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STOCK MARKET

USE price index	704.26 (+0.41%)
Market capital Tk	47.08 billion
Transactions in volume	200218.75
Transactions in value Tk	27.31 million

NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina goes to Sylhet today

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, June 26: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to visit the flood-hit areas of Sylhet tomorrow. Accompanied by her sister Sheikh Rehana and some other central leaders, Sheikh Hasina will visit the shrine of the great saint Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) and some flood-affected areas of Sunamganj.

JCD leader killed in road accident

GAIBANDHA, June 26: A student leader was killed in a road accident in Gobindaganj thana today. Witnesses said Masudul Hasan, Gobindaganj unit president of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), died on the spot when a minibus hit his motorbike from behind in front of the thana health complex at about 12.30 pm, reports UNB.

ALCWC meets June 29-30

A two-day meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will be held at its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue on June 29-30. Awami League president Sheikh Hasina will chair the meeting, reports UNB.

Shahjalal Varsity polls postponed

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, June 26: The authorities of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology today postponed the elections of the central students' union scheduled on June 29. The decision came following tensions on the campus over a clash between the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Islami Chhatra Shibir a few days back.

Kidnapped boy rescued

SIRAJGANI, June 26: Police today rescued a minor boy who was kidnapped on June 18 and arrested two people from a village in Kamarkand thana of the district. Aminul Islam, 5, son of one Sariful Islam, was kidnapped by a gang from their village Bolla in Kalihati thana of Tangail district. They later sent a letter to Aminul's father demanding a ransom of about Tk two lakh.

Sudanese terrorists suspected

Attempt on Mubarak's life: Seven killed

ADDIS ABABA, June 26: Gunmen opened fire on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's motorcade as he arrived in Ethiopia for a summit of African heads of state. He escaped unharmful and flew back to Egypt, reports AP.

Seven men fired on the motorcade as it passed the Ethiopian Embassy in Addis Ababa on its way to the opening session of the Organization of African Unity, said OAU officials and Ethiopian sources, all of whom spoke on condition of anonymity.

Israel television said Mubarak's car was hit by gunfire, but Mubarak escaped injury because the car was armoured.

Mubarak's limousine re-

turned to the airport and he flew back to Egypt within minutes of the attack, which was reminiscent of the 1981 assassination by Muslim extremists of Mubarak's predecessor, President Anwar Sadat.

Cabinet ministers and truck loads of soldiers and police met the president at Cairo International Airport. Mubarak waved with both hands as he left the presidential plane.

His sons, Alaa and Gamal, went aboard the aircraft, then emerged with him. The youngest, Gamal, was wiping away tears as he followed his father down the ramp. The president wore a perfectly pressed dark gray suit.

Security was tight with

dozens of soldiers and police, including anti-terrorist combat units and vans full of paratroopers and plainclothes police.

"Whatever happens, Egypt will not give up fighting terrorism," Mubarak told an airport news conference, referring to the Islamic radicals who have waged a revolt in Egypt since 1992.

"As you see I look sound and safe and fine," he said. "I am a believer and I have always thought that God is protecting me."

AFP from Cairo says, Mubarak said it was "very possible" Sudan was involved in the assassination attempt.

"It is possible the terrorists

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Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak smiles and waves at government officials who welcomed him safe and sound on arrival at Cairo airport yesterday after an assassination attempt against him in Ethiopia. —UNB/AFP photo

HC acquits Ershad in arms case

A High Court bench yesterday acquitted former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad of the charge of possessing illegal arms, reports UNB.

Setting aside the verdict of a special tribunal that had sentenced Ershad to 10 years rigorous imprisonment for possessing illegal arms, the two-member bench said, "Considering all circumstances and facts we cannot support the order of the tribunal."

"The appellant Hussain Muhammad Ershad is not found guilty of the charge of possessing illegal arms," said Justice Naimuddin and Justice Ruhul Amin in their unanimous judgement on the appeal filed by Ershad on June 12, challenging the order of the tribunal.

The court also summarily rejected a prayer from Deputy Attorney General Hasan Arif to stay the operation of its verdict for two days.

A number of firearms and ammunition were recovered by police from Ershad's residence, where he was kept confined soon after his resignation on December 6, 1990.

The court, striking down the verdict of the special tribunal headed by Judge Md Habiburrahman, said according to law, a President can possess firearms of certain calibre without license and therefore there was no illegality in the appellant's possessing such arms.

Further, the court in its judgement said Ershad was entitled to a general amnesty announced by the then in-

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JP calls 8-hr hartal in city today

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party has called an eight-hour (6 am-2 pm) hartal in the capital today protesting the "move to involve its jailed leader H M Ershad in the Manzur Murder Case" and demanding his release.

The JP is likely to announce more agitation programmes in future to press the

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Border confce with India today

A border coordination conference between Bangladesh and India begins in New Delhi today to resolve various frontier disputes, reports UNB.

The vexing issues like barbed-wire fencing on the frontier by India, 'push-in' of Bengali-speaking people to Bangladesh and smuggling will be discussed in the meet.

Besides, says a BDR press release, border crimes such as killing, kidnapping, trespassing, insurgency, airspace violations and related matters are also expected to come up for discussion.

A high-power Bangladesh delegation, led by Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Major General Elaz Ahmed Chowdhury, left yesterday morning for the Indian capital to attend the conference.

Others on the team are Joint Secretary (Border) of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mohammad Habibur Rahman, Director General (South Asia) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs FA Shamim Ahmed, Acting Director (Operation and Training) of BDR, Sector Commanders of Khagrachhari, Comilla, Sylhet, Dinapur, Rangamati and other staff officers.

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Toll collection on roads will be sternly dealt with

Star Report

Setting up of check posts on roads and highways for any reason without prior permission from the relevant authorities has been strictly prohibited.

Besides, putting up of roadblocks or barricades by individuals or private organisations for collecting tolls on various pretexts will be sternly dealt with from now on.

According to a government decision recently, only the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) will be allowed to set up check posts on the roads within five miles of the border to curb smuggling.

The Roads and Highways Department has been asked by the higher authorities to implement the decision with immediate effect.

A source in the Ministry of Communication said the decision was taken to ensure uninterrupted movement of traffic.

Collection of tolls illegally by putting up barricades on the roads and highways has

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Uproar in JS over funds for mosques

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad witnessed a pandemonium yesterday when most of the ruling party MPs including the Deputy Leader of the House castigated the religious affairs minister for discrimination in allocating funds for mosques across the country.

Mohammad Keramat Ali looked perturbed as he tried to reply a barrage of accusations from his angry partymen who booed and jeered.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni who was in the chair tried to cool down the lawmakers some of whom were heard chanting "Shame, shame... thief, thief."

Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury even proposed that the Chair order an inquiry into the alleged irregularities but the Chair did not accept the proposal.

The 20-minute pandemonium ended when ruling party Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain proposed that the Deputy Leader of the House would discuss the matter with the Prime Minister.

It had all started when Keramat Ali failed to give satisfactory reply to M Akbar Ali who, in a supplementary during the question-answer period, asked the minister to explain allocation of 'excess' funds to mosques in Patuakhali, the minister's home district.

In his repeated attempts to justify the fund distribution, a

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Akhtaruzzaman's application again kept pending

By Staff Correspondent

The leave application of Awami League MP Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, which was to be taken up by the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday was again kept pending.

Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain requested the Chair to 'keep the matter pending for a next convenient day'.

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Flood situation in Manikganj deteriorates

By Staff Correspondent

The flood situation in Manikganj district further deteriorated yesterday as the rain-fed rivers submerged fresh areas in three thanas.

Officials said nearly 750 people in 10 unions of Shibahaya, Harinampur and Dalutour thanas were rendered homeless by the flood onslaught in the last 24 hours.

Over 40,000 people from the char areas, including Bachamara, Charkatari and Taota unions, have taken shelter in safer places.

Two minor girls drowned in the flood affected areas of Chhatak and Jagannathpur thanas of Sunamganj district during the last two days.

The overall situation in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Moulvibazar districts continued to improve yesterday.

In Gaibandha thousands of

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DUTA surprised at VC's statement

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has rejected the Vice Chancellor's statement that he ordered admission of 20 students without test after consultation with DUTA leaders.

In a joint statement yesterday, DUTA president Prof A T M Zahurul Haq and general secretary Prof S M Inamul Haq said "we are surprised." The VC's statement has not only tarnished the image of the teachers but also belittled them before the people, they added.

Admission in the university in violation of the existing rules is immoral, said the DUTA leaders.

They said they will remain firm in their efforts to protect the good image and academic atmosphere of the university.

The Vice Chancellor Prof

Emajuddin Ahmed, in a press conference on Sunday, had said the president, the general secretary and some other members of the DUTA had advised him to allow 20 students to be admitted on 'humanitarian' ground.

The VC convened the press conference to explain his position following the criticism of his order to admit the 20 students who did not appear at the admission test as they attended a reception convened by the Ministry of Education on the same day.

Meanwhile our DU correspondent adds: The general admission committee of the Dhaka University (DU) yesterday decided to refer the case of 20 students to the Academic Council to take a final decision.

The meeting of the Aca-

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Flood victims waiting for relief at Nazirganj Union Parishad office in Sujanagar thana of Pabna district. —Star photo by Ranesh Maitra

Revised budget shows 6.2 pc rise in total expenditure

By Staff Correspondent

The revised budget for the outgoing fiscal 1994-95 indicated an increase in total expenditure by 6.2 per cent, as against 4.2 per cent increase in revenue earning, precipitating an additional deficit of Tk 773 crore.

Against the earmarked amount of Tk 21,733 crore in the original budget, for expenditure on revenue, ADP and other courts, the revised budget stood at Tk 23,079 crore. Thus the government incurred an excess aggregate expenditure of 1,346 crore.

As regards revenue collection, the government earned Tk 14,210 crore against the target of Tk 13,637 crore, resulting in an additional amount of Tk 573 crore, at the rate of 4.2 per cent increase.

Of the excess amount Tk 485 crore came from tax sources and the rest from non-tax sources.

However, the major area where tax collection target was not realised was income tax. Although, the government expected to earn Tk 1900 crore from income tax, the amount stood at Tk 1560 crore, showing a shortfall of Tk 340 crore.

"So, in that sense the excess revenue generation reflected in the revised budget originated from across the board through augmented contribution from the indirect tax sources," said Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

Referring to private and corporate tax collection, he

said, "This indicates the inability of the current tax system to induce and to cover the potential direct tax payers enjoying above the threshold level of income." Such a situation further aggravates the fundamental distortion affecting the revenue structure — high dependence on indirect taxes with an external trade bias, the BIDS economist added.

The major area of shortfall in non-tax sources has been in the area of receipts of dividends from the state-owned non-financial institutions. However, revenue generation from other non-tax sources compensated Tk 248 crore shortfall and contributed towards an aggregate excess of Tk 88 crore in the revised

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Redwood resigns from cabinet to challenge Major

LONDON, June 26: Former Welsh Secretary John Redwood announced today that he would challenge Prime Minister John Major for leadership of the Conservative Party, reports AFP.

Redwood resigned from the cabinet earlier today. At a press conference, he read out his resignation letter to Major, saying: "Your decision to resign (as Conservative leader) leaves our party in limbo when it needs firm but understanding leadership. It leaves a contest inevitable."

"It is vital the Conservative win the next election," he said. "We must defend our democracy from damaging constitutional change."

Redwood had earlier in the day resigned from his position as Secretary of State for Wales in a move seen as throwing the contest wide open and posing a serious threat to PM.

Talks on Rohingyas in Yangon from tomorrow

Star Report

The repatriation of Rohingya refugees, slowing down since April, will be discussed at a three-day Bangladesh Myanmar official level meeting beginning tomorrow in Yangon.

A six-member Bangladesh delegation, led by Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong, Shaiful Islam, will attend the meeting that will review all aspects of the repatriation process.

Maung Aung, Director General of Myanmar Immigration Department, will lead his country's 10-member team at the meeting.

This will be the 18th official level meeting between the two countries, the last one held in Cox's Bazar in August '94.

Official sources in Dhaka said that the repatriation of Rohingyas, who fled to

Bangladesh in 1991 to avoid persecution by Myanmar authorities, slowed down significantly during the past months.

The sources attributed this to the delay in getting clearance from the Myanmar authorities.

In March this year, a total of 16,129 refugees were repatriated to Myanmar. But the number came down to 7,349 in April and then declined to 1,124 in May.

Only 650 refugees have been repatriated so far this month.

Of the 250,877 Rohingya refugees registered in Bangladesh, 192,467 have so far been repatriated with the assistance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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Cabinet okays Bill for amendment to CPA Ord '76

The Cabinet yesterday approved a draft Bill for amendment to the Chittagong Port Authority Ordinance 1976 in order to streamline the functions of the country's biggest seaport, reports UNB.

The approval was given at the weekly meeting of the Cabinet at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

An official announcement says the Bill aims at streamlining the functioning of the Chittagong Port Trust by removing its structural inadequacy and facilitating use of modern technology in its operation.

Tk 449.2 crore Japanese grant

Bangladesh will receive Japanese grant aid worth about Tk 449.2 crore under three agreements signed in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

Saddat Husain, Additional Secretary of Economic Relations Division, and Shigeo Takenaka, Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh, signed exchange of notes on behalf of their respective governments.

Under the first exchange of notes, Bangladesh will receive a grant assistance of about Tk 36.7 crore for the implementation of the project for "construction of portable steel bridges" for rural roads (term-2).

The fund represents the second and final portion of the project for which Japan extended a grant assistance of 733 million yen during 1994.

Under the second exchange of notes, Japan is giving Bangladesh Tk 35.7 crore

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Workers clash at Latif Bawani Jute mills: 40 injured

By DMCH Correspondent

At least 40 people were injured during a clash between two groups of workers at Latif Bawani Jute Mills at Demra yesterday afternoon.

Of the injured 18 were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), medical sources said.

The trouble began when a group of employees called a rally at the main gate of the mills premises at about 5 pm.

The clash occurred as another group of employees tried to resist the meeting, sources said.

Several crackers were hurled and chase and counter chase took place during an hour long clash.

None was arrested in this connection. Police forces were reinforced following the clash.

Editors demand withdrawal of VAT on newsprint import

Editors of different national dailies had a meeting with State Minister for Industries Lutfur Rahman Khan at his office in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

During the meeting editors proposed withdrawal of VAT on import of newsprint, cancelling the quota system of newsprint and selling it in the open market. They also proposed to the minister for not reducing the monthly quota of those newspapers which get 10 tons or less.

Industries Secretary Dr A M Shaukat Ali, president, council of editors and Editor of the Daily Meilatt Chowdhury Mohammad Farooque, Executive Editor of the Daily Ittefaq Rahat Khan, Editor of

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Wimbledon Result HIGHLIGHTS
Courtesy
KLM
Royal Dutch Airlines

Men's singles (1st round):
Pete Sampras (USA) def Karsten Braasch (Germany).
Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) def Sebastian Lareau (Canada).
Todd Martin (USA) def Nicolas Pereira (Venezuela).
Alexander Volkov (Russia) def Maliwai Washington (USA).

Women's singles (1st round):
Amy Frazier (USA) def Stephanie Rottier (Netherlands).
Judith Wiesner (Austria) def Claudi Porwick (Germany).