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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	789.94 (+0.09%)
Market capital Tk.	47.43 billion
Transactions in volume	120555
Transactions in value Tk.	22.56 million

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



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NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda opens PRO's confce today

The eighth biennial national conference of the Bangladesh Public Relations Association will be held in Dhaka tomorrow. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to open the conference at 11 am at a local hotel, reports BSS.

Medical tests of BCS candidates

Medical tests of the candidates who qualified in the 15th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) will be held in different batches from July 17 to 30 at three hospitals in the city. Tests are to be held at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Sir Salimullah Medical College and Mitford Hospital, and the PG Hospital, reports UNB.

US envoy hosts reception

US Ambassador in Bangladesh David N Merrill hosted a reception yesterday evening to celebrate the 219th anniversary of declaration of independence of the United States. The reception held at the US embassy complex at Baridhara was attended by Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, political leaders, diplomats, editors of newspapers and news agencies, leading businessmen and people from different walks of life, reports BSS.

Taslima's case stayed

The High Court yesterday stayed the proceedings of the case against controversial writer Taslima Nasreen till July 20. The charge against Taslima in the case was scheduled to be framed yesterday.

Constitutional provisions on MPs' absence President seeks Supreme Court interpretation

By Staff Correspondent

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday referred the issue of 90-day absence of MPs from the Parliament to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court requesting for interpretations of the relevant constitutional clauses.

Referring the matter to the SC, the President wanted to know how 90 consecutive days of absence would be calculated, whether the seat of a member would fall vacant if he or she remained absent without leave of Parliament for 90 consecutive days and whether the Speaker of Parliament was the appropriate authority to determine it.

Article 106 of the

Constitution empowers the President to ask for interpretation from the Appellate Division if a question of law arise. The SC can give its opinion under its Advisory Jurisdiction.

More than 140 opposition MPs of the present Fifth Parliament, who started boycotting the sessions since March 1, 1994, crossed the 90-day constitutional limit on June 19.

This is the first such reference made by the President in Bangladesh.

The President's move came after Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia requested him to seek SC's opinion on

the issue.

Begum Zia decided to request the President after a series of meetings with her cabinet colleagues and legal aides. The PM took up the issue as the treasury bench members debated the matter in the House during which some of the members argued for referring it to the SC for interpretation whether the 'boycott' would be considered as 'absence'.

Later in the evening, the Minister for Law and Justice Mirza Golam Hafiz informed the House that the President had made a reference to the Supreme Court and requested

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A move to prolong BNP rule, says Opposition

Star Report

The three major opposition parties — the Awami League, the Jamaat-e-Islami and the Jatiya Party — have criticised government for referring the issue of MPs' absence from Parliament to the Supreme Court.

Leaders of the parties said yesterday that the resignations tendered by their members of Parliament were legal. They alleged that the government wanted to prolong the life of this Parliament through referring the issue to the Supreme Court.

Barrister KS Nabi, Law Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League deplored the government's move and termed such reference under Article 106 as 'misconceived, ill-advised and not tenable in law and constitution'.

In a statement last night

Nabi said that under Article 106 of the Constitution, the President can refer to the Appellate Division only those matters which relate to the legal and constitutional issues of great public importance as regards functions of the government. "The boycott of the Parliament by MPs is an issue between the members of the Parliament and the Speaker," he said adding "any such reference would be violative of the jurisdiction, authority and supremacy of the Parliament."

Barrister Nabi referred to a case on the same issue for which three appeals are now pending before the Appellate Division. "Hence it is not expected that the President can obtain any opinion which may, in one way or other, influence the result of those appeals."

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Wait and see, says Speaker

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali still preferred to keep mum on the sending of the issue of absentee MPs to the Supreme Court, reports UNB.

"Wait and see," repeated Ali to a group of reporters who entered his Parliament chamber yesterday evening to seek his comment.

The Speaker was seen scratching his forehead and sometimes dropping his head towards his desk as the newsmen stood around him hurling a string of questions.

"It's the prerogative of the President," the Speaker said.

The Speaker offered tea to journalists rather than reply to their queries.

As the reporters kept insisting on the Speaker to say something more, Ali said, "Wait and see — my only comment."

He just gave a smile when a correspondent asked him if the honourable Speaker was

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Fresh areas in 4 dists flooded

By Staff Correspondent

Fresh areas in Pabna, Sirajganj, Sherpur and Feni districts were inundated yesterday following heavy rainfall and sharp rise in the water levels of all major rivers.

In the capital, normal life was badly affected as the city, like other places in the country, experienced torrential rains since Monday.

Many areas in Motijheel, Topkhana, Shantinagar, Malibagh, Fakirerpool, Shantibagh and Green Road and most parts of the old town went under knee-deep water paralysing normal life.

According to the Met Of-

fice, an active monsoon was prevailing over the country and under its influence, rain will continue today and tomorrow with heavy fall over Dhaka, Chittagong and Rarives.

COX'S BAZAR, July 4: A tornado lashed three villages in Ukhia thana of the district this morning, injuring 20 and damaging more than 100 houses, reports UNB.

ishahi divisions.

Our district correspondents say, fresh areas of Pabna, Sirajganj, Sherpur and Feni districts have gone under water following intermittent rains. The onrush of water

from across the hilly region of India has worsened the flood situation in Sherpur and Feni.

Thousands of acres of arable land have been submerged and the road communication in these districts has been badly affected.

Fresh areas of nine thanas in Pabna, 15 unions of different thanas in Sherpur, eight unions in Feni and low-lying areas of five thanas in Sirajganj are in the grip of flash flood. In Feni, 169 mm rainfall was recorded at eight last night.

Meanwhile, the Brahmaputra and the Ganges rose at all

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A tree eaten by wood-worm fell on a car parked inside the BIRDEM hospital in the city during the rain and gusty wind yesterday. — Star photo

Tender for ID cards to be floated July 8 Draft voter list likely today

By Staff Correspondent

The draft voter list, prepared after enrolment of the eligible persons during the first half of May this year throughout the country, will be published today.

The draft list will be available at the offices of the registration and assistant registration officers and in other localities.

The registration and assistant registration officers will receive objections and amendments, if any, from any eligible person regarding the

cases like exclusion from the list, inclusion of any ineligible person, and wrong information, by July 22.

The authority will settle the issues by August 6 and the final voter list will be published on September 30, says an EC press release.

The EC also sought cooperation of local political leaders, workers and people in general to prepare a correct voter list.

The EC secretariat did not give the exact figure in the

new electoral roll, but indicated that the number would be around 50.50 million.

Another report says, the EC will start selling tender schedules from July 8 for issuance of voters' identity (ID) cards.

Sources said though the tender would cover all voters, a selected number, particularly those of five divisional headquarters, would be provided with ID cards before next general elections.

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Redwan Ahmed MP, BGMEA president, signing the MOU on elimination of child labour in the city yesterday. Gretchen Goodale of Unicef is on his right and Paul Joseph Bailey of ILO on his left. — Star photo

JS body for amending University Ord'n '73

The parliamentary standing committee on public accounts has suggested amendments to the University Ordinance of 1973 to "restore financial discipline in the universities".

The committee in its fourth report, submitted to the Fatiya Sangsad yesterday, blamed the universities for not maintaining accounts properly taking the advantage of autonomy provided under the 1973 and the 1962 ordinances.

Briefing the journalists soon after placing the report at the House, the committee Chairman, LK Siddiqi once again spoke of non-cooperation and indifference by the relevant ministries in implementing the committee pro-

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Stipend, schooling ensured MOU on elimination of child labour signed

The BGMEA, the ILO and the UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) here yesterday for elimination of child labour from the country's garment factories.

The MOU provides for stipends and schooling for the child workers who would be terminated.

"Now that Bangladeshi garment manufacturers have signed the MOU, we hope the Americans will buy more Bangladeshi garments," Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman said at the signing ceremony.

The Foreign Minister also said, "the MOU is the first of its kind in the world and this has been done with utmost sincerity by the parties con-

cerned."

As per the accord, the three organisations are committed to place as many underaged workers as possible in schools on or before October 31 next, the target date for gradual elimination of child workers from garments factories.

Each terminated child worker attending the schooling programme will get a stipend of Tk 300 per month. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) will contribute a portion of the funds under the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), while the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) will

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Major reelected Tory leader

LONDON, July 4: Prime Minister John Major on Tuesday defeated a right-wing challenger, holding office but still likely to be dogged by party dissent and his government's unpopularity, reports AP.

Major claimed a clear-cut victory, and said he would announce a new Cabinet line-up on Wednesday.

He won 218 votes from the 329 Conservative legislators in a contest for the leadership of the governing Conservative Party, compared with 89 votes for John Redwood, the former Welsh Secretary.

Eight Conservatives in the House of Commons abstained and 12 spoiled their ballot papers in an attempt to deny Major outright victory and force a second ballot with new contenders.

However, Major handily

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Legal notice on DU VC

Legal notice was served on the Dhaka University Vice-chancellor yesterday urging him to cancel the June 30 Senate election.

DU VC Prof Emajuddin Ahmed is also Senate Chairman.

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Wimbledon Result HIGHLIGHTS
 Courtesy
 Royal Dutch Airlines

Women's singles (qtrs):
 Steffi Graf (Germany) def Mary Joe-Fernandes (USA)
 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain) def Brenda Shultz McCarthy (Netherlands).
 Conchita Martinez (Spain) def Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
 Jana Novotna (Czech Rep) def Kimiko Date (Japan).

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