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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	761.73 (+0.04%)
Market capital Tk	46.92 billion
Transactions in volume	103832
Transactions in value Tk	16.55 million

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Metropolitan
 Dhaka Day by Day

NEWS BRIEFS
Bangladeshi army in Bosnia safe
 All the members of the Bangladesh military contingent including military observers in Bosnia are safe and sound there, according to the latest report, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.
 In view of the present tense situation in Bosnia Herzegovina, Bangladesh army headquarters are maintaining constant contact with them, the press release added.
60 auto-tempo routes in city
 By Staff Correspondent
 The Dhaka Metropolitan Regional Transport Committee has fixed 60 auto-tempo routes to create a smooth traffic system in the city roads. The route number will be stamped on the wind shield and the route name will be printed on the body of the vehicle.
215 gold chains seized at ZIA
 By Staff Correspondent
 Customs officials at the Zia International Airport seized 215 gold chains worth Tk 3.32 lakh from a passenger yesterday. The Bangladeshi passenger from Singapore identified as Dashrath Sarker, 34, arrived in Dhaka at 9:50 am.
30 rickshaws seized in city
 The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) with the help of police seized some 30 illegal rickshaws from Nilkhet crossing yesterday. The city corporation in its special drive, led by a DCC magistrate, seized the rickshaws and realised Tk 280 from rickshawpullers, reports UNB.

Fresh areas in Dhaka, N'ganj inundated

By Staff Correspondent

More areas in Narayanganj, Manikganj, Chandpur, Gaibandha, Madaripur and Faridpur districts were inundated yesterday while the flood situation deteriorated in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Shariatpur and Rajbari districts.

However, the situation in Naogaon, Bogra and Sirajganj districts remained unchanged.

With the steep rise in water level of the rivers Buriganga, Shitalakkhya, Turag and Kaliganga, many low-lying areas in the capital and seven unions of Narayanganj were inundated yesterday.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent reports: With seven more unions inundated yesterday, the number of flood-hit unions in the district rose to 29.

The seven unions in four thanas are Bandar, Mograpara, Baidyabazar, Pirojpur, Rugganj, Arai-hazar and Hyzadi. Besides, flood water has partially inundated Kalirbazar and Bigbar Bazar in the town.

Meanwhile, the Narayanganj district administration has requested the ministry concerned to provide Tk five lakh in cash and 100 tonnes of rice, 500 tons of biscuits, 1000 pieces of saree and 1000 pieces of lungi for distribution among the flood victims.

Our correspondent from Chandpur reports: Flood situation in the district took a serious turn yesterday with the entire district town going under knee to waist deep water.

With rise of water level and erosion by the river Meghna, the embankment in the Taka 130 crore Meghna-Dhanagoda irrigation project area came under serious threat yesterday. A number of cracks developed in the embankment near Enayet Nagar in Matlab.

The Meghna near Chandpur is flowing 100 cm above the danger level.



Low-lying areas of the city's Mugdaparā were inundated yesterday. — Star photo

City flood to worsen, with rain it will be disaster

By Reaz Ahmad and Masud Arif

Low-lying areas in the capital are being invaded by flood waters descending on the city from the northern districts.

Several thousand people at Kamrangirchar, Shahidnagar and Sultanganj in Lalbagh thana had to abandon their homes. Many of the families have found refuge at various educational institutions in the Lalbagh area.

With a strong possibility of further swelling of the rivers surrounding the capital, many more low-lying areas like Washpur, Katabur, Badda, eastern Shahjahanpur, Jatabari and Mirpur may go down under water.

Experts, however do not see possibility of flood hitting a high magnitude unless the city experiences heavy rainfall soon as a result of active monsoon.

A huge portion of the road adjacent to the Dhaka Town Protection Embankment near East Rasulpur in Lalbagh was washed away on Tuesday and some 400 houses including a two-story building beside that road were damaged.

Meanwhile, water in the areas just outside the Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) Embankment kept rising last night.

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) in an emergency meeting yesterday, took a decision to set up 10 control rooms in its 10 zonal offices to monitor the deteriorating flood situation in the city.

Md Jamal, a business man at Raj Narayan Dhar Road in Lalbagh, told us that many areas in the thana, where over three and a half lakh people reside, were flooded during the last two to three days.

Alam, a boatman at Killar Mor Ghat, said the number of boats at the ghat has just been doubled and every day more and more new boats are joining to carry thousands of affected people in the neighbourhoods everyday.

Now, there are over 50 boats here playing to carry people to and from Killar Mor and Islambagh, Zin'ara and Kailaghat," said Alam.

Md Nasir Mia, a shopkeeper, was forced to relocate his small grocery shop from mainland Kamrangirchar to a jetty at the approach road of Hakkul Ubad Bridge that bridged Kamrangirchar with the downtown Dhaka.

Nasir, who is in grocery business for the last two decades in Kamrangirchar, said never '88 he had seen such menacing waters as this year.

The price of essential commodities specially eatables like rice, vegetables, oil has risen by three to four taka per unit because of the shrinking supply position of these from Kamrangirchar etc, Nasir said.

Dr Zahurul Islam, an Assistant Professor of the Institute of Flood Control and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Floods at a glance

THURSDAY, JULY 13

Affected districts: 27
 Affected thanas: 144
 Deaths: 42
 People affected: 61.52 lakh
 Crops destroyed: 5.5 lakh acre
 Crops damaged: 5.8 lakh acre
 Houses destroyed: 68 thousand
 Houses damaged: 3.14 lakh
 Roads destroyed: 2,137 km
 Roads damaged: 7,335 km
 Sources: Disaster Management Bureau and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Unfinished task of C'wealth

LONDON, July 13: Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Eneke Anyaoku, yesterday described the resolution of the problems in Jammu and Kashmir, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh as the unfinished business of the Commonwealth, reports PTL.

But senior sources in the secretariat said the secretary-general was not for interference in Kashmir.

Anyaoku made the comments while testifying before the British Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee's inquiry into the future role of the Commonwealth.

He had been asked by Robert Wareing, MP, if he thought the Commonwealth could be more proactive in trying to resolve problems, Anyaoku replied that 'Sri Lanka and the other problems' were the unfinished business of the Commonwealth and reflected continuing internal problems in several Commonwealth countries.

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Confusion over Jamaat MP's joining BNP

By Staff Correspondent

Controversial and confusing statements were made yesterday over Jamaat MP Maulana Shakhawat Hossain's joining the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The Jamaat-e-Islami claimed that Maulana Hossain was detained by police after he issued a statement refuting reports that he had joined the BNP Wednesday.

But a BSS report quoting Hossain's statement said police rescued Maulana Hossain from the hands of Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and workers who had kept him confined in his house.

The report said "in a statement Hossain said that he had joined the BNP by filling in the membership form of the party in the Prime Minister's office yesterday at 7:30 pm and the news has been broadcast by the national Radio and TV on the same day and published by the daily newspapers the following day."

"On receipt of this news, the leaders and workers of Jamaat-e-Islami had come to the MP's house and put unprecedented mental pressure on him and stayed in his house throughout the day," the state-run BSS quoting Hossain said adding "they did not allow him to come out of the house."

But Jamaat leader Kamruzzaman told The Daily Star that Maulana Hossain issued a press statement yesterday saying that "he was with Jamaat and will continue to remain with Jamaat in future."

He said that Maulana Hossain issued the statement to dispel the confusion created by his reported joining the ruling party.

Maulana Hossain termed the news item as 'false and fabricated', Kamruzzaman added.

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Attorney Gen Aminul Huq dead

By Staff Correspondent

Attorney General Aminul Huq died yesterday following a heart attack at his Supreme Court chamber.

Huq, 63, collapsed in his chair with severe chest pain at around 9:50

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am, just after his return from the Appellate Division where he appeared in a case, AG office sources said.

Huq, who had a 'heart condition', was rushed to the Suhrawardy Cardiovascular Diseases Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

All proceedings at the Supreme Court were suspended for the day. A pall of gloom gripped the court premises when the news of his death reached there at around 10:30 am.

He left behind his widow, two sons and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

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BNP MP dead

Keramat Ali Talukder, a veteran BNP parliamentarian, from Muktagacha, Mymensingh, died of liver disease at the post graduate hospital last night. He was 77, reports BSS.

He was under treatment at the PG Hospital for about two months after return from New Delhi where he had gone for treatment.

Keramat Ali Talukder, who was a parliamentary secretary before independence was elected to the Jatiya Sangsad in 1979 on BNP ticket during the regime of president Ziaur Rahman. He was again elected to the Jatiya Sangsad on BNP ticket in 1991.

The body of Talukder will be buried in a case, AG office sources said.

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Second round of talks MQM asked to close 'camps in India'

ISLAMABAD, July 13: The Pakistan government accused the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) of running training camps in India, as peace talks aimed at bringing peace to the country's commercial hub, Karachi, resumed here today, reports AFP.

The government asked the MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking people who migrated to India after partition in 1947, to renounce violence, stop calling for strikes, surrender its arms and hand over wanted criminals to the police.

"In exchange, the government will consider appropriate concessions," Law Minister Nabi Dad Khan said in a paper presented at the talks.

The minister was responding to the MQM's demands tabled at Tuesday's opening session by its chief negotiator, Ajmal Dehlvi.

The accusations against the MQM, headed by the self-exiled Altaf Hussain, were a reiteration of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's charge that the party was part of a "foreign-inspired insurgency."

Islamabad blames the MQM for much of the violence that has left around 2,000 dead in the past 18 months in Karachi.

The government has asked the "Altaf group — as the Hussain-led MQM is officially described — to wind up its training camps in India" and recall activists "stationed there."

Earlier, Dehlvi demanded an end to "repression" in Karachi against the Mohajir community.

The MQM has frequently denied it is behind terrorist attacks and Dehlvi, speaking at the press club in nearby Rawalpindi, said the government had so far presented no evidence to prove the party received external support.

"Karachi is not a jungle for hunting human heads," Dehlvi said, adding that thousands of people had been killed over the past three years.

"We are tired of burying our dead," he said.

Observers said despite conciliatory remarks and expression of optimism by the two sides before the talks, the positions they outlined

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Ashapura Devi dead

CALCUTTA, July 13: Leading writer and winner of several prestigious literary awards Ashapura Devi died at her south Calcutta residence early this morning after protracted illness. She was 86, reports PTL.

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She is survived by her son.

Born in a conservative family in 1909, the versatile novelist started her literary career at the age of 13 in the 'Shishu Sahitya Patrika'.

Recipient of the Padmashree in 1966, Ashapura Devi came into the limelight with her controversial book 'Pati-Patni' (husband-wife), 'Sagar Sukayajay' (The sea dries up), 'Sashi'

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New coal mine in Dinajpur Largest reserve, best quality, experts say

DIGHIPARA (Dinajpur), July 13: The government has officially announced the discovery of a coal mine with high quality bituminous coal at Dighipara in Nawabganj thana of the district, reports UNB.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain made the announcement before media men, officials and inhabitants of the area at the drilling point yesterday.

"Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB) has discovered a new mine of very high grade coal deposit... We're expressing our gratitude to Almighty Allah," the minister said.

Dr Mosharrar, flanked by Energy Secretary M Faizur Razaque, Khurshid Jahan Haque MP, Petrobangla Chairman SKM Abdullah and senior officials, thanked the GSB experts and laymen as well as other officials involved in the process of discovering the coal mine.

GSB, the state-owned geological research organisation, hit the coal seam at a depth of 1075 feet on July 4 after continued drilling for about three months.

With the detection of the mine of bituminous coal, the number of such mines has risen to four — all are in the country's northern region billed as the mineral potential area.

Although the drilling is still continuing and the assessment studies will follow later, the new mine is believed to be the largest in Bangladesh as the geologists found coal up to 1125 feet beneath.

The GSB will drill up to 3,000 feet at the well and the survey for assessing the area of the coal basin and detecting the probable reserve of the mineral will be conducted shortly.

The survey will be followed by a detailed feasibility study for extraction of coal on commercial basis.

Before discovering coal in the GSB Drilling Hole, the experts found high-quality Glass Sand with a width of 119 feet and a nine-foot White Clay band just over the coal seam.

According to the GSB experts, the quality of coal found at Dighipara is better than that of Raniganj in West Bengal from where Bangladesh imports most of the coal every year.

"The quality of coal of this basin is very high as sulphur that determines the standard of coal is very nominal. So, its use will be very environment-friendly," said Dr Mojibur Rahman, the Director General of GSB.

The coal discovery at this sleepy village, only 6 miles off the Indian

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Jubo Dal leader killed in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, July 13: The secretary of the Natun bazar unit of the Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, the main accused in the 'Anu Murder Case' was brutally murdered by miscreants at Municipal Tank Road here this evening. He was released on bail from Khulna Jail on Monday.

According to police, a group of miscreants kidnapped Mohammad Altaf Hossain, 30, from Natun bazar area and later confined him in an abandoned house at MT Road.

The miscreants cut the tendons of his legs, gouged out his eyes and stabbed in his chest. The Jubo Dal leader was later found lying beside a drain.

The doctors at the Sadar hospital declared him dead a few minutes after his admission.

Police say, another young man — Ripon, 25 — was also stabbed. He was with the Jubo Dal leader when the latter was kidnapped.

Hasina puts off US trip

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina has postponed her visit to the United States as she will be busy with relief work in the flood-affected areas.

Hasina was scheduled to leave Dhaka today to meet her son and daughter in the USA.

According to a party press release issued last night, the AL leader will start visiting the flood-hit districts today. She will visit Bhauapur and its adjoining areas of Tangail district today, Manikganj and Pabna districts tomorrow and Madaripur on July 16.

A medical team will accompany her.

Bird watching tour today

By Staff Correspondent

A day-long bird watching tour is being organised in the Dhaka Botanical Garden for the first time today.

According to experts, the Botanical Garden is the city's biggest sanctuary for different species of birds in Bangladesh.

Some 50 to 60 kinds of birds out of 600 found in the country, can be watched in the Botanical Garden.

Organised by the Bangladesh Bird Club (BBC), the tour will be led by the renowned wild life expert and Head of Dubai Zoo Section Dr Ali Reza Khan.

The tour will be conducted in groups of ten participants, each accompanied by a guide.

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Suu Kyi looks for ways to jump-start NLD

YANGON, July 13: Aung San Suu Kyi today held a series of dawn-to-dusk meetings with colleagues, looking for ways to jump-start their National League for Democracy (NLD) now that she has been freed, reports AFP.

The colleagues included Kyi Maung, an NLD leader recently released from prison, but many top NLD members remained in jail, and others were hiding in jungle sanctuaries or had fled across the border to Thailand.

"The question is, can she put the (NLD) apparatus back together," a Western diplomat said.

The NLD was left in disarray when Myanmar's ruling junta refused to hand over power despite the NLD's landslide win in the 1990 general elections.

Aung San Suu Kyi had already been placed under house arrest, in July 1989, and other opponents of the regime were imprisoned.

In statements since her release, the opposition leader has said her first priority was to determine, in consultation with other NLD figures, how best to promote democracy in Myanmar.

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Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi with Kyi Maung, acting head of the opposition party NLD, at a meeting at her house in Yangon yesterday. — AFP photo

Cricket stadium far cry?

By Morshed A Khan

The maddeningly haphazard and crammed urban accretions to the northeast of Dhaka was long crying for a spot that would allow it to breathe. More than serving the cause of this nation's cricket, a cricket stadium proposed for the area could do that very effectively. But the future, not to speak of the timeframe, of the proposed stadium has become very uncertain as bureaucratic and other complications threaten to undo the entire project.

The 17.44-acre stadium, planned in the city's Baro Maghbazar area, is now awaiting the approval of the IMED (Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Development) under the Ministry of Planning.

Sources in the National Sports Council (NSC) indicated that the project would take an uncertain period of time to be implemented.

"From the IMED it will go to planning commission," said an official, "then, with the commission's approval it will come back to us."

At that stage, the official said, the NSC would get down to acquiring the needed land from different gov-

ernment and non-government authorities. These include Bangladesh Railway, Department of Road & Highways and a "considerable" number of private owners.

"Acquiring the land would pose a lot of problems because quite a large number of influential people own land on the spot," another official said.

The stadium also faces uncertainty as officials in the WASA claim that the proposed site is situated in the area of the Begunbari canal, a vital outlet for the city's sewerage.

Meanwhile, the Director of Planning and Development of the NSC told The Daily Star that other authorities such as Urban Development Directorate RAJUK, Water Development Board and the Central Land Allocation Committee have already approved the project.

The estimated cost of the stadium has been calculated at around Tk 45 crore. The complex, the first of its kind in the country, will contain three main and two practice pitches, a car park and a wide range of modern facilities.

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