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STOCK MARKET

DSE Index	838.00 (+0.30%)
Market capitalisation Tk	40.47 billion
Turnover in volume	26,131
Turnover in value Tk	6.63 million

Weekend Magazine

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Dhaka Day by Day



NEWS BRIEFS

Businessman robbed of TK 6 lakh in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Feb 2: A group of armed terrorists this evening reportedly stabbed a businessman and snatched over Taka six lakh from Tnpul crossing near Reazuddin Bazar. The injured Monir Hossain, was admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital. The snatchers opened fire and fled the scene. Kotwali police said none was arrested in connection with the incident.

Drugs recovered

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 2: Police and Narcotics officials in separate raids recovered about 20 grams of heroin and huge quantity of ganja from two different places of the district today, reports UNB.

Villager killed

JESSORE, Feb 2: A villager was killed and his wife and brother were injured seriously in a mob attack on their house at Kayemkola village in Jhekgorgachha thana today police said. The attack on the family was made on suspicion that Jamir Hossain, 30, had stolen the mink of a mosque of the village, reports UNB.

Shri, Iftar Timings

Ram	Feb	Shri	Iftar
2	3	-	5:49
3	4	5:17	5:50
4	5	5:17	5:51

Write on MPs' resignation
Prayer for adjournment of hearing rejected

Supreme Court Correspondent

The Special bench of the High Court yesterday rejected a prayer for adjournment of the hearing of two writ petitions concerning resignation of 147 opposition Members of Parliament.

The bench comprising Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman, Justice Kazi Ebadul Huq and Justice Md Abdul Karim decided to continue the hearing which will resume Sunday at 10am.

When the hearing began yesterday morning, for the second day, advocate Moksumur Rahman, counsel for one of the petitioners Towfiq Hassan, pressed again for adjournment as on the previous day. He submitted that the present writ in the High Court should not be heard until the matter pending with the Appellate Division is disposed of.

The Counsels of the three respondents opposition leaders Sheikh Hasina, Moudud Ahmed and Motiur Rahman Nizami — strongly opposed the prayer for adjournment saying there is no nexus between the two writ matters.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed appeared for himself and argued that the basis for boy-

Hatkhola most polluted area in city

By Staff Correspondent

Good news for the residents of Lalmitia. A recent survey by the Department of Environment (DOE) revealed that the air of Lalmitia was better than that of any other busy areas in the capital.

The air of Hatkhola Crossing was found to be the most polluted, according to the DOE.

The Department conducted the survey in five commercial-cum-business centres in Dhaka including Farmgate, Gulistan, Maghbazar, Dainik Bangla Crossing, Hatkhola, Manik Mia

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Four killed in city, suburbs

By DMCH Correspondent

An eight-year-old boy was murdered and three others were killed in different parts of the city and suburbs yesterday.

Sultanuddin, son of Abdul Wahab of Shimulia village under Savar police station, was hacked to death by some unidentified miscreants at around 8 am yesterday. Police recovered the body from a bush.

Nuru Mia, 35, who was injured in a road accident at Tegharia under Keraniganj police station yesterday afternoon.

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Saifur tells press on return
Italian investors impressed

Italian entrepreneurs have been impressed by Dhaka's offer of lucrative investment facilities, said Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on return yesterday from Italy after attending an investment seminar, reports UNB.

He told reporters at the airport the country's macro-economic stability generated "immense" interest among the Italian companies which participated in the seminar on investment prospect in Bangladesh.

Dwindling fiscal deficit, trade and fiscal reforms, investment incentives and, above all, the low inflation rate in Bangladesh attracted the Italian entrepreneurs, Rahman said.

The seminar was an eye-opener to a large number of Italian investors who knew little about Bangladesh before, he said.

Telecommunication, energy, composite textile, knitwear, leather, silk and domestic durables are the areas the Italians showed particular interest for investment, the minister added.

He said the Bangladeshi companies, which attended the seminar, were now continuing discussion in various Italian cities with prospective partners for business and joint venture investment deals, Rahman said.

As many as 17 leading Bangladeshi private firms accompanied Saifur Rahman and participated in the two-day seminar (January 30-31) in Rome. The Board of Investment (BOI) Executive Chairman M Mokammel Haque was in a four-man official team.

Italian Institute for Asia and the Bangladesh embassy in Rome co-hosted the seminar, participated by more than 20 big Italian companies.

Apart from attending the seminar, the Finance Minister met with Italian Minister for Industry and Trade Dr Alberto Clo in Rome on Feb 1 when they discussed prospects for Italian direct investment in Bangladesh.

While appreciating fast-improving investment climate in Bangladesh, Dr Alberto Clo told Rahman that he would personally instruct an Italian conglomerate to make in-depth surveys of infrastructural development needs of Bangladesh in the field of power generation and gas exploration.

Rahman also met with Vice President of the Italian Senate

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A different boi mela this year

By Schrezad Joya Monami Latif

This year's Ekushey boi mela began with a difference. It is better organised and special arrangements have been made to keep it crime-free.

It opened on the first of February, the month when a grateful nation remembers its heroes with the Prime Minister's speech and continues till the 22nd from 10am to 5pm every day. For many who regularly go to the annual book fair, or *Boi Mela* as it is called, look forward to it but not without a certain degree of apprehension.

This year things promise to be a bit different.

For starters it's going to be a more organised, crime-free book exhibition a fact that has many people, especially the ladies, sighing in relief. This year all concerned student and cultural organisations have jointly laid down strict guidelines regarding what can and cannot be done at this year's *boi mela*.

One of these is that food stalls at the fair must openly display their menus along with the price tag and none can be coerced into entering a food stall, as happened so unfortunately last year. It's been difficult for the police alone to maintain order in past *boi melas* because of lack of adequate logistics and sanction to keep thousands of young people in check inside the university area. But this year, because the students have taken it into their own hands, things are bound to be more disciplined and orderly.

The Bangla Academy does not have a list of bestsellers this year because according to Sarkar Amin, Public Relations Officer of the Academy, "One cannot always be sure of the validity of the information as to many books have been actually sold. We rely heavily on the publishers for that kind of information."

But the writers, who usually wait till the fair to bring out their latest, were all featured under the prominent publishing houses stalls.

Humayun Ahmed's book is sure to be a big seller, as usual. This year, aside from the well-known authors, however, there are some old classics that have been reprinted by the Bangla Academy as well as the Bangla Academy Dictionary. Also out is a new research-based biography of Maulana Bashani and a book on the history of our film industry.

Stopping piracy is a big commitment on the part of the Bangla Academy this year. No unlawfully published books

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Reports of illegal immigration to India 'baseless'

Bangladesh yesterday brushed aside as "baseless" reports of "illegal immigration" of its people to India, reports BSS.

Foreign Secretary MR Osmany told the Overseas Correspondents Association of Bangladesh (OCAB) that no "illegal immigration" takes place from this country to India.

When asked about reports in a section of Indian press and allegations by certain political quarters in the neighbouring country about the continued "illegal migration" from Bangladesh, the foreign secretary said a mechanism exists between two countries to prevent such immigration in either side.

Border guards of both countries meet from time to time

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Foreign airlines dissatisfied over services at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Representatives of the foreign airlines operating in Bangladesh have expressed their dissatisfaction over the services provided by Biman Bangladesh Airlines at the Zia International Airport (ZIA).

"We all agree that the services provided by Bangladesh Biman at Zia airport is not of the required standard and shows no sign of improvement," the members of Foreign Airlines Representatives Committee (FAREPCO) said in a letter to the State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism recently.

The services do not commensurate with the handling charges which are disappointingly high in the region, the letter added.

It said since the situation did not improve despite continued representation to the appropriate authorities at a senior level, nearly all the airlines now employ their own trained staff to maintain a reasonable level of service due to the increase of passenger traffic.

FAREPCO comprises representatives of Aeroflot, British Airways, Dragon Air, Emirates, Gulf Air, Indian Airlines, Kuwait Airways, KLM, Malaysian Airlines, Pakistan International Airlines, Saudia, Singapore Airlines and Thai International Airways.

The representatives said

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India to probe kidney transplant racket in MF

NEW DELHI, Feb 2: Indian police are to visit Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations to probe a kidney transplant racket following charges that donors were falsely promised jobs and huge sums of money, newspapers said today, reports AFP.

The police chief of the southern city of Bangalore, T. Srinivasulu, said the team would also investigate accusations that operations were carried out under unhygienic

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MPs sick of mosquitoes

By Staff Correspondent

Parliament members yesterday expressed concern that mosquito menace was disrupting normal life of the city dwellers.

The members from the treasury bench demanded immediate measures to check the menace.

"Mosquito, mosquito and mosquito, it is everywhere. We are sick of it," treasury bench member Joyal Abedin Farooq said in the House, rising on a point of order. "We, at the MP hostels, are facing this serious problem," he said after the question-answer session during yesterday's sitting in the morning.

"It also attacks me," said Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni who chaired the session on the private members day.

Deputy Leader of the House

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New technique for checking unplanned urbanisation

By Krishna P Roy

A land readjustment (LR) pilot project to convert 82 acres of land at Donia on the south-eastern fringe of the city into a planned residential area has been proposed recently.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Development Planning (DMDP), a project of the UNDP and the UN centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), Dhaka's existing fringe areas are usually fragmented into many small land parcels, he pointed out, adding these are often irregular in shape, usually without any public road frontage and of uncertain land title.

As a result, the areas cannot be restructured rationally, separately sub-divided into regular building plots or integrated into city's urban infrastructure network, especially the road network, for which the majority of plot owners in these areas find access to their plots along existing irregular plot boundaries, the DMDP planner said.

To deal with such situation in Uttara, Banani and Gulshan Model Towns, the authorities had used their compulsory acquisition powers to purchase and consolidate individual and separate land parcels into rational land parcels, sources concerned noted. But due to resource constraints, it is sometimes to provide necessary funds for large scale acquisition of urban fringe lands, they added.

Using the LR technique fragmented and scattered land

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Arab-Israeli Summit opens in Cairo

CAIRO, Feb 2: The leaders of Israel and its three Arab peace partners met for the first time today in an attempt to salvage the tattered peace accord with Palestinians, reports AP.

The four leaders — Israel's Yitzhak Rabin, PLO chief Yasser Arafat, Jordan's King Hussein and president Hosni Mubarak — opened the summit at an 'Iftar', the traditional breaking of the day-long fast in the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Each of the three visitors met separately with Mubarak before the unprecedented summit at the presidential palace.

The meeting comes as both

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Provisions for Hajj outside govt management

Government has made provisions for pilgrims who intend to perform Hajj outside government management having international passport, reports UNB.

Under the provisions, the pilgrims would be required to collect visas from Saudi Embassy on their own and comply with some terms and conditions set for them, said an official handout yesterday.

It said each pilgrim has to take a bank draft amounting to 879 Saudi Rials to pay the fee

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Fresh DCC drive to eradicate mosquito

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) launches another massive drive tomorrow against the mosquito menace as part of a crash programme.

It is the second phase of the DCC's mosquito management programme aimed at destroying 90 per cent breeding sites.

The second of the three-phase crash programme includes effectively damaging of mosquito larvae and spray of insecticides with 200 machines and the three mountain vehicles.

"Completion of the three-phase programme will eradicate more than 70 per cent of the mosquitoes and ensure a continuous effective control," overall in charge of the crash programme ward commissioner Kamal Chowdhury told UNB yesterday.

He said the first cycle of DMC's crash programme had been completed in all the 90 wards of the capital.

The first phase comprised identification and cleaning of breeding areas and releasing huge quantity of gappi fish in city drains which controls mosquito larvae.

It also included spreading of mixture of malarial oil, diesel and wooden dust which creates a film on the stagnant waterbodies and check mosquito breeding.

Fogging and releasing of more gappi fishes will be part of the third and last cycle of the massive crash programme undertaken by the DCC in the wake of a menacing haunt of the tiny insects on the city life.

Nearly 1.5 crore gappi fishes will be released in the

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Clinton's plea to avoid angry words

WASHINGTON, Feb 2: President Clinton passionately urged official Washington on Thursday to avoid angry words that "darken our spirits and weaken our resolve," reports AP.

"Let me ask you to pray for the president — that he will have the wisdom to change when he is wrong and the courage to stay the course when he is right," Clinton said at the National Prayer Breakfast.

He continued to ask for, "Somehow, somehow, somehow — the grace of God not to use the power of words... to divide and to destroy, but in-

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Hasina arrives in Dallas

Sheikh Hasina yesterday landed at the Dallas International Airport to attend the 43rd annual Breakfast Prayers at the invitation of US Senate and House of Representatives, reports UNB.

Expatriate Bangladeshis in the USA gave the Awami League President a warm reception at the airport, said a message received in Dhaka.

Party's US unit general secretary MA Salam and US chapter Convener of the Bangabandhu Parishad Dr Enayetur Rahnman, party's Washington, DC President Saiful Islam and Vice President Khaled Hasan were present at the airport.

Hasina is accompanied by party Presidium member Tofael Ahmed and its National Committee member and the party's USA unit President Nurul Islam Anu.

The Breakfast is expected to be participated by US President Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, Mrs Al Gore, senior officials of US administration and diplomatic missions, and national leaders from 140 countries.

Study on sea level 30cm rise may flood one-fourth of coastal area

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh will face disastrous effects if the apprehension of a sea level rise because of the increase in global temperature comes true in the middle of the next century, environment experts said.

"A 30cm rise at the sea level would inundate one-fourth of the coastal area while 2 degree to 4 degree Celsius rise of temperature would cause drought in the northern part of the country," an expert said yesterday at the launching ceremony of a study report on the vulnerability of Bangladesh to climate change and sea level rise.

The report in three large volumes is the result of a three-year study carried out by Bangladeshi and Dutch experts. The Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Study (BCAS), Resource Analysis (RA), Netherlands and Approtech Consultants Limited, Dhaka, jointly published the report with financial support from Bangladesh and the Dutch government.

Dr Atiq Rahman of BCAS and Rob Koudstaal from the Netherlands were present at the launching ceremony held at the auditorium of SPARSO.

The report called for comprehensive planning to face the consequences of climate and sea level changes.

