Star yesterday, she said the main purpose of study should be to acquire knowledge and added that it was her regular study that helped her to top the merit list Sajia said the present exam-

ination system is faulty and the marks out of 100 on every subject should be curtailed. "I do not support the present

See Page 12 Col 4



Flood-hit Basabo area in the city still under knee-deep water.

- Star photo

Flood situation in Dhaka improves, rivers fall

The flood situation in all the 37 affected districts across the country has improved with three more deaths yesterday, reports UNB.

However, according to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), the situation may deteriorate again in the northern districts due to anticipated rainfall.

Flood situation in the Brahmaputra and Ganges basins may remain unchanged. but the situation in the central part of the country, especially in and around Dhaka city, may improve further the centre

It said flood in the upper part of the Meghna basin will continue to improve, but downstream from Bhairab Bazar may remain static. The situation in the south eastern hill basin may also remain unchanged However, the Relief Control

Room said, the situation in many of the 32 affected districts that has been improving, became almost normal yesterday. It said the death toll rose to 256 as three more people died in Munshiganj district yesterday. There was no further re-

port of any damage to crops, cattleheads or houses. According to the Flood Warning Centre, flood situation in the central part of the country is likely to improve while it may improve further around Dhaka city and will continue to improve in the upper part of the

The situation may remain unchanged in the Brahmaputra

The Sonali Bank operations

in the United Kingdom will be

transformed into a representa-

1999, under a restructuring

plan signed with the Bank of

England (BOE), according to of-

der British law as Sonali Fi-

nance Company and all its six

branches in the UK will act as

posed a number of embargoes

on SB about the functions of the

new company. The new entity

will not be able to take deposits

from individual customers and

will also not be allowed to give

government or corporate bod-

ies, according to the BOE condi-

December, 1998 to do the neces

sary restructuring in its UK op-

erations. If the plan gets the go-

ahead from the government and

the SB can complete the restruc-

turing, Sonali Finance Com-

pany will take over the assets

It can only do business with

The BOE has given SB till

loans to individuals.

However, the BOE has im-

SB UK will be registered un-

ficial sources.

subsidiaries.

tive office from January 1

Meghna basin.

and Ganges basins, the south eastern hill basin and the downstream of Meghna basin from Bhairab Bazar.

The Brahmaputra-Jamuna fell further at all points during 24 hours till 9 am yesterday while the rivers in the Meghna basin recorded further fall at all points except Someswari at

The rivers in the south eastern hill basin rose at most places, but were flowing below their respective danger levels. The Padma recorded both rise and fall.

In the Brahmaputra basin, the Brahmaputra further fell by 9 cm at Noonkhawa and by 10 cm at Chilmari. The Jamuna also recorded further fall by 4 cm at Bahadurabad, 6 cm at See Page 12 Col 7

and liabilities of SB, UK.

The breakthrough in this re-

gard came following intensive

negotiations between the BOE

and two representatives of the

government, Ibrahim Khaled,

deputy governor of the

Bangladesh Bank, and M R

Khan, managing director of SB.

lowing mismanagement of its

operations. According to SB

sources, no action had been

taken to restructure the SB UK

since last December although

the BOE had been pressing for a

including the head office. The

rest are in Lutton, Manchester,

Birmingham and Bradford.

SB has two offices in London

number of reforms.

The SB UK faced closure fol-

Agreement signed with BOE

SB to become Sonali

Finance Company

By Inam Ahmed

Matin Chowdhury for appointing some 287 police sub-inspectors allegedly by abusing official powers. They are now on

The counsel for Begum Zia filed a petition on July 22 personal appearance in the See Page 12 Col 2

Health Ministry's officials involved in financial scandal

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare Ministry has decided to take legal action against the ministry's officials involved in financial irregu-

The decision was taken at a meeting of the committee yesterday after a discussion on the press report regarding the min-

transfer of NIPORT officials to the Revenue Sector also came up

Chairman Dr Kazi Yusuf, the meeting was attended, among others by its members Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf, State Minister Prof Dr M Amanullah, Begum Aleya Afroz, Alhaj Muhammad Tajul Islam Chowdhury, Dr Dewan Muhammad Salahuddin and

Sved Mehdi

The BOE conditions were imposed because of the bad loan portfolio situation of the SB branches in the UK.

According to sources, SB UK has 59 million pound sterling in deposits and 3.3 million pound sterling in advances. About 80 per cent of the advances amounting to 2.7 million pound sterling is classified.

See Page 12 Col 8

Jain Commission report

Foreign hand in Rajiv killing not ruled out

sibility of existence of foreign hand behind the LTTE in the conspiracy to murder of Rajiv Gandhi cannot be ruled out, rather it is strengthened in view of the evidence and materials studied by the Jain Commission, reports PTI. In its nine-volume final re-

NEW DELHI, Aug 2: The pos-

port, the one-man panel has raised a large number of questions and pointed out various aspects in this regard even though there was no direct evidence to prove it.

However, there were several pointers in this direction, the commission felt and suggested further probe in the matter. The government has accepted the recommendation and asked the proposed Multi-disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) in

CBI to investigate. Among major indicators tocorroborated by Sonia Gandhi in her affidavit to the panel to had told Sonia and then pre-

which she said she had been told so by Rajiv himself. Arafat mier Chandrashekhar when the PLO leader had come to attend the funeral in Delhi. During his deposition, Bajpai said, "a fortnight after Rajiv

Gandhi's assassination, Chandrashekhar gold me that he had been told by Arafat that the CIA/Mossad/ LTTE were behind the plot to kill Gandhi."

the RAW chief to get in touch with Muchkund Dubey requesting him to call the then Palestinian ambassador to seek further details on the matter.

represent Khaleda The District and Sessions

Corruption case

Court allows

lawyer to

Judge's Court yesterday allowed Chairperson of BNP Begum Khaleda Zia, to be represented in the court by her lawyer in a corruption case, reports UNB. The Bureau of Anti-corrup-

tion had filed a case against the former Prime Minister and the former Home Minister Abdul

seeking to dispense with her court and to allow her to be rep-

to face legal action

larities, reports UNB.

istry's financial scandal. The issues relating to the

at the meeting for discussion. Presided over by committee

Health Secretary Muhammad Ali and senior officials concerned were also present.

UP member shot dead in Jhenidah

The dead person was identified as Alauddin, 30. According to police, armed

men belonging to the Biplobi Communist Party called Alauddin out of his house and shot him dead.

A case was filed in this connection with Kotchandpur thana.

Visa seekers will

respect: US embassy

The US embassy in the city yesterday assured the government that it would look into the report of discourteous behaviour of its employees "very seriously," reports UNB. The assurance came after the

faires Theodore Nist on July 23 on harassment of Bangladeshi nationals seeking American visa by visa and consular offi-

ficially informed the Foreign Ministry that it would make every effort so that all applicants seeking visas and other consular services are treated with courtesy and respect, an official

Joyful Sajia with her mother. - Star photo 5 DB men examined by Report on Bagha judicial probe body

By Staff Correspondent

The one-man judicial commission probing the Rubel murder incident yesterday recorded statements of the five DB policemen accused in the case, sources close to the com-

mission said. The five accused DB policemen were examined by the commission for about five hours from 3:30 pm, the sources said. They was placed before the commission individually. The

commission comprises Justice Habibur Rahman Khan. "While being examined by the commission, each of the accused denied his alleged involvement in torturing Rubel but indirectly blamed others for

this," said a source close to the commission. The accused policemen, however, could not explain it to the commission why some pages of the DB register were removed soon after Rubel's

death, the sources said. Today, the commission will record the statement of AC Akram Hussain, principal accused in the Rubel murder case, the sources added. Akram was arrested on July 28, five days

after Rubel's death in the custody of DB police. Akram was later sent to the

Bangladesh will lose 22.9

billion US dollars in produc-

tivity in ten years if the present

state of malnutrition among

children and mothers contin-

ues, a health ministry docu-

cost of malnutrition says the

country will lose 11.4 billion

dollars in productivity due to

"stunting" caused because of

protein deficiency, 6.8 billion

dollars due to anemia and iron

deficiency among mothers and

4.7 billion dollars due to iodine

of malnutrition in the country

is one of the highest in the

world which is reducing the

country's development poten-

bies are born underweight and

51 per cent of the children suf-

fer from "under-height for age"

due to "stunting" caused by

pregnant women are still ane-

More than 70 per cent of

The "unacceptably high rate"

About 50 percent of the ba-

deficiency among both.

tial, the document says.

malnutrition.

The document on economic

ment says.

Dhaka Central Jail. He is yet to be placed on remand for inter-

rogation by the CID. Meanwhile, the three-day remand of the five DB men - SI Hayatul Islam Thakur, ASI Abdul Karim, havilder Nuruzzaman and constables, Parvez and Faruk — ended yesterday.

The CID is scheduled to produce them before the CMM's Court today. A CID official said last night they will decide this morning whether to submit a prayer for fresh remand.

In another development, a havilder of Special Branch who was held Friday evening while roaming around the CID office at Malibagh, was shown arrested by CID police yesterday. The havilder, Abdul Quddus,

tried to meet constable Ratul Parvez who was then under a three-day remand at the CID office with five other arrested DB men, CID sources said.

CID yesterday arrested Quddus under Section 54. He may be produced before the CMM's Court today.

cial Commission recovered the statements of two witnesses to the incident

See Page 12 Col 3

By Naimul Haq

mic. It is estimated that about

600 children die every day due

to malnutrition (2,19,000 a

year) and 25 per cent of mater-

nal deaths are related to hem-

fects children's physical and

mental capacity and their pro-

ductivity when they become

many diseases. Indirectly,

malnutrition is the biggest

killer of human beings in

pleted last June, said, "Overall"

prevalence of malnutrition in

childhood remained at 91 per

cent." It also said that night

blindness among children over

five and pregnant and lactating

women increased to over three

vey said 56.3 per cent of babies

in the age group of six months

to six years were "moderate to

"Nutrition received little at-

A 1996 Child Nutrition Sur-

A World Bank review, com-

"Stunting significantly af-

"Undernourishment leads to

orrhage and anemia.

adults," an expert said.

Bangladesh," he said.

per cent.

severely stunted."

UNB adds: Earlier, the Judi-

incident false: Handout

A government handout last night termed as "concocted, distorted and exaggerated" a report published in the daily Janakantha on the stripping of clothes of two young women in public in Bagha thana under

Rajshahi district, reports BSS. The handout said, "attention of the government has been drawn to two reports of the said daily published on August 1 and August 2 concerning stripping of clothes of two women by ter rorists and non-acceptance of FIR by the police station on the

same incident." It said, "Investigation of the incident has adequately proved that the remarks of the Prime Minister regarding the incident, which she made at a news conference on August 1, were

Dr Qader made

The government has ap-

envoy to Indonesia

pointed Dr M Afsarul Qader, the present High Commissioner to Kenya, as the next Bangladesh Ambassador to Indonesia, said an official announcement yes-

terday, reports UNB.

\$23b productivity loss in next ten years due to malnutrition

ernment allocated very limited funds for nutrition," said an official of the health ministry. According to official sources, the first communitylevel integrated nutrition programme, the Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project (BINP) has been introduced in six thanas only. Growth monitoring, supplementary feeding and

health education are the main

tention in national develop-

ment till recent days. The gov-

features of the programme. Malnutrition among babies upto 23 months can be reduced substantially in a very short time through such communitylevel programmes, the sources said quoting from studies conducted in the project area. The government has prepared a ten-year programme to

tent that it does not cause a public health problem, the sources said Implementation of the proposed one billion dollar pro-See Page 12 Col 8

reduce malnutrition to the ex-

5 beheaded bodies recovered in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Aug 2: Police recovered five beheaded bodies from village Kalabaria under Mirpur thana this morning. The bodies were identified as

those of Sarwar, 28, of village Baliapara in Mirpur thana, Al Bakar, 30, of village Teghoria in Nurpur thana, Golap, 32 of Patikabari union under Sadar thana, Akbar, 28, and Mukul, 40, both from village Khalia Kandi under Daulatpur thana. Local people said they belonged to Biplobi Communis

Party (Mofiz group). They were victims of an inter-party conflict, police said. Muggers stab

old man to death in city By Staff Correspondent

A former inspector of BRTC was stabbed to death in the city's Kachukhet area Saturday night. Police identified the dead as

Habibur Rahman, 60, a resident of West Kazipara. Two snatchers intercepted Habib's rickshaw at Kachukhet

while he was returning home at

The muggers asked him to

about 8 pm, police said.

hand over the money. But when Habib refused to do so, they stabbed him at his chest and Seriously wounded Habib was rushed to Dhaka Medical

the doctors declared him dead, police added. India bringing region to brink of war: Sharif

College Hospital (DMCH) where

LAHORE, Aug 2: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif accused India of bringing the region to the brink of war with its barrage of artillery fire in Kashmir in recent days, reports Sharif, speaking to reporters

after returning to Pakistan from Colombo, called on the international community to pressure India to desist. Otherwise, he said, "New Delhi will be responsible for war in South Asia if Indians continue ... killing innocent Kashmiris." Pakistani officials say unprovoked firing from Indian-

lagers in Pakistani-held Kashmir over the last four days. India said Pakistan started the exchange that killed 29 Indi-See Page 12 Col 2

held Kashmir has killed 48 vilwards a foreign hand behind the LTTE were the warnings by Yasser Arafat to Rajiv Gandhi

and the Palestinian leader's re-

secretary, Muchkund Dubey. Arafat's warning about a plot to kill Rajiv Gandhi was

iteration after the assassina-

tion, notes prepared by the then

chief of the Research and Anal-

ysis Wing of cabinet secretariat,

GS Bajpai, and the then foreign

.The former premier asked

See Page 12 Col 1

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Aug 2: A union parishad member of Sabdarpur union under Kotchandpur thana was shot dead last night allegedly by members of an outlawed party.

be treated with

Foreign Ministry handed over a 'note verbal' to US Charge d' Af-

In reply the US embassy of-

of the Foreign Office said.

5 city schools capture most

Five schools in the capital examinations this year under

merit list, reports UNB. Govt Laboratory High

ness Studies groups. Ideal School and College and

Laboratory High School got 19th and 20th in Science Group ness Studies Group.

while 4th, 5th and 13th positions in Humanities Group. The school also secured the 9th, 10th, 14th and 16th positions in Business Studies Group. Ideal School and College se-

tions in Business Studies Group and the 17th position in Science Group. clinched the 7th, 8th, 9th, 15th,

Girls secure

CHITTAGONG, Aug 2: Girl candidates secured top three positions of three groups in this year's SSC examinations under the Chittagong Board, reports

Monwara Begum of Agrabad Govt Colony High School in Business Studies Group. Another striking feature of

Case against Chetia Next hearing on

By Court Correspondent Recording of evidence in the cases against ULFA leader Anup

the prosecution witnesses.

on June 30 last year.

Article