

# HSC examinations

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The 'copy prone' areas have been identified on the basis of report from the education boards during the recently concluded SSC examination as well as HSC and SSC examinations of the previous years, ministry officials said.

The boards have already launched a massive campaign against cheating at the examinations by publishing advertisement in newspapers and sticking posters. The advertisement also sought cooperation of all concerned including the elected representatives to help fight the curse of cheating at the examinations. 'Journalists have also a great role to play in creating public awareness against cheating', said one such advertisement published in different dailies.

## New upazilas, police stations

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of Polashbari and Bamondangha of Sundarganj in Gaibandha, Gundhum of Nikkhongchhari in Bandarban, Chandraganj of Laxmipur sadar, Aftabganj of Nawabganj in Dinajpur, Rohonpur of Gumstapur in Chapainawabganj, Swajan of Lakhai in Habiganj, Handial of Chatmohar in Pabna, Ashmankhali Bazar of Alamdanga in Chuadanga, Bagbari of Gabtali, Kumira of Nandigram in Bogra, Kathaltali of Mirjaganj in Patuakhali, Gouripur of Daudkandi in Comilla, Premoi of Kendua in Netrakona, Belabo of Rupganj in Narayanganj, Hatimara of Munshiganj sadar, Nawhata of Mohammadpur in Magura and Bogdadia in Feni sadar. Addressing the meeting, the Prime Minister said the government is taking all necessary steps for making the administration more dynamic and people-oriented. About the new upazilas, she said these are required for rapid devel-

# Some BNP leaders

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gling through ZIA, was absconding since the murder of Milan. Earlier, he was arrested several times, thrice during the BNP rule. But each time, he was released on bail. Sources said Sagar is now staying in jail like a 'first class prisoner' as he is 'blessed' by some top police officials. He has reportedly claimed that none could keep him behind the bars for long. He came to limelight when Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) President Nasuriddin Ahmed Pintu introduced him to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's private secretary Mosaddek Ali Falu in 1996. At the influence of Falu, Sagar was inducted in BNP's city committee and was made assistant general secretary. Formation of city committee was delayed for years and efforts to form it were foiled by Falu thrice as city BNP leadership refused to include Sagar and Pintu in the committee. But finally Falu managed their entry, party sources said. Asked about the poster, a senior

## PDB, AES sign

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the contractual pricing of 2.72 US cents per kilowatt houra rate that is considered one of the lowest in the world. Sources said it would be around 5.5 cents or Tk 3 per unit. But the Haripur-360 MW AES Power Plant could not kick off properly, as it was still undergoing various tests. Nor was the contract between PDB and AES finalised. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the plant on April 15. With the election ahead, the government decided to push the AES to begin its operation much ahead of schedule. The AES-PDB contract suggests that the company begin commercial power generation as from January 28, 2003. However, the AES itself declared last year that it would begin its commercial operation using combined cycle technology on October 31. The AES has spent additional 15 to 20 million dollars to supply this additional power.

## Jubo League, BCL clash in Sylhet: 3 injured

UNB, Sylhet

At least three people, including a police officer, were injured in a clash between the supporter of Jubo League and BCL in Golapganj upazila of Sylhet district yesterday. The clash erupted in the evening at a public meeting of Water Resources Minister Abdul Razzak when Jubo League activists tried to prevent a BCL procession proceeding to the dais of the meeting just before arrival of the minister. Both the group chased each other, threw bricks and allegedly fired several shots in the bus station area. The injured are ASI of local police station Shaymol Chandra Pal, local AL leader Shahid Ali and an AL activist. Awami League leaders helped police to bring the situation under control. The minister later addressed the meeting.

# Yasmeen Murder Case Prosecution has failed to prove charges, says Defence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Death Reference Bench of the High Court continued hearing on the Yasmeen rape and murder case yesterday with the defence arguing against the death sentence of the three policemen given by a trial court in 1996. Seventeen-year-old Yasmeen, who was going to her village home in Dinajpur from Dhaka at night, was allegedly taken in a police van by patrol police offering her a lift, raped and murdered, and the body was left at a paddy field near Dinajpur town. The incident took place in 1995. The incident sparked off violent protests across the country and killing of seven persons in police firing in Dinajpur town. Defence lawyer Nazrul Islam Talukder argued that newspaper reports on hearing of the case that the incident tarnished the image of police could influence the court. The Bench comprising Justice Abdul Matin and Justice Marziul Huq rejected the argument, saying the newspaper reports quoted from the submission of Deputy Attorney General Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik. At this stage, Manik stated that the role of the then SP of Dinajpur Abdul Motalib and some other

# BNP meets today

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Another top leader of the party said Chowdhury's interview with a private TV on Tuesday night and reports in a Bangla daily supporting the hardliners further angered the party chief and the rank and file. "There has been a serious reaction in BNP and its front organisations and now there is no alternative but to expel Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury to reduce tension in the party. The situation in the party demands immediate expulsion of Chowdhury," he said. "The party chief is now fully convinced that BNP would face more trouble if the parasites are not removed immediately". Another leader said the party will get rid of the "parasites" before the coming general election despite an apprehension that they would create problem regarding some parliamentary seats of the party. The leader quoting Khaleda Zia as saying, "The party will suffer damage if we keep parasites like Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury. Since then, the "imported men"

# A worthy example to emulate

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loophole he is not only still roaming the streets but merily borrowing more money from the banks, rubbing shoulders with the high and the mighty and essentially telling us all that he is above the law. To put salt in the public wound he got himself 'elected' in a supra-chamber body. To the credit of the finance minister he has made it known that the "oil-turned-water" man is not welcomed in his office in spite of the 'elected status'. (Question: when the government knows his case, why he is not being prosecuted? What example is the government setting before other businessmen by remaining silent about him?) Then there was the case of more than one hundred cheques being made out to completely fictitious persons through a process which everyone knows clearly to be an elaborate fraud. These were later traced to a famous business house, which accepted full responsibility for the fraud and agreed to repay the money to the bank. The public never understood why there was no legal proceeding against the business house. Whatever may have been the legal shortcomings, did the business leaders in question accept moral responsibility for their actions? Did they ever utter even a word of regret for what was, most innocently put, grievous lapses in their business practices. No. On the contrary, they not only continued their business as

usual (which actually meant borrowing more money from the banks and defaulting), but 'consolidated' their positions by getting themselves 'elected' in high posts of chamber bodies. It is these people who started the most severe rot in the chamber bodies some of whose example we cite below. The Manikganj Chamber had been for long held captive by a former head of a supra chamber. He is alleged to have made non-business persons, who are not even residents of Manikganj, chamber members to get more votes. An investigation by the district administration has reportedly found only one of the members of the board of directors, which includes two sitting MPs of the ruling party, to be a genuine businessman and a resident of Manikganj. The Barisal Chamber has been under the control of student cadres of the present ruling party. In Bogra and Rajshahi mastaans were used to win elections. The Chittagong Chamber is held captive by the son of a ruling party stalwart although the commerce ministry has proclaimed the chamber to be void of any president. There are many other such instances. When such is but a glimpse of chamber politics resignation by the DCCI president is indeed more noteworthy. We have decided to write this commentary because along with a general deterioration of moral standards in the society, moral

## Bomb recovery 4 sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four people, arrested in connection with the recover of a powerful bomb under the driving seat of a DCC commissioner, were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday. Mohammadpur police produced Rahman, Sobhan, Shamim and Kamal before the CMM's court, Dhaka, on completion of a one day remand. The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Biman Bihari Barua ordered police to send them to the Dhaka Central Jail as no prayer for further remand for the accused was sought by the police.

## Hearing on writ

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Shamsul Huda fixed Monday for the hearing. However, the Bench will first hear a writ petition on the same issue filed last year by Barister Abdul Razzaq on behalf of his client Afzalul Abedin of Dinajpur. The Attorney General will argue on behalf of the government. Barister Ishiatque was assisted by Advocate MA Malek, Advocate Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed and Barrister Moudud Ahmed and some others. Murshed Khan filed the writ following a case under PSA on December 25 last year accusing him of looting and ransacking a sweetmeat shop at Chittagong. Since the filing of his writ, more than 100 similar writs have been filed and those are now awaiting disposal.

misled the party leadership to take up various imprudent and unrealistic programmes, they said. Sources in the hardliners group said they are planning to meet Khaleda Zia on her return from Kurigram, apologise on behalf of Chowdhury and request her not to take any action against him. An influential leader of the hardliners group said they will try to convince the party chief that expulsion of Chowdhury will affect BNP in the next election. However, majority of the leaders feel that expulsion of Chowdhury would not affect the party at all as his position in his constituency in Chittagong is "not so good". Sources said Khaleda Zia got a number of letters from BNP leaders and activists in Chowdhury's constituency, requesting her not to nominate him in the coming election. They also wrote that they would not work during the polls if Chowdhury is given nomination.

# Jakiganj people

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of Tk 5 crore. Formal announcement to this effect is yet to be made as port authority wants to read pulses of local and non-local labourers about this decision. At present, there are 4,482 labourers registered with the Dock Labourers' Management Board (DLMB) at Mongla Port which is on verge of collapse due to corruption, politicisation and regionalism among the labourers. Meanwhile, extra police forces were deployed at the port yesterday as CBA leaders downed the strike by sewing labourers at the port since last Monday demanding their appointment in the clinker carrying ships. The striking sewing workers also forced other labourers to stop work in the two foodgrains carrying ships. We conclude with a serious plea to our business leaders that they must work together to promote good business practices. The global experience today is that honest business is far more durable, sustainable and profitable than 'fly by night' business. Countries whose private sector is led by honest businessmen succeed far quicker in penetrating global markets because of their quality of products and services. Truly today "honesty pays" in business.

AGP-BJP combine. The AGP-BJP alliance was formed almost at the eleventh hour, causing widespread resentment in the BJP rank and file of the state. But the BJP central leadership felt the alliance was needed to stop Congress from regaining power by preventing a three-way division of majority votes. Muslim votes will play a key role in Assam, as members of the community constitute nearly 30 per cent of the voters. The Left Front's grip over Kerala state in the south is, by all accounts, set to go, paving the return of the Congress-led United Democratic Front to power. Kerala has been oscillating between Left Front and the Congress-led alliance rule since 1982. Desperate to retain power in Kerala, the CPI (M), the lead partner in the Left Front, has made major changes in the list of candidates

## Golam Azam barred from leaving country

UNB, Dhaka

As the government imposed a ban on his departure from the country, former ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Prof Golam Azam has cancelled his scheduled visit to London. Golam Azam and his wife were due to go to London today by a British Airways flight. Party sources said three plainclothes policemen from the Special Branch yesterday went to the residence of former Jamaat ameer and asked for his passport, showing a Home Ministry order that banned his departure from the country. Golam Azam refused to give passport to police, saying that he got it more than a year after the court verdict. At one stage, police said they would go away without taking his passport if he gave a written statement that he would not leave the country. Accordingly, Golam Azam gave a written statement to the police.

## RU BBA student drowns

UNB, Rajshahi

A first year BBA student of Rajshahi University drowned while bathing in a pond with his friends at Meherchandi yesterday. The victim was identified as Hassan Al Mahmud of Dhanmondi, Dhaka. His body was sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

## Dhaka rejects

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between the two countries, the foreign minister said Dhaka expressed the desire that the first meeting between the two countries to resolve the border issues would be held here. "Our desire to have the first meeting in Dhaka has been communicated to them diplomatically," he said, adding, "We would, however, not press for it." He said the selection of venue would be settled through discussion between the two countries. To another question, Azad said Bangladesh was pleased that India launched an investigation into how the BSF entered the Bangladesh territory. He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her conversation with her Indian counterpart Atal Bihari Vajpayee on April 22 by telephone asked him to initiate the probe.

## Financial crisis

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## Jakiganj people

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cials and members of other agencies went to the house of Amin Miah on May 6 and talked to him. Amin, son of Haji Rofoi Miah said that he had gone to a nearby place adjoining to the border and heard some firing by the BSF personnel. Immediately, he divided into the river and swam to safety. Later, he returned to the house of a relative at a nearby village.

# Leaders of BMS locked in feud

## Counter allegations over Feb 27 polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A controversy has arisen in the largest association of freedom fighters, Bangladesh Muktioddha Sangsad (BMS), with the formation of a new platform of the association and leaders of each faction making allegations against each other. A faction of BMS calling itself the 'Kendriya Sangram Parishad' at a press conference yesterday demanded cancellation of the polls of Central Command Council of the BMS held on February 27. The leaders of the newly formed platform alleged massive rigging in the polls and demanded fresh election of the largest and oldest association for the freedom fighters through the help of a caretaker committee. They also alleged financial irregularities in the association and demanded immediate closure of all bank accounts of BMS. Reading out a written statement at the press conference, Maj. (retd.) Shah Alam Talukder of the Parishad questioned the genuineness of the voters list prepared in the last polls, which, he said, included some people who were not freedom fighters at all. He alleged that the present chairman had also 'adopted unfair means' during the polls. The leaders of the Parishad, however, did not give a clear reason as to why they were bringing up the allegations after such a long time.

## Cattle trader

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his alleged involvement with the mugging. In another incident, muggers snatched Tk 12,000 from one Farid Hossain at Road No-11, Gulshan while he was going to Minto road by an auto-rickshaw Tuesday evening. A gang of muggers stopped Farid's auto-rickshaw and snatched the money from him.

## Roumari incident

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the primary enquiry, the allegations were proved to be true." Officer-in-Charge of Roumari thana and investigating officer of the case Shudhinda Bhattacharia told BSS. Bakul filed his allegations on May 1, when police recorded it as a GD and sought directives from the higher authorities, which came on Tuesday. Earlier, some villagers of Baraibari, the village to witness the worst ever border skirmishes between the two paramilitary border forces on April 17 and 18 leaving 16 BSF and three BDR men killed, lodged another GD for the damage to their houses.

## 6 killed, 19 hurt in Gazipur

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identified immediately. Of the injured, five were sent to Orthopedic Hospital in Dhaka in critical condition and seven admitted to Sadar Hospital. Those sent to Dhaka were identified as Arfan, 50, Helal, 20, Taru Mia, 40, Alamgir, 25 and Shailen, 48. The pick-up was carrying (fish traders and fish from Jatrabari in Dhaka to Mymensingh town, its injured passengers said. Witnesses said some people looted fish worth about Tk. 50,000 from the damaged pick-up after the mishap. A case was filed with Joydevpur

## PM to lay

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from his ward required for construction of double lane approach road on the eastern and western sides of the proposed bridge. The proposed bridge will be 1,360 metre in length and 16.65 metres in width, said a source in the department concerned. Besides, 17 kilometre long and 15.55 metre wide Khulna town bypass road will also be constructed with provision for pavements on both sides of the bridge, the source said.

## Meeting at EC

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cal affairs, will also be present in the meeting at the EC Secretariat. Officials said this exercise would be a follow-up of a May 3 meeting of the full EC and functionaries of the EC Strengthening Project that took stock of the pre-poll law and order situation across the country. "The Election Commission will need thousands of security personnel, including police, para-military BDR, army, ansar, VDP and even scouts, as volunteers for the gigantic task of holding the election on a single day," Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed said. The bazaar in East Ushna also put on a deserted look. Normally, people crowd the retail stores, but the stores were almost empty due to border tension. At the recent flag meeting with the BDR, the BSF denied the fact that they attacked the Bangladeshis and refuted the allegation of deploying forces to keep the Ushna inhabitants away from their homes. Says a BDR officer: "We have lodged complaints with the BSF, but they have denied the allegations." The 65-km long border areas in Joypurhat are still tension-gripped following the Boraibari (in Roumari) skirmishes on April 18. Ten BDR personnel are still on 'red alert'. All the BDR observation posts in Koya, Bashudevpur and Hilli deployed extra forces to deal with any untoward situation.

## Joypurhat

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houses. They have informers on the other side of the border close to our village, who regularly inform the BSF of our efforts to resettle. Whenever we come near our houses, the BSF threaten us." The bazaar in East Ushna also put on a deserted look. Normally, people crowd the retail stores, but the stores were almost empty due to border tension. At the recent flag meeting with the BDR, the BSF denied the fact that they attacked the Bangladeshis and refuted the allegation of deploying forces to keep the Ushna inhabitants away from their homes. Says a BDR officer: "We have lodged complaints with the BSF, but they have denied the allegations." The 65-km long border areas in Joypurhat are still tension-gripped following the Boraibari (in Roumari) skirmishes on April 18. Ten BDR personnel are still on 'red alert'. All the BDR observation posts in Koya, Bashudevpur and Hilli deployed extra forces to deal with any untoward situation.

# Crucial test for Indian ruling coalition

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Opposition and Congress chief Sonia Gandhi pitching in to turn it into a high-profile event. Seldom has the run-up to an election been marked by so much suspense. The spotlight is certainly on the 294 seats in West Bengal where Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress, in alliance with Congress, seeks to dislodge the world's longest-serving communist rule. The CPI (M)-led Left Front coalition has been in power for nearly quarter of a century at a stretch. Mamata's tie-up with the Congress has altered the political configurations in West Bengal forcing the Left parties to redraw their electoral strategies. This is for the first time that the Left Front, which came to power in 1977, is facing such a strong challenge in the electoral battle. Various opinion

polls have given the Front only a slight edge in the number of seats to be won and predict a nail-biting finish. Although BJP is not a force to reckon with in West Bengal, the party can still play the spoilsport for Trinamool Congress-Congress combine by cutting into its votes in some seats. Both Mamata and Left Front's chief ministerial candidate Buddhadeb Bhattacharya have led their respective alliances from the front. This is the first time the Front is going to the poll without octogenarian Marxist Jyoti Basu in the fray. Basu retired from electoral politics last year but had been the Front's star campaigner. Mamata is not contesting the assembly polls. She has apparently decided to see the polls outcome and then plan her future role - be it at the state or national level.