

More A+ achievers

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students achieved the same feat.
GPA 5 or A+ indicates marks ranging between 80 and 100, the highest grade in the new system introduced in 2001 replacing conventional numeric system.

Examinees of science group earned most GPA 5 while 13 from business studies group and only three from humanities group achieved the highest grade.

Madrasah students got three GPA 5 while none from the SSC Vocational Examination under Technical Education Board won the grade.

Dhaka Board topped with 919 GPA 5, Rajshahi ranked second with 267 while 104 from Jessore, 36 from Comilla, 30 from Chittagong, 23 from Barisal and 10 from Sylhet Education Board gained the highest GPA.

Dhaka Board

A total of 919 students got GPA 5. Of them, 539 are male students and 380 female. Science group carried 905, business studies group 13 and only one from humanities group earned the grade.

Chittagong Board

All 30 students obtaining GPA 5 under the board are from science group. Of them, 20 are male and 10 female.

Comilla Board

A total of 36 examinees grabbed GPA 5 under the board and all are from science group. Of them 34 are

Phensidyl seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) seized 480 bottles of contraband phensidyl from a house in Keraniganj on Monday.

A team of CID police raided the house at Charuhitpur and seized the phensidyl from the bedroom of one Mujibur Rahman. The price of the seized phensidyl is estimated at Tk 96,000.

Police arrested two people -- Mujibur Rahman and Shahin -- from the spot.

A case was filed with the Keraniganj Police Station.

Welfare fund

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under an agreement with four per cent annual interest.

The government exchequer had to suffer a loss of Tk 46.61 lakh as Fund officials made FDR (Fixed Deposit Receipt) for only one year with the Fund money instead of three years depriving the government of more interest income from the amount.

The Fund authorities also did not realise Tk 37.14 lakh from Messrs Kota Bangladesh as expenditure for bringing back 113 labourers from Libya and deposit an amount of Tk 6.5 lakh as confiscated security money to the government exchequer causing a total loss of Tk 43.63 lakh.

Despite specific allegation of forgery in the name of employment against the recruiting agency, the repatriation expenditure was not realised and the security money deposited, the report observed.

Violating a Presidential Order, Tk 34.43 lakh was distributed from the Fund to schools and madrassas of 20 districts of the country. In this regard, the audit report said the distribution got priority according to the recommendations of ministers, MPs, secretaries and higher officials.

Printing of diary and calendar and other publication-related expenditures caused a loss of Tk 17.43 lakh from the Fund as the authorities did not obtain supplies from the lowest bidder.

The auditors suggested that the amount should be immediately realised from officials responsible for the anomaly.

JEC talks roll onto Day 3

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grown impatient. The Daily Star managed to ask the foreign minister, "What would be signed tomorrow?" The minister's response was terse, "Whatever we agreed."

Sources who closely followed the meeting said the agreement is a kind of roadmap to enhance bilateral economic interactions between the two neighbours until the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is signed after the Cancun meet of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

In yesterday's meeting, the Bangladesh side was learnt to have bargained for tariff free access of 61 commodities to the Indian market. "As the two sides agreed to disagree on many matters, the consensus took time," commented a senior official.

The FTA is learnt to have dominated the talks from the Indian side while Bangladesh insisted on reduction of the yawning trade deficit by exporting more commodities should India agree to the tariff-free excess of Bangladeshi commodities.

The trade pendulum between the two neighbours is heavily tilted in favour of India, to the tune of nearly \$1 billion.

Observers believe the JEC meet has accomplished much more than expected despite the Indian media's apathy to cover the meeting. "I'm the only journalist to

male and two female.

Sylhet Board

Seven male and three female examinees got GPA 5 under the board and all are from science group.

Rajshahi Board

A total of 267 examinees scored the highest grade. Of them, 183 are male and 84 female. They are also from science group.

Jessore Board

Seventy-six male and 28 female students grabbed GPA 5 under the board. Science group students managed 103 while humanities group claimed one.

Barisal Board

A total of 23 examinees secured GPA 5. Nineteen of them are male and four female. Science group obtained 22 while one student from humanities group secured the highest GPA.

Police constable chargesheeted in Sergeant Awal murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police yesterday submitted charge sheet against police constable Ataur Rahman for his alleged involvement in the killing of Army Sergeant Mohammad Azimul Awal.

Police said the charge sheet was submitted to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka after Assistant Superintendent of Police Khalequzzaman finished investigating the case.

Officer-in-Charge of Tejgaon thana Saud Ahsan and sex worker Lucky Khanam were cleared of all charges against them.

The investigating officer of the case recorded statements of 36 witnesses.

Awal, 34, an anti-aircraft gunner of the 6th Air Defence Artillery Battalion, was arrested by a police team from Tejgaon thana while he and his colleague were talking to some women near the Sangsad Bhaban on their way back to Mirpur Cantonment on the evening of January 9.

Awal was later taken to a police box and severely tortured. As he fell ill, he was sent to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) where doctors declared him clinically dead. The sergeant died at the hospital on January 16.

Following the incident, the officer-in-charge of Tejgaon thana was closed and arrested for his alleged involvement in the sergeant's murder.

Vietnamese FM

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Shilpakala Academy.

After 1994, this will be the first visit by a Vietnamese foreign minister to Dhaka. In 1997, former Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad visited Vietnam.

The Vietnamese foreign minister will leave Dhaka on Friday for Sri Lanka.

Cargo ship

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salvage operation of passenger launch MV Nasrin-1 -- rushed to the spot and rescued nine injured crew members trapped in the ship.

Crew of the salvage ships also managed to salvage 250-300 sacks of rice before the cargo ship went under water at about 3:00pm, officials said.

Boy, 'criminal' wounded in cross-fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage boy and an alleged criminal sustained bullet wounds in a crossfire between two rival groups at Tipu Sultan Road in Sutrapur yesterday.

Thirteen-year-old Jamal is undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet wound in his throat. Doctors stated his condition to be critical.

Jamal got hit as he was passing the area at about 1:45pm, police said.

A bullet also lodged in the left eye of Binoy Hossain Kalu, an alleged criminal of one of the two feuding groups.

Locals took Jamal and Kalu to the DMCH.

Jamal is an employee of SS Engineering at Lal Chand Muki Das Lane in Sutrapur.

Sutrapur police could not identify the groups involved in the gunfight.

None was arrested till filing of this report at 8:30pm yesterday.

One gets life in abduction case

UNB, Barisal

A court here yesterday sentenced a youth to life imprisonment in an abduction case.

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal also fined the convict, Salahuddin Russell, Tk 10,000. In default, he is to suffer six more months in jail. Another accused was acquitted of the charge.

According to the prosecution, Russell along with his accomplices abducted his four-year old cousin, Fahim, as his uncle (Fahim's father) failed to meet his demand for Tk 2,000 for a pleasure trip on June 28, 2000. After the abduction, Russell demanded Tk 50,000 in ransom.

Later, police rescued Fahim from Patarhat in Mehendiganj upazila on July 5 the same year. Russell was tried in absentia.

Bandarban

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Since July last year, one M-16, three AK-47, 18 SBBL, four .22 bore rifle, one rifle, three revolvers, five pistols, 124 rounds of ammunition and one powerful mine have been recovered, according to government records.

Though some arms 'carriers' have been arrested during the arms hauls, most traders still remain outside the net as they operate very cautiously.

Sources said on condition of anonymity that middlemen carry the arms from the other side of the border through bushy hilly routes of border upazilas -- Naikhabangchhari, Alikadam and Thanchi -- to Bandarban town. The arms are then handed over to local traders.

A report of Joint Risk Assessment Commission of the government and the donor countries identified the three upazilas as 'medium risky areas'.

The commission said, quoting Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), that BDR cannot keep the area under control as about 70 kilometres of the Bangladesh-Myanmar border still remain unmarked. Criminals are using the area for smuggling and trespassing, it said.

A local source said some armed intruders are sneaking through the unguarded area and using Bandarban for their own benefit. Some armed groups including the Arakan Army of Myanmar, Democratic Party of Arakan and National Union Party of Arakan are involved in evil activities.

The source disclosed that armed criminals have built five makeshift ghats on the river to carry out extortion in Bandarban. They are extracting Tk 200 from each boat and Tk 15 for each cubic foot of wood at the camp they set up on a hill in Tarasa Baidyapara, four kilometres from Bandarban town. These criminals are allegedly also involved in arms trade.

JICA

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The JICA sources said it is forming an advisory group for this study comprising officials and individuals from different sectors.

After signing the contract, JICA will move for the study and later on, DCC will go for implementing a project with the master plan, DCC sources said.

The present solid waste management system of the DCC is not well enough. There is only a dumping ground at Matuail on 72 acres of land in Demra since 1994.

Every day about 35,000 to 40,000 metric tons of solid waste are being dumped at Matuail while the DCC has handed over the responsibility for waste disposal of eight wards of the city to private organisations including Uttara, Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara areas.

As the metropolis is continually burdened with heavy influx of people the DCC has only 6000 cleaners for cleaning the waste of a total of 1 crore 20 lakh or residents.

However, the City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in his recent budget announcement said that the DCC has taken an initiative to build four dumping stations around the city in a bid to ease the solid waste management.



Visiting Indian External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha meets Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at the latter's Dhanmondi residence yesterday.

57 launches found risky

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structural faults and go for repairing and other necessary works. Otherwise, the authorities would cancel their licence and route permit and impose fine.

He said the ministry has been relentlessly working for nearly six months to bring necessary amendments to existing rules and regulations and to update management of river vessels to check launch mishaps. "We have almost prepared the draft of the amendments and new rules and are expecting to place it in the next cabinet meeting."

Akbar said his ministry has decided to enhance the existing fine of Tk 500 to Tk 10,000 for carrying extra passengers and cancel the licences of the vessels older than 25 years.

The ministry yesterday assigned a magistrate to Sadarghat launch terminal to clamp down on the launches violating navigational rules. The magistrate would be at hand round the clock to check the passenger launches leaving and arriving at the terminal.

The measure is one of the many the ministry has introduced at the terminal following the tragic capsize of MV Nasrin-1 in the Meghna on July 8 in which about 600 people are feared to have perished. Hundreds of bloated bodies were washed away.

Officials at Sadarghat terminal said the number of launch passengers has dropped drastically since the sinking of MV Nasrin-1.

Akbar Hossain said from now on the ministry will provide designs, structural features and other particulars for making new vessels and the prospective launch builders will need clearance from the ministry.

Experts from Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology and other organisations having specialisation in this field will provide the design and other particulars. Moreover, a vessel's capacity of carrying passengers and freight will be determined when it is built.

Besides, the dockyards must have valid registration and they will have to follow the designs approved by the ministry. The shipping minister said it has been decided that all mechanised boats (16-horse-power and above) will need licence. The small vessels will be given licence by the local Union Parishad or Pourasabha (municipal authorities).

The minister said steps have already been taken to implement the recommendations of the committee formed to assess fitness of passenger vessels.

He said the government has already taken 17 steps to avert launch mishaps. The steps include

formation of three inspection teams each comprising a class-1 magistrate, one marine engineer, one master mariner and a naval architect to detect the launches built in violation of the approved designs.

The Bangladesh Navy, district administration, police and coastguards have been given the authority to enforce the rules and regulations strictly to check overloading.

Steps have been taken to bring the river vessels that operate at night under the radio communication network and to install radar and eco-sounder in phases. The possibility of replacing manual steering by hydraulic steering is also being examined. Besides, a decision has been taken to restrict operation of small launches during the nor'wester season.

To take off pressure from Sadarghat launch terminal, a scheme is underway to construct a new terminal at Alibahar Char near Fatullah and another on the eastern bank of Buriganga. A "Disaster Fund" will be created soon with the contributions of passengers, launch owners and the government.

On average about 30,000 passengers leave and arrive at Sadarghat launch terminal every day.

3 million marooned

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Gushing floodwaters severely damaged thousands of homes, schools, roads and dams, making people homeless and cutting off their safe drinking water line.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC) of the Water Development Board (WDB) forecast worse situations in Pabna, Tangail, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Narsingdi, Narayanjanj, Kishoreganj, Rajbari and Madaripur districts.

"So far 751 unions in 123 upazilas of 23 districts have been fully or partially affected in the flooding, which has affected about 31,27,662 people of 6,23,516 families," said Disaster Management and Relief Secretary BMM Mozharul Haq.

Citing official report, he said about 32,000 dwelling houses were completely damaged and information of such damage was pouring in from the affected zones every day.

The FFWC forecast said the situation in the district of Naogaon was likely to deteriorate. The low-lying areas in Dhaka, Faridpur and Sariapur districts were in worse hits.

The district of Kurigram, Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Rangpur are likely to get relief with the gradual recession of floodwaters, it added.

Our roving Correspondent from Sirajganj adds: Sixty-four of 83 unions in Sirajganj were submerged and all the 11 unions in Kazipur upazila were the worst affected.

Swirling floodwaters affected about two lakh people, making 2,000 families homeless.

About 10 km of the Kazipur-Sirajganj Highway went under water as the Jamuna fumed furiously.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent adds: An eight-year-old boy died of diarrhoea and hundreds of others contracted the disease in the district.

Badar Ali, 8, son of Khaleque Sarker died at Baroghara village in Aditmar upazila on Monday.

Waterborne diseases spread in Parulia, Kotkapara, Shiber Kuti, Mohish Kocha, Dowani, Durgapur, Katom Tola, Vullerhat, Daiuabari, Char Boalmari, Jagotbar, Amtola and other villages.

Three primary schools in Goddimari, Daiua Bari and Rajpur villages have been carried away by raging floodwaters.

Gushing waters also washed away a high school, two mosques, four madrasahs and a temple in four unions, Flood Control and Water Development Board officials said.

Our Pabna Correspondent adds: Water levels in the Padma and Jamuna rose alarmingly in the last 24 hours, inundating nearly 60 per cent area of Bera upazila and marooning over

900 tonnes rice

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allocation in advance to all 64 districts to face any natural calamities," the minister said.

He also interpreted the current flood as the result of monsoon rains and onrush of upstream water and not like the devastating ones of the past.

Chowdhury said the government has taken up massive programmes to face any natural disaster and there is nothing to worry about.

District administrations have been instructed to send daily flood reports and the ministry is also reviewing the situation every day.

He asserted that the affected districts have been provided with additional allocation and if needed more relief materials and funds would follow to avoid food crisis.

BMM Mozharul Huq, secretary to the ministry, said 31,27,662 persons of 751 unions in 123 upazilas of 23 districts are affected and 32,000 houses have been completely damaged by the flood.

Earlier, the minister chaired a flood monitoring committee meeting yesterday.

Assessing district administration and newspaper reports, the meeting allotted 150 tonnes of rice for the affected people of seven districts and sanctioned cash Tk 7.50 per head.

Another four districts were given 100 tonnes of rice and Tk 2.50 lakh each.

Thirteen other districts were provided with Tk 9 lakh to distribute among the affected families.

Drama Control

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difficult to check everything in this era of globalisation.

To another supplementary from Alamgir M Mahfuzullah Farid of BNP, the information minister said the government will permit one or two more satellite TV channels. The state-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) will also air its programmes through satellite from next December.

The government is considering launching the second BTV channel, he said replying to a question from Mohammad Ali Jinnah of BNP.

Replying to M Sohrab Uddin of BNP, Tariqul Islam said that 92 per cent of the programmes aired by BTV are locally produced, while the remaining eight per cent are imported.

Responding to Mia Golam Parwar of Jamaat, he said the government has a plan to set up a full-fledged TV station in Khulna.

Besides, he said the government is also planning to set up independent TV stations in all the divisional headquarters in the near future.

SQ Chy pleads

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broadcast live.
Huq also said Anam's name was not mentioned, nor was his designation in the speech.

He said any interference drawn on the speech is Anam's own subjective interpretation.

It is possible that several suits including cases of defamation, both civil and criminal, pending against him have made him ultra-sensitive and to instruct Dr Kamal to issue the legal notice.

Quoting the constitutional provision for the protection and immunity of a member of parliament, Huq said: "A member of parliament shall not be liable to proceedings in any court in respect of anything said, or any vote given, by him in parliament or in any committee thereof."

Huq said his client was surprised to receive such a notice from an advocate whom people think to be a constitutional expert.

Our correspondent adds: The legal notice served by The Daily Star editor does not refer to any speech delivered in parliament, but to an article published on July 2, 2003 in the Daily Inqilab under the byline of Salauddin Qader Chowdhury.

At the end of the article the newspaper clearly states: *OtjLwVU msmf cO E v4Yi ms4kwaZ i/cj F1K cOAvbgsxi msm welqK Dct ov IAVBwM gnvmwPe ct evsjvt4ki cOv_xeO* (The article is the corrected version of a speech made in parliament and the "writer" is adviser to the prime minister on parliamentary affairs and Bangladesh's candidate for the secretary general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference).

Responding to The Daily Star editor's legal notice, the Daily Inqilab on July 13 this year wrote: "MZ 2 RyvB BwKjvtel Avw MS—cyZvq cOKvWkZ DctjwZ jLwVU cOAvbgsxi msm welqK Dct ov mYjvDwib KvE i tPSayixi msmf cO E v4Yi ms4kwaZ i/c Ges GwU Zvi w4eRiB F1wJ GB F1wJ BwKjvtel w4R A tkv4e e' tPjO

(The article, published in the *Adiganta* page of the Inqilab on July 2, 2003, is the corrected version

of a speech given by Salauddin Qader Chowdhury in parliament and is written by him. It does not contain the view of the Inqilab).

There is no other case of defamation, either civil or criminal nature -- except the one filed by Chowdhury in connection with the Awami League general secretary's letter to the prime minister -- against Mafuz Anam.

Following Chowdhury's speech in parliament, The Daily Star editor wrote to the speaker, requesting him to expunge the defamatory content of the speech from the parliamentary proceedings and read out the letter in the House.

Bodies

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Mohammed Siddique, 40, had been missing since 9:30 pm Monday.

Police said Siddique, who reportedly had been ill for the past few days, might have slipped from the sanko (bamboo bridge) while crossing the water-body.

Police sent the bodies to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Two unnatural death (UD) cases were filed with the Pallabi Police Station.

BFUJ

FROM PAGE 12
Daily Star, Prothom Alo and Janakantha.

With BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury in the chair, the meeting also condemned police action in Channel 1 and ATN offices, identifying the cases and police actions as 'naked interference with freedom of newspaper and journalists'.

The BFUJ leaders also called for strengthening the movement to press home seven-point demand of Sangbadik Sromik Karmachari Parishad.

The meeting decided to hold BFUJ council meeting on October 12 and election on October 26.

Khaleda tells Sinha

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Both Morshid Khan and Yashwant Sinha remarked that the JEC meeting had made good progress unlocking doors to different new areas of cooperation, including science and technology, IT, agriculture and natural disaster.

They told the prime minister that the meeting discussed, among other issues, measures to increase trade and strengthen economic relations as well as Dhaka-Agartala bus service. Both of them hoped that relations between the two countries would be strengthened in the days ahead.

During the meeting, Khaleda said she welcomed the decision on holding the SAARC Summit on January 4, 2004. She said Bangladesh is ready to participate in the summit.

She also informed the Indian minister that the report of the SAARC Poverty Alleviation Commission would be placed at the summit.

Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui is the co-chairperson of the commission comprising 14 members represented by all the seven member states of SAARC.

The prime minister emphasised for increasing trade relations among SAARC countries. Both sides agreed to step up contributions to make the SAARC meaningful.

Khaleda conveyed her greetings through Sinha to Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and invited to the Indian leader to visit Bangladesh. Sinha also conveyed the greetings from the Indian prime minister to Khaleda Zia.

During the meeting, Indian External Affairs Secretary Kanwal Sibal and Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka ML Tripathy were present from the Indian side while Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui and Foreign Secretary Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury were present from the Bangladesh side.

New outlaw

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jail have been identified as Amir Ali, 50, Faruque, 25, Azim Shaikh, 29,