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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	748.16 (+0.58%)
Market capital Tk	44.35 billion
Transactions in volume	176658
Transactions in value Tk	20.03 million

NEWS BRIEFS

Teacher stabbed
 From Our Correspondent
 Badal Poddar, a teacher of Bikrampur K B College, was stabbed by some unidentified miscreants at Kalibazar area in the Narayanganj town yesterday. He was admitted to the Suhrawardy Hospital in a critical condition.

ML Flying Bird yet to be salvaged
 ML Flying Bird, the ill-fated launch which sank in the Padma Sunday with 40 passengers, could not be salvaged till yesterday morning. All but four passengers managed to swim ashore. The missing four could not be traced, officials said. The Aricha-bound launch sailing from Daulatdia was hit by a ferry, Raipura, in midstream near Hemgani bazar in Manikganj and sank at 3 pm, reports UNB.

Comilla pourasabha budget
 COMILLA, June 19: Comilla Pourasabha Chairman Kamaluddin Chowdhury today announced Tk 6,79,70,405 pourasabha budget for 1995-96. Addressing the newsmen, the chairman said out of the total budget, Tk 3,42,70,000 would be spent under development programme. The revenue earnings from direct taxes would be Tk 2,72,44,000 while the revenue expenditure would be Tk 2,55,44,000, reports BSS.

Lanka reimposes death penalty
 COLOMBO, June 19: The government has reimposed death penalty after Parliament last week unanimously urged it to change its practice of automatically commuting all death sentences, a senior minister said Monday. "The deterrent value of the death sentence has been lost. It must be reimposed to cut down crime," Justice Minister Lakshman Peiris told reporters, reports AP.

51 shops gutted
 From Our Correspondent
 GOPALGANJ, June 19: A devastating fire at Ghagar Bazar under Kotalipara Thana Sadar of the district gutted at least 51 shops and godowns early today.

The damage to property was estimated at about Tk three crore.

The fire that originated from a confectionery factory at around 3:30 am spread quickly to other areas, local people said.

JS debates fate of absentee members

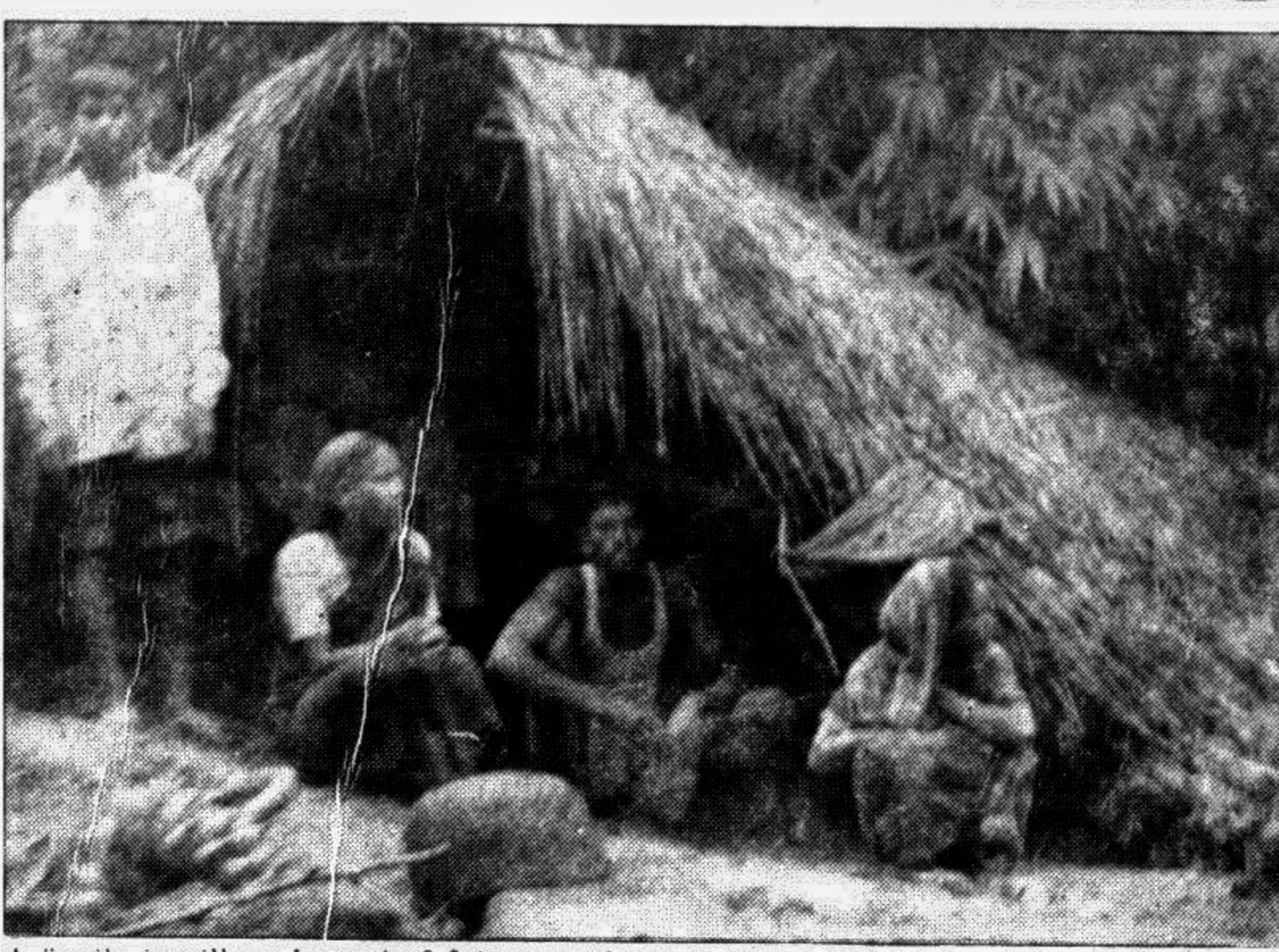
By Staff Correspondent
 Parliament yesterday witnessed an unscheduled and inconclusive debate with a number of treasury bench members pleading for leave of the House for the absentee opposition MPs so that they do not lose their seats.
 Some of the ruling party members opposed it.
 As per Article 67(1) (b) of the Constitution, the opposition MPs would lose their seats since their absence from Parliament without the leave of the House crossed the 90-day limit yesterday.
 After a lengthy debate, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali deferred discussion on the issue till Wednesday.
 The Speaker, however, said that there was no scope for interpretation of the relevant clause in the Constitution which would be applicable to the absentee MPs. Abdus Salam Talukder and Major (ret'd) Akhtaruzzaman spoke in favour of the Speaker's contention.
 A total of 13 treasury bench members, including some ministers, took part in the discussion which continued from 7:30 pm to 9:45 pm.
 Former information minister Nazmul Huda, rising on a point of order, drew the Speaker's attention that he had submitted a notice seeking leave of the House for 149 opposition 'colleagues' whose absence has reached 90-day limit.
 Shajahan Siraj, Abdur Rob Chowdhury, Abdus Salam Talukder, Ratiqul Islam Mia, Akbar Hossain, M K Anwar, Major (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, Ziaur Rahman Khan, Abu Yousuf, Mohammad Khalilur Rahman, Maj (ret'd) Akhteruzzaman, Moibir Rahman and Aminul Huq took part in the discussion.
 Quoting Article 179 of the Rules of Procedure, Nazmul Huda said if a member was unable to inform the Speaker about his or her absence for some reasons, any member could propose for his or her leave.
 He argued that the opposition members were forced by their respective parties to refrain from joining Parliament session, so he submitted the

3 more JP defectors join JS session

By Staff Correspondent
 The remaining three of the six former Jatiya Party MPs, who joined the ruling BNP recently, attended the parliament session yesterday.
 This was the first session attended by the three MPs, Mahmudul Hasan, Paritosh Chakraborty and Hafizur Rahman Pramanik, after they joined the ruling party.
 The three other former JP members, Ebadur Rahman Choudhury, Sharfuddin Khasru and Abdul Majid, joined the budget session on Thursday.

T&T Board Bill placed

A Bill providing for separation of service and regulatory functions of the telecommunication sector was introduced in Parliament yesterday.



A family in village Lammi of Jaintapur thana in Sylhet district has taken shelter on an embankment following onrush of flood waters. — Star photo by Tqbal Siddique

Provisions in registration forms EC asked to show cause

A High Court bench yesterday asked the Election Commission (EC) to show cause as to why two impugned provisions in the voter registration forms should not be declared illegal and done without lawful authority, reports UNB.
 The bench, comprising Justice Habibur Islam Khan and Justice MM Ruhul Amin, set June 28 for hearing of the rule.
 In its rule the court asked the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the Secretary of the EC to explain why the qualifying age of 18 years fixed up to January 1, 1995 should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.
 It also asked the respondents to prove the legality of the EC's directive to eligible adults for going to their village home to register as voters.
 The High Court orders came on a writ filed by Advocate Aminul Gani Tito on May 29, challenging the two provisions. Advocate ABM Nurul Islam pleaded for the petitioner.
 The court also issued rule on another writ petition, filed by Md Kabir on Sunday, again challenging the directive of the EC in a press release directing the eligible persons to go and register as voters to areas or constituencies where they would like to cast their vote.
 Again the same respondents were asked to show, on the same date, June 28, why

Inclement weather delays launching of STOL service

By Reaz Ahmad
 The launching of the short take off and landing (STOL) service in the private sector is being delayed due to inclement weather, a source concerned said.
 Talking to The Daily Star, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Shamsur Ali said CAAB could not conduct the 'Route-Checking' of the two Y-12 aircraft, scheduled to be operated in two domestic routes, due to rough weather.
 On completion of the 'Route-Checking', which is obligatory for any newly commissioned aircraft, a standard operating procedure (SOP) would be readied and only then a date would be

Situation in Sylhet deteriorates Floods grip 2 more dists

By Staff Correspondent
 Flood situation in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Moulvibazar districts deteriorated yesterday while it remained by and large static in nine other affected districts of the country.
 Flash flood hit Habiganj and Feni districts yesterday. In Habiganj, 10 villages under Lukra and Richi unions of the sadar thana were inundated after the Khowai embankment breached at the Kashiapur and Nazipur points.
 The situation improved slightly in Kurigram. According to unofficial sources, the death toll rose to 48 with three deaths from a landslide in Chhatak and four in two separate boat capsizing incidents, one in the Jamuna near Siraganj and another in the Brahmaputra near Jamalpur.
 In Sylhet district, flood situation deteriorated further due to downpour since Sunday night inundating Biswanath, Goainghat, Companiganj, Jaintapur and Sadar thanas.
 Officials said nearly 3.41 lakh people were marooned and standing crops on 955 square km areas of the district were washed away by flood waters.
 Rail communication between Dhaka and Sylhet remained cut off since Sunday night as the Manu river bridge went under water.
 The flood situation in Sunamganj district also took a serious turn as the flood waters poured into the low lying areas where a large number of people perched on rooftops and moved to safer places.
 Rainfall in the district in last 24 hours was recorded at 291 mm, official sources said.
 The river Surma was flowing 72 cm above the danger mark at Sunamganj point and flooded some 875 villages in eight thanas. More than 12 lakh people have been marooned in the district.
 Officials said 1,503 thatched houses, including 20 schools and 200 km katcha



Johanna Elisabeth Rosten (c) of Finland waves to photographers after winning the Queen of the Year International 1995 beauty pageant in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP photo

Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF

From Staff Correspondent
 SYLHET, June 19: A Bangladeshi national was shot dead in Jakigonj by the Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday.
 The victim Sirajuddin, 20, son of Habib Ali of village Naharbahar of Jakigonj thana was fishing in the river Kushi-yara within the Bangladesh territory at about 11 am. The BSF men also took away the fishing nets and the boat along with the body.
 The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) today lodged a complaint with their Indian counterpart.
 A flag meeting will be held tomorrow, said a BDR official to night.
Mustafiz denies report
 Mustafizur Rahman, a resigning MP belonging to the Awami League, has protested a report in The Daily Star which said that he had dissociated himself from AL and might also join Parliament session Monday (yesterday).
 In a rejoinder yesterday, Rahman said the news item was baseless and politically motivated. "I have not quit the Awami League and therefore the question of joining

New curriculum for SSC, HSC from next year

By Morshed Ali Khan
 A total of nearly 24 lakh students and more than 40,000 teachers will be directly involved in adopting the forthcoming changes.
 A massive teachers' training programme will begin soon, according to the sources.
 Writing of text books as per the new curriculum will begin after selection of authors. One hundred twenty authors have been selected, the sources said. "The selection of authors has been done through marking system", according to Tawhique Khan Maitis, assistant programme director of the Higher Secondary Education Project (HSEP). "Qualifications, research work, and expansion have been taken into account".
 Meanwhile teachers, educationists and experts from across the country recently completed a three-week discussion on the draft curriculum at the Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD) at Kotbari, Comilla.
 The discussants alleged that the contents of the new syllabus were at least four times bigger than the existing one and it would pose a serious problem to the students as well as teachers.
 S M Noor Mohammad, a lecturer of political science of the Tolaram College, Narayanganj said, "The paper was prepared by people who were not aware of the existing problems of our students".
 "The level has been upgraded too much and in my paper there are 26 chapters. It won't be possible to follow the syllabus in details."
 But officials of the Higher Secondary Education Project

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