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Benapole port earns Tk 3cr in six months

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STOCK MARKET

DSE Index	795.53 (+0.36%)
Market capitalisation Tk	38.42 billion
Turnover in volume	60783
Turnover in value Tk	6.83 million

Weekend Magazine

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NEWS BRIEFS

ALCWC meet tomorrow

An emergency meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee will be held tomorrow at 11 am at its Dhanmondi office. Acting President Abdul Mannan will preside over the meeting, reports UNB.

Masters' course at private college

Bangladesh National University has given the permission to Shaikh Borhanuddin College for opening Masters courses. It is the first permission given to any private college to open Masters' degree courses.

BCL activists clash in Balaganj: 10 hurt

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Feb 16: Ten students were injured in a clash between two rival groups of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-P) in Balaganj College this afternoon.

Shri, Itar Timings

Ram	Feb	Shri	Itar
16	17	—	5:58
17	18	5:10	5:59
18	19	5:09	5:59

Ctg bourse to start trading in 6 months

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has said the second stock exchange of the country will be set up at Chittagong and made fully operational within the next six months. The decision to set up a second bourse at the port city was aimed at creating a competitive environment and improving the efficiency of the country's equity market, he said at a high level meeting yesterday at the conference room of the Finance Ministry.

The immense importance of the port city from both commercial and industrial points of view was taken into consideration in taking a decision on the second stock exchange, Saifur Rahman said.

The Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Secretary of the Banking Division of the Finance Ministry, Managing Directors of some commercial banks and representatives of the proposed Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) were present at the meeting.

The Finance Minister said the decision to set up the CSE was a landmark in the history of capital market in the country. This would not only bring dynamism in the share business but also benefit the investors, particularly small investors, he added.

The minister asked the CSE management to formulate provisions for keeping at least 50 per cent of the shares for small investors during the off-loading of shares by the com-

panies. The government's objective was to promote small savers in the capital market through protection of their interests, he added.

Saifur Rahman urged the chairman and directors of the CSE to ensure a sound, realistic and transparent management to support fair dealings in share trading.

The minister also stressed the need for limiting membership of the bourse to the qualified and skilled professionals for ensuring quality services as well as high ethical and professional standard.

According to sources, a 12-member governing body of the CSE is now framing the guidelines for operation of the bourse. The CSE is expected to

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Hearing of writ against judges' promotions continues

By Staff Correspondent

The recent promotion of three junior district judges as joint secretaries in the Law Ministry is illegal and a violation of the Constitution, since there was no consultation with the Supreme Court.

This was argued yesterday by Amir-ul Islam, Bar-at-Law, a counsel for the petitioner in the hearing of a writ challenging the promotions of the district judges.

The submission on behalf of the petitioner ended on the third day of hearing yesterday before a division bench of the High Court comprising Justice Naimuddin Ahmed and Justice Md Ruhul Amin.

Later, senior counsel T H Khan, on behalf of the Law Ministry, started his submissions. He maintained that the promotions to the post of joint

Counsel tells court in hearing 'Speaker obstructed the Constitutional process'

Supreme Court Correspondent

The Speaker, by withholding the resignation letters of 147 members of Parliament, has obstructed the constitutional process, affecting the activities of the Election Commission in holding the by-elections for the vacant seats, the High Court was told yesterday.

Advocate ABM Nurul Islam, counsel for the petitioner in the writ challenging the Speaker's withholding of the resignation letters, continued his submission before a special bench comprising Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman, Justice Kazi Ebadul Huq and Justice Md Abdul Karim. The writ was filed by Advocate Alauddin Khalid.

The constitutional obligation of the Election Commission is to hold by-elec-

tions in vacant seats within 90 days: that deadline is running out because of the Speaker's dubious role, argued the counsel. "This is a violation of Article 123 (4) of the Constitution," he said.

Advocate Islam said that resignation of Parliament members who constitute a minority in the House does not affect the normal functioning of a democratic government.

"Even if the Speaker had disposed of the resignation letters of the opposition MPs, it would not have affected the normal functioning of Parliament," the counsel stated.

By delaying the disposal of the resignations beyond the constitutional provisions and the rules of procedures, the Speaker had also disturbed

Big fire at Patuakhali jute mill godown

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Feb 16: A devastating fire broke out in the Patuakhali Jute Mills around 1 pm today.

The fire which broke out in one of the godowns spread four other godowns of the mills within a short time.

Patuakhali fire service initially tried to control the blaze but failed. Later, fire fighting units from Barisal, Barguna, Jhalakathi and Peropur rushed to the spot and were still fighting the blaze, local sources said, late tonight.

According to the commercial manager of the mills, there was a huge stock of jute in all the five godowns, which is feared to have been destroyed in the fire.

Meanwhile, Religious Affairs Minister M. Keramat Ali, the Deputy Commissioner of Patuakhali and other officials visited the spot this afternoon.



The lessons of the Buriganga Bridge, firm not to let a single vehicle get away without paying the toll, have closed one of the lanes at both ends, jeopardising the safety of those forced to cross the bridge. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Biman to halve its maintenance cost

By Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan said yesterday that from now on Biman Bangladesh Airlines would maintain its own aircraft, thereby halving the current maintenance cost.

"We would be able to save 50 pc of the total expenditure," said Abdul Mannan, who recently took charge of the Civil Aviation Ministry. "Our initial performance is encouraging," he added.

"Alitalia's performance was unsatisfactory. The Italian airlines failed to meet our demand. So, we have decided to do the maintenance work ourselves," the minister told reporters at a press conference at Biman's Head Office in the city.

He said, the engineers of the national carrier were capable of maintaining its four wide-bodied DC-10-30 aircraft with the help of foreign experts on work-basis contracts.

In the last three years Biman had to pay Alitalia Tk 225 crore to maintain the four DC-10s. The contract expired on January 31, the minister informed newsmen.

He said, two brand new Airbus 310-300s would join the Biman fleet by the end of 1996. A contract in this regard has already been signed with the lowest bidder, the Airbus Industrie, he added.

Nooruddin Al Masood, Secretary of the Ministry, Abbab Ahmed, Managing Director of

Pak ship detained for carrying heroin

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Feb 16: A Pakistani flag-carrying vessel 'Ocean Envooy' was detained at the Chittagong port for bringing in heroin.

The detention followed a court order.

The anti-smuggling team of the Sea Customs in a raid on the ship on February 9 recovered one kg of heroin worth about taka one crore.

The heroin was seized from the ship's engine room and the captain of the vessel, Tareq Tabassum and chief engineer Rasid Mohammad were arrested.

They were sent to jail after interrogation at the port dhana.

The ship, owned by the Pakistan's Shipping Corporation, arrived at the Chittagong port on February 8 carrying bitumen from the Karachi port for the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

Nat'l Immunization Day to be observed every year

By Staff Correspondent

The government has decided that a National Immunization Day (NID) will be observed every year with the objective of increasing the immunization coverage of six antigens of the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) to 80 per cent.

This year, the day will be observed on March 16 and again on April 16, as part of the programme to eradicate the wild polio virus by ensuring 100 per cent polio vaccination coverage of children below five years, officials of the Directorate of Health announced at a press conference in the city yesterday.

The NID will be observed in the next three years in a bid to eradicate poliomyelitis as part of a global programme, the press conference, held at the Health Directorate office at Mahabkhal, was told.

With the success of the immunization drive in the case of poliomyelitis, the NID would be observed against measles from the fourth year. Prof. AK Shamsuddin Siddiqi, the Director General of Health Services told journalists.

The implementation of the immunization programme this year will cost taka 25 crore for the targeted two crore children, i.e. Taka 12.50 for each child. The expenditure will be borne jointly by the Government of Bangladesh, the Unicef, the WHO, USAID, Rotary International, the NGOs and other voluntary organisations, Prof. Siddiqi said.

Registration of the target group of children has already begun and it is expected to be completed within a month. The implementation of the programme will involve 21,000 workers of the Health Department plus six lakh volunteers, including students and social workers.

Besides, the Ansars, the VDP and the Boy Scouts will be engaged in the programme to be carried out simultaneously at 8,000 centres of the EPI all over the country.

The number of EPI centres in the urban area will be increased during the special immunization drive, the Health Directorate officials added.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Chowdhury

Kamal Ibne Yusuf, who was present at the news conference, spoke of the government's political commitment and all-out cooperation to make the special immunization drive a success.

The press conference was also attended by Dr. Hardjotonojo of the WHO, Dr. Mary Carmel of USAID, Dr. Kamal Islam of the Unicef, Iftekharul Alam of the Rotary International and Dr. Nasim Reza, Dr. Zakir Hossain, and other officials of the Directorate of Health.

The Health Minister said that without political commitment of the government, such a programme could not achieve its cherished goal.

Speaking about the significance of the NID, being observed in other countries, the minister said, the EPI in Bangladesh was achieving success despite various odds. The successful observance of the NID will totally eliminate poliomyelitis and even destroy its wild virus in the air, he said, adding that one day, like smallpox, this disease, too,

Hasina says in US 'Agitation is for people's rights, not power'

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, now in the United States, said her present agitation is not for putting any party or individual in power but for guaranteeing the people's rights to vote and food, reports UNB.

"Being a responsible opposition we had helped this government for more than three years in national interest, but the BNP ruled the country undemocratically," she told expatriate Bangladeshis at a reception at African Methodist auditorium in Washington, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Hasina said the BNP's "corruption, terrorism, vote docolity and negligence towards Parliament" forced the Opposition to go for en masse resignation.

The Awami League chief reiterated her demand for at least three general elections under a neutral caretaker government. But, she observed, the party in power resorted to repression on its political opponents to suppress the people's demand.

She accused the government

'Industrial estate at Majdee not feasible'

By Krishna P Roy

Setting up of an industrial estate at Majdee has not been found feasible by different agencies of the government, sources said.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had announced on October 27, 1993 that an industrial estate would be set up at Majdee in Noakhali District.

After that announcement, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) prepared a project proposal and sent it to the Planning Commission for approval.

The commission sent the project proposal to different government agencies concerned for their evaluation and comments.

The BSCIC also formed a six-member committee in November, 1993 to study the feasibility of establishment of an industrial zone. The committee members visited the area and found that the water available in the area adjoining the proposed project site is salty and it would be difficult to get sweet water necessary for industries.

The committee, in its report, also pointed out that another industrial estate is situated at Beganganj, some seven miles off.

Though Beganganj Industrial Estate is much more suitable, some 32 plots out of the 126 still remain vacant, the report said.

The Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), in its evaluation report submitted in January this year, also suggested rethinking about the project since all plots of the Beganganj Estate are yet to be allotted.

The Planning Commission also sought opinion of the Finance Division of the Finance Ministry in this regard.

A high official of the Finance Division yesterday said, their observation is the same with that of IMED and they are not in favour of setting up any industrial estate at Majdee.

He said, "We have to consider whether a poor and developing country like ours can afford to keep lands unused in the name of industrial estate."

There are many industrial estates in the country where neither industry nor estate exists, he commented.

NZ minister due today

State Minister and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand Robin Gray MP arrives here today on a two-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Gary, who will lead a five-member delegation during the trip, will call on Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and Commerce and Information Minister Shamsul Islam.

During the talks, Bangladesh is expected to seek market access for its ready-made garments, clothing, footwear and other products into New Zealand, officials here said.

Expansion of trade and economic cooperation and matters relating to investment in Bangladesh will, also come up for discussion, they said.

Sangram editor convicted, fined

The Third Additional District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, Mohammad Shawkat Hossain yesterday convicted the editor of the Daily Sangram Abul Asad and fined him Taka 10,000 on charges of publishing a false and malicious news item against Rashed Khan Menon, MP and leader of the Left Democratic Front, reports BSS.

In the case of non payment of the fine, the court ordered the accused to suffer simple imprisonment for two months.

The case, in brief, is that on March 22, 1992, the Daily

Border trade with Myanmar begins in Mar

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 16: Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al-Noman said here today that Bangladesh-Myanmar border trade would begin in March next, reports BSS.

Briefing newsmen at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room the Minister said, all necessary steps and formalities have been finalised to start the border trade soon between the two neighbours.

Noman expressed the hope that the border trade will help promote flow of commodities and setting up of joint venture

Eid : City markets wearing a festive look

By Reaz Ahmad

With only two weeks left for the Eid-ul-Fitr, Dhaka, already known as a city of markets, is gradually wearing a new and festive look. Nicely decorated shopping malls are luring more and more people to start their Eid shopping early.

While visiting different shopping arcades in the city yesterday, this correspondent however, got the impression that Eid shopping was yet to gather momentum.

Market sources expressed the hope that Eid shoppers will throng the shopping centres by the end of this month when government employees and those of non-government organisations will get festival bonus.

"We are preparing for the next three Fridays before Eid because we noticed in the previous years that on the weekly holidays people in large numbers did their shopping. This



A large number of vendors have set up shop on the busy Bangabandhu Avenue in the city well ahead of the Eid shopping spree. —Star photo

DMP announces 'secure Dhaka city' plan

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday formally announced the launching of a two-year corporate plan for establishing a secure Dhaka city.

The DMP plan — Agrajatra — also aims at building up a "dedicated and professional police force."

The corporate plan has already been in operation since July last year.

The DMP, at a press briefing yesterday, described its plan. Commissioner of the DMP AN Hussain, Deputy

Commissioner of the Detective Branch Abdul Quaium, Deputy Commissioner of Traffic Police Mostaque Ahmed and senior DMP officials were present.

Under the plan, DMP will intensify its efforts to protect the city dwellers from various dangers, make traffic movement more safe, reduce apprehension of crimes, extend all cooperation to the victims of anti-social elements to uphold rule of law.

The DMP has taken up a number of programmes to make its plan a success. The programmes include modernising the DMP control room, arranging improve transports, setting up modern communications system, replacement of 303 rifles by modern arms and use of computers.

Besides, enhancing the activities of police training academy and structural readjustment for expanding institutional capacity have also been included in the two year plan.

Prisoner dies in jail

By DMCH Correspondent
A prisoner in the Dhaka Central Jail died Wednesday midnight.

Sources say, the prisoner, Motzuddin, son of Shaizuddin of Murerchala under Gulshan thana, died in the Jail Hospital.