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Degree exam results announced

The results of Degree (pass) and certificate course special examinations of 1997 under the National University were announced yesterday with a pass percentage of 34.93, reports UNB.

A total of 34,739 candidates appeared in the examinations. Of them, 12,135, including 3337 females, came out successful.

Of the successful students, 15 got first division, 8,336 second division and 8,283 third division.

Mohammad Masum Billah (P25975) topped the merit list in the BA (pass) examinations with a total marks of 664. Ten others obtained first division in the examinations.

Abul Kalam (42279) of Kabi Nazrul Govt College, Dhaka was the lone candidate to get first division from BCom(pass) group. He obtained 615 marks.

Bijon Singh (46908) of MC College, Sylhet, secured the first

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Mustafiz gets a 2-year contract, will continue as foreign secy

The government has appointed Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman for a period of two years on contract. Foreign Office sources said yesterday, according to BSS.

The contract comes into effect from December 8, 1998.

Canceling his LPR (leave preparatory to retirement), the authorities have appointed him to the same post for a period of two years the sources added.

Runa to get free treatment

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday said that the government would bear all expenses for the treatment of Runa, who lost fingers of her hands in a bomb blast in Azimpur area during Sunday's hartal in the city, reports agencies.

The Health Minister was visiting Runa at Ward 32 of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The minister asked the hospital authorities to take proper care of Runa and said that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has directed to bear the treatment expenses of the minor girl.

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Another Unnecessary Devaluation

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Frenzied fans find tickets elusive, go on rampage

Cricket crazy fans attacked a branch of IFIC Bank in the city in a mad rush for tickets on the first day of sale yesterday for the upcoming Wills International Cup, reports agencies.

Five persons were arrested from the Motijheel area when they went wild damaging the bank counter.

Police used teargas and baton to drive out the agitated fans.

People stood for hours in long queues to get tickets since early morning and at one stage some frustrated fans suddenly attacked the Bank's Federation Branch at Motijheel, witnesses said.

Many dejected cricket lovers

had to return home empty-handed.

The branch is selling tickets for Club House, VIP and International Box.

The sale of tickets for the cricket carnival starting October 24 began yesterday simultaneously through 12 branches of IFIC Bank in the city and one at Narayanganj.

Witnesses said the frenzied cricket-lovers were locked in a clash with police when the IFIC Bank authorities closed ticket sale as per schedule at about 2:15 pm.

The unruly elements stoned the bank building and damaged its counter, said police who intervened to get to grips with the

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Anger vented on window panes. —Star photo



THE ETERNAL WAIT! Fans in thousands queue up for tickets in front of Dhamondi Branch of IFIC Bank yesterday for the Wills International Cup cricket carnival slated to start on October 24. —Star photo

Khaleda makes peace during Wills Cup conditional

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP will not go for any anti-government agitation during the Wills International Cup Cricket Tournament in Dhaka if the government allows the party to observe tomorrow's hartal peacefully.

This was stated by Khaleda Zia, the BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, yesterday when her party members on the parliamentary standing committee on youth and sports met her yesterday evening, insiders in the party said.

Earlier, the parliamentary body on youth and sports decided at a meeting that its members would meet Khaleda Zia 'sometime today' to request her to withdraw tomorrow's hartal. Two BNP lawmakers on the committee — Mosharraf Hossain Mongu and KM Abdul Khaleque — were given the responsibility to fix an appoint-

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BNP sees 'no scope' to call off hartal

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has ruled out any possibility of calling off its Thursday's hartal and termed the government's move for negotiations on the issue "misleading", "insincere" and "aimed at getting press coverage".

"Where is the scope for withdrawing the hartal call? The government is requesting for its withdrawal in one hand and continuing its repression on the Opposition on the other", BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP told a questioner at a press conference in the city yesterday evening.

Since the BNP and its allies called Thursday's eight-hour hartal across the country on Sunday, government leaders are persuading leaders of the Opposition to call off the programme for the sake of smooth holding of the mini-world cup cricket tournament, scheduled to begin in the city on Saturday.

"We've no confrontation with the cricket match. Our planned hartal has no link

with it.... We want the international sport event to take place smoothly. But we think the government will fail in organising the event as it had done in all other cases", Mannan Bhuiyan told the press conference, held at the Minto Road official residence of Leader of the Opposition.

Asked if the planned hartal would harm the cricket tournament, he said: "We called the hartal two days before the tournament starts not to damage the event."

Questioning the government's sincerity in its negotiations, the BNP leader cited several incidents including "killing" of a JCD leader in Khulna, "snatching" of Akkas Ali's body by police, "attack" on Shaheda Obaid's meeting at a Faridpur house and arrest of at least 60 BNP men only yesterday in Keraniganj, Narsingdi, Mymensingh, Faridpur and other places.

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Stakeholders must okay reform steps: Kibria

By Staff Correspondent

Economists and finance minister SAMS Kibria yesterday agreed that any reform programme must be owned by the society and that the stakeholders of these programmes must be consulted before implementation.

The views expressed at the first national forum of Structural Adjustment Participatory Review Initiative (SAPRI) set diagonally opposed to how the structural adjustment programmes had been implemented in Bangladesh and other countries.

Kibria speaking at the forum held at CIRDA auditorium said it was important to review the results of structural adjustment programmes and to know how the stakeholders expected reforms.

"Why should reforms be controversial?" asked Kibria.

"Reforms are for changing institutions, and methods of works for improvement. But some of the reform measures are not reflecting the wishes of the people and are imposed from outside. This is when people resist these programmes."

He said reforms must be owned by the society and that spontaneous support of the people was essential.

There are tasks that must be done not for the interest of donors but for national interests, like stopping the losses of the SOEs, he said.

He also stressed the need for reforming the financial sector and said it was an essential precondition "that the financial sector maintained an international standard."

Kibria also came down heavily on the trade union (TU) activities and said TUs have

lost their credibility because of the way they function here.

"TUs are the root of lot of difficulties we are now facing," he said. "It is absurd that a bank has several trade union bodies and all of them sit with the management to negotiate. This breeds in corruption and misuse of power."

About sick industries Kibria said those units which became sick because of management failure or lack of customers should be allowed to die peacefully.

"But the government has a moral responsibility to those units which became sick because of drastic changes in the government policies," said Kibria.

Prof Rehman Sobhan in his opening statement said that till now reforms were handed over

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Khaleda re-elected party chairperson

Begum Khaleda Zia has been re-elected Chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party for the fourth time, reports UNB.

She was declared elected unopposed for the next two-year term by Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, chief of the election conducting committee yesterday.

The last election was held almost five years ago.

42 BNP leaders, workers held in Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Oct 20: Police arrested 42 leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations from different areas of the district last night.

According to police, the arrested persons include president of Trishal thana unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and General Secretary of Muktagachha Shahid Smriti College unit of JCD.

In protest against the arrests, supporters and activists of BNP and JCD brought out several processions in Mymensingh town and at different thana headquarters including Bhaluka, Trishal and Ishwarganj today.

Some JCD activists damaged several vehicles at Trishal on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

BNP calls hartal in Faridpur today

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Oct 20: The district BNP has called a half-day hartal here tomorrow to protest police firing on a BNP rally near Faridpur Press Club today.

District BNP leader Advocate Modesser Ali Isa received injuries when police fired rubber bullets to disperse the BNP activists. Modesser was rushed to Faridpur General Hospital from where he was shifted to Dhaka in critical condition.

Meanwhile, BNP activists brought out a procession in the town to drum up support for tomorrow's hartal.

Two police men — an inspector and a constable — have been suspended in this connection.

TUs at Ctg Port threaten strike Nov 17

From Our Correspondent

Dock-Port Workers-Employees Council, a combine of 22 trade unions at Chittagong port today demanded implementation of the agreement signed with the CBA by November 16, reports UNB.

Otherwise, they threatened to observe a 24-hour strike on

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Economists under fire

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria yesterday came down heavily on economists for their comments in the media that inflation may go up because of devaluation.

Kibria said inflation can be a psychological factor and that it should not be ignited by "false comments."

"If prices of imported products are higher, then there is a possibility of inflation. But I would have been happy if the economists had made their comments based on figures," he said.

Prices of inputs into Bangladesh have been falling by 10 to 30 per cent, Kibria said quoting a UN Statistical report. Prices of petroleum products fell by 24 per cent, beverage by 19 per cent, sugar by 17 per cent and cotton by 14 per cent, he said.

He said, the rate of falling prices is much more than the three per cent devaluation.

"So, there is no reason for inflation to rise," assured Kibria. "Whatever is being imported from Asia, its price is falling." "Inflation should decrease as a result of fall in prices of imported products," he said.

Both parties in Khulna file cases against BNP men

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 20: AL city unit leader Abdul Karim has lodged a case with Khulna thana today accusing 18 BNP and JCD activists for attacking his party office on Monday morning.

On the other hand, city BNP secretary Nazrul Islam Manju has filed a case today against four leaders of Jubadail (the party's youth wing) and many others unknown to him for attacking party office on the same day.

According to a press release of BNP, a group of armed youngmen stormed the residence of Anwarul Kadir Khokon, KCC commissioner from ward no. 18 and vice president of city BNP on Monday midnight. They allegedly ransacked the house.

Sonadanga thana BNP office also came under their attack at

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DCC mayoral election Hanif gets 'green signal', BNP yet to decide

By Morshed Ali Khan and Nazmul Ashraf

With the city corporation elections approaching, aspiring candidates in the major political parties have become active to get party nomination to contest the mayoral posts.

Elections in the country's four city corporations in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna are expected to be held early next year.

The last mayoral elections in the four city corporations were held during the first half of 1994.

Speculations about who would get nominations from the major political parties to contest the mayoral elections, especially in the Dhaka City Corporation, have been circulating fast. Dhaka city Mayor Mohammad Hanif has already received 'green signal' from

Awami League to contest again,

sources close to him said. This puts a brake on the rumours that Deputy Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain Choudhury, might be considered for the AL nomination.

In the BNP camp, insiders said, two aspiring candidates are at hand for the mayoral nomination. Sadek Hossain Khoka, the only BNP MP, who returned from one of the eight constituencies of the city in the last election, is a 'potential candidate'. But others said former DCC Mayor Mirza Abbas had been strongly lobbying to get BNP nomination for the mayoral race.

It's still unclear who would eventually get the BNP nomination but both the aspirants are learnt to have been continuing their efforts to please the

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Hartal observed in Khulna Chanchal's mother sues 5 of son's party activists

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 20: Mother of slain JCD central vice president Wahiduzzaman Chanchal, has filed a case with Kotwali Thana today accusing five of her son's party activists as suspects.

The FIR by Badrun Nahar, (68), the mother, has added to reports and evidence so far that Chanchal was killed due to an intra-party feud.

Meanwhile, City BNP president M Nurul Islam Dadu also admitted that none from the ruling party was involved in the murder. But, he said, an identified group of terrorists and professional killers were engaged to kill the JCD leader. "Who engaged them for the killing cannot be ascertained until confession of the accused," he said.

Chanchal was killed Sunday night after being kidnapped. His body was recovered by police the next morning.

Police arrested four persons

from the house of former Muslim League leader the late Mohammad Ali who the JCD leader was believed to have been killed. The arrested four were Ali's daughter Advocate Akhtar Jahan Ruku (50), his son Intaj Ali and the two who used to act as Chanchal's security guards.

Intaj Ali was later released on bail.

Two of the accused mentioned in the FIR have been absconding since the murder. Three of the FIR-named accused arrested earlier were being interrogated by police. Ruku is also being questioned although her name was not in the FIR.

The state minister for disaster management, Talukder Abdul Khaleque who hails from Greater Khulna, in a press statement expressed his deep shock at the brutal murder and asked for immediate arrest and

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More food aid likely as VGF process picks up

By Reaz Ahmad

Bangladesh is expected to get more food aid in the wake of gradual improvement in post-flood food distribution through the VGF (vulnerable group feeding) programme.

A donor official in Dhaka told The Daily Star Monday that the number of VGF cards might be increased beyond the current 40 lakh and that allocation of food against each VGF card might also be doubled from 16 kilogram per month.

The United States, the single largest food aid provider to Bangladesh, has already given a

go-ahead for a further increase in the number of beneficiaries under VGF programme when the US envoy in Dhaka met the Prime minister on Sunday.

The US envoy had a briefing from the World Food Programme (WFP) prior to his meeting with the prime minister, a source said.

The WFP representative in Dhaka is scheduled to present a report on the state of food distribution in Bangladesh before a donors' meeting in Rome next week, and it is expected that

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KEPZ hopes to draw \$1b in investment

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 20: The Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ), to be set up across the river Karnaphuli here at a cost of 200 million US dollars, is expected to draw an investment of one billion US dollar.

This was disclosed by Kihak Sung, chairman of Youngone group, a Korean conglomerate, while addressing a press conference at his factory premises at Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) here today.

The KEPZ, a subsidiary of Youngone Corporation, to be set up over 2526 acres of land in

next 10 years (1998-2008), will be kept open to all foreign investors, Sung informed.

"All eligible investors of any foreign country will be allowed to invest in KEPZ," he said.

Replying to a question Sung said land acquisition for KEPZ was in progress.

After completion of land acquisition work, construction of the project will begin, he said. KEPZ will house 100 small and medium and 30 large industries, he said.

The type of industries to be

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Form probe body, find conspirators of Bangabandhu murder: Ershad

Former president H M Ershad yesterday demanded formation of an enquiry commission to find out the conspirators and supporters of the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

Refuting the allegation by Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed, Ershad pointed to "Facts and Documents" written by State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed.

"Can a person who has been accused as a conspirator remain in the cabinet?" he told a press conference at his Baridhara office yesterday morning.

"Another minister (Prof Abu Sayeed) has identified Tofael

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Marketing of LPG starts in Sylhet today

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Oct 20: At last, marketing of LPG is going to start in Sylhet division from tomorrow.

An official of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) told The Daily Star today that the corporation would begin marketing the LPG through three companies — Jamuna, Meghna and Padma.

The companies have already appointed 36 dealers in the four districts of the division, the of-

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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

GRATITUDE



Assalamu Alaikum,
 My dear Members, General Body, FBCCI,
 I am obliged to you for supporting me as an EC candidate for the consecutive second term. I have great respects and gratitude for you all.

I am extremely sorry for not being able to see everyone to express my feelings because I had to leave Japan leading a business delegation on behalf of the FBCCI to participate at scheduled events titled 'Global Business Opportunities Convention (G-Boc '98)' in Osaka and Bangladesh Trade and Investment seminar, Tokyo. I am indebted to all for extending their co-operation in various ways, during the election.

Khoda Hafez
Abdul Haque
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 Ex-President: Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers & Dealers Association (BARVIDA)
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