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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	759.08 (+0.11%)
Market capital Tk	46.76 billion
Transactions in volume	109729
Transactions in value Tk	20.14 million

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



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NEWS BRIEFS

Ex-air chief Altaf Hossain joins BNP

Former chief of air staff Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury yesterday joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The retired air chief received the membership from BNP Secretary General and Minister for UGRD and Cooperatives Abdus Salam Talukdar at a function held in the city, reports BSS.

Tele link with Ctg snapped for 2 hrs

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, July 16: Tele-communication between the port city and rest of the country and outside world was snapped for two hours from 7.30 pm tonight. The local T&T office sources said, the disruption was caused due to a fault in Chittagong-Dhaka lines. The communication was restored at 9.30 pm.

49 arrested from beauty parlour

By Staff Correspondent
 Detective police raided a beauty parlour at Kalra in the city and arrested 49 persons including 35 women on charge of creating public nuisance.

Sylhet truck strike ends today

From Staff Correspondent
 SYLHET, July 16: The 3-day strike by the Truck Drivers and Workers Association in Sylhet will end at 6 am tomorrow. The strike was called demanding punitive measures against the toll collectors who beat up the president of the Truck Drivers Association on Wednesday.

Iraq frees 2 Americans

BAGHDAD, July 16: Two Americans pardoned by President Saddam Hussein walked free here today after spending 113 days in jail for illegally entering Iraq, witnesses said. William Barlow and David Dalbert arrived at the US interests section in Baghdad, travelling in official Iraqi cars and carrying their belongings, reports AFP.

SC hearing on absentee MPs begins

Legal experts question propriety of reference

By Staff Correspondent

Two leading legal experts, on the opening day of the hearing yesterday, questioned the 'propriety' of the first ever presidential reference to the Supreme Court regarding the absence of MPs from Parliament sessions for consecutive 90 days and vacation of seats.

"This reference is not made within the meaning of Article 106 which empowers the President to make a reference for interpretation when the question of law arises," Dr Kamal Hossain said before the full bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

"It should be looked into whether the question of law has at all arisen within the meaning of Article 106 of the Constitution," he said.

The five-member bench was chaired by Chief Justice ATM Afzal.

The other members of the bench are Justice Mostafa Kamal, Justice Latifur Rahman, Justice Abdur Rouf and Justice Ismailuddin Sarker.

Article 106 says: "If at any time it appears to the President that a question of law has arisen, or is likely to arise, which is of such a nature and of such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it, he may refer the question to the Appellate Division for consideration and the division may, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report its opinion thereon to the President."

Dr Kamal Hossain said the matter was raised in the House where the majority party and other parties might have differed in opinion. But the matter should not have been brought to the court through a reference, he added.

"The matter should be left to the Speaker who is the appropriate authority... the Constitution entrusted the Speaker to decide the matter," he added.

He also said that some premature elements, which were precisely matters of the Speaker and Parliament, were brought before the court.

Dr Kamal said "moreover, the advisory opinion is not binding, so it might be embarrassing for the court if different opinion came from elsewhere on the same issue."

Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed said that during the past 150 to 200 years, there was no instance of such reference made on parliamentary affairs. So the preliminary point of maintainability should be settled first before deliberation on other points.

"There is an instance regarding a member of the House of Commons and another in India between the Uttar Pradesh government and the UP parliament regarding the respective jurisdiction," Barrister Ishtiaq said adding "there is no other instance of reference regarding the direct authority of parliament."

He said so far the government is the only party in this case and they (the lawyers) were invited to assist the court as amicus curie. The opposition parties should be notified to avoid any misunderstanding since their names were mentioned in the reference, he added.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas made the reference under Article 106 on July 4 seeking SC interpretation on four points relating to continued ab-

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Higher court takes up case July 24

Ershad produced in Chittagong court

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, July 16: Deposed president H. M. Ershad, principal accused in the Gen. Manzur murder case, was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court that sat at the VIP lounge of Chittagong airport today amid tight security.

Ershad, along with co-accused Lt. Col (Retd) Kamal Uddin, were flown to Chittagong from Dhaka by an Air Force Helicopter at 10.45 am and was escorted to the VIP lounge.

CMM Matiur Rahman sat in the court at 12 Noon. Ershad appeared at the dock at 12.40 pm from the adjacent court at court's order.

The CMM rejected the bail prayers for Ershad and Kamal Uddin, who was also produced in the court today.

Reading out the order CMM Matiur Rahman said, "I decline to enlarge both H M Ershad and Kamal Uddin on bail." "The case is now ready for trial and it would be shifted to higher court (District and Sessions Judges' Court), where it will be taken up on July 24."

The court passed the order after hearing defence lawyers, prosecution and both the accused, Ershad and Kamal Uddin. Several hundred policemen on riot gear were deployed in and around the airport.

The three others, accused in the Manzur murder case — retired army officers Maj. Gen. Abdul Latif, Lt. Col. Shamsur Rahman and Major Emadul Huq — were not produced in the court today.

Assistant commissioner of police (prosecution) Bakhtiar Hossain Bhuiah informed the court that due to shortage of escort force and prevalence of inclement weather, those three accused could not be brought from respective jails.

However, a supplementary chargesheet on Manzur murder case

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Former President H M Ershad seen at the Dhaka Central Jail gate after he was brought back from Chittagong.

— Star photo

More areas in Dhaka flooded

Tidal waters snap Cox's Bazar-Ctg road link

By Staff Correspondent

The flood situation in Dhaka and adjoining districts further worsened as all the rivers flowing through these continued to rise yesterday.

In the city fresh areas went under water.

The Flood Information Centre of the Water Development Board (WDB) yesterday forecast that more areas in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Manikganj and Munshiganj districts were likely to be inundated as the rivers in the region were still flowing above their respective danger levels.

However, the situation in the northern districts improved further following continued recession of flood waters.

Meanwhile, the road link between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar was cut off at 9 last night and some cross-dams in Cox's Bazar district were washed away by surging water from the sea, reports received in the city said.

Many low-lying areas in the capital went under knee to waist deep water as the river Buriganga marked a

further rise by 2 cm yesterday and was flowing 7 cm above its danger level. The river Turag crossed its danger mark at Tongi point yesterday after rising by 6 cm and it rose by 4 cm and was flowing 42 cm above danger level at Mirpur point.

Though the Buriganga may register a fall by 3 cm during the next 24 hours and by 6 cm during the next 48 hours, the flood situation in the city may not change, as the other rivers around it will keep rising, the Flood

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A family is leaving their inundated house in Kamrangir Char in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Four Sudanese diplomats beaten up in Cairo

CAIRO, July 16: Men in civilian clothes attacked four Sudanese diplomats with clubs and wrecked their cars on Sunday, a Sudanese official said. One diplomat was hospitalized, reports AP.

The attacks took place outside the diplomats' homes as they left for work, said Mohammed Aissa, the first secretary at the Sudanese Embassy.

There was no immediate comment from Egyptian officials.

Abdel-Azim el-Amin, one of the diplomats, was taken to Cairo's el-Salaam Hospital and was reported to be in a coma. The other three, including Beshir Mohammed el-Hassan, the embassy's second-ranking official, were injured but not hospitalized.

The diplomats' cars were also damaged, he said.

Govt-MQM talks focus on efforts to restore peace

KARACHI, July 16: Peace talks between the Pakistan government and Karachi's ethnic opposition group were adjourned until Monday after a three-hour session here with progress reported, while violence claimed eight more lives today, officials said, reports AFP.

Police said four people were shot dead by snipers in different parts of the city while another four bullet-riddled bodies were found dumped in sacks.

Officials said tension prevailed in the suburb of Hasanabad, in eastern Malir district, because of a row between two groups of residents over the control of the shrine of a Muslim saint in the area.

Paramilitary rangers and police were patrolling the locality to prevent any clash between the rivals. Residents said dozens of families left their homes because they feared

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Rule on DU VC, 9 Senate members

By DU Correspondent

The High Court yesterday issued a *rule nisi* on the Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University and nine Senate members asking them to show cause within two weeks why the proceedings of the Senate session held on June 29 and 30 last and the election held at that time shall not be declared illegal.

A division bench of the HC, comprising Justice Habibur Rahman and Justice Ruhul Amin, also issued an injunction restraining the newly elected Syndicate and the finance committee members from taking part in the meeting of the Syndicate and the committee.

The rule was issued following a writ filed by a registered graduates' representative in the DU Senate.

FM briefs foreign envoys

Serb invaders must be pushed out by force

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman yesterday urged the international community to help protect the people of Bosnia, reports BSS.

The minister was briefing the envoys of the foreign missions based in Dhaka at the Foreign Office here yesterday evening on the latest situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Expressing grave concern over the situation the minister said, "We are alarmed that a great tragedy may be inevitable for the people of Bosnia unless the international community can take some decisive action right now."

The Foreign Minister said the invasion of Srebrenica, the taking of hostage of UN peacekeepers, the eviction of thousands of refugees from that enclave have demonstrated the sinister objective of the Bosnian Serbs leadership. He said, we have learnt also that a large number of men, women and children have been held prisoners in Srebrenica by the Bosnian

Serbs. They are also reported to have said that Srebrenica will very soon be free of Bosnian Muslims.

He said the Bosnian Serbs have misinterpreted patience of the world community as weakness. He said, "It is not only that the very credibility of the UN which is at stake, it is the very survival of an entire nation which is being challenged by the Bosnian Serbs. The international community must take up the challenge and act now."

The minister sought support of all nations particularly the permanent members of the Security Council and member countries of the NATO to protect the lives of innocent people of Bosnia from the barbaric Bosnian Serbs.

Foreign Minister Rahman congratulated France for coming forward to meet the situation in Bosnia. He said, "We call on all other nations to follow this example."

He said Bangladesh is fully prepared.

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Dhaka invited to confce on Bosnia

Diplomatic Correspondent

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen ASM Nasim have been invited to the special conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina due to be held in London on July 21.

Bangladesh is 'actively considering accepting the invitation' sent by British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, a foreign ministry spokesman said here yesterday during briefing.

All countries who have a role in Bosnia and also the foreign ministers and defence chiefs of the NATO countries are learnt to have been invited to attend the conference to review the latest situation in the Balkan peninsula.

Tk 2242 cr agri loan target for '95-96

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday announced the annual Agricultural and Rural Credit Programme guidelines for fiscal 1995-96, under which the agricultural loan programmes of different banks and other institutions have been estimated at Tk 2242 crore.

According to the guidelines, marginal, small or small tenant farmers will get priority in receiving credits. Farmers will not have to provide any collateral against crop loans for upto 25 acres of land.

To gear up loan recovery, an incentive of two per cent rebate on interest rate will be given to loanees paying back their credits within their

scheduled time, the guidelines said. In 1994-95, the programme involved Tk 1923 crore and the amount for this year is 16.59 per cent higher than last year.

A press release of the Bangladesh Bank said that besides the commercial banks and organisations which provide agricultural loans, private banks outside the purview of the programme may disburse agricultural or rural loans.

Till June 15 of the last fiscal (94-95) different commercial banks of differing agricultural loans, specialised banks, BRDB and BSRB disbursed Tk

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Single trade union centre to be formed

Country's top labour leaders, fearing joblessness following the globalisation of economy, have decided to form a single national trade union centre to face the challenges from a position of more strength, reports UNB.

The decision was taken unanimously in a two-day meeting of the leaders of 15 leading trade unions that concluded at a local hotel yesterday after elaborate discussion on the Bangladesh trade union movement and its future.

The meeting observed that the trade union movement, divided by dependence on political parties and by personalities who placed themselves above the interests of the

working class, was ill equipped to deal with current and foreseeable challenges.

A statement presented to newsmen after the meeting pointed out that economic reforms and increasing cut-throat competition of massive social dislocation, including closure of factories and loss of jobs.

The labour leaders expressed deep concern over such 'abrupt' closures and the 'aggravated' situation of retrenchments, joblessness and underemployment as well as violation of trade union rights.

The present situation has created frustration and lack of a sense of belongingness of the workers in

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2 brothers to die for double-murder in Keraniganj

A court here yesterday awarded death sentence to two brothers and life imprisonment to two other people for committing murder in 1993, reports UNB.

Accused Omar, 28, and Nasir, 30, of village Kadamtala in Keraniganj thana were awarded death penalty while Ayub and Kahu of the same village were given life term.

Senior Sessions Judge Md Abdus Salam, however, acquitted three people in the case, known as Keraniganj double-murder case. They are: Manir, Alton and Yasir.

According to the prosecution case, Mokter Hossain and Abdul Aziz were attacked by the accused per-

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Dhaka-Barisal STOL service begins

The maiden flight of the Aero Bengal Airlines, the country's first private sector airline, took off yesterday, breaking the state monopoly in domestic sky, reports UNB.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan formally inaugurated the service at Tejgaon old airport by giving send-off to a flight to the southern divisional town of Barisal.

The short take-off and landing (STOL) service of Aero Bengal linked the southern town with the capital through air-communications for the first time.

A 17-seater Chinese-built Y-12 type aircraft landed at Barisal Airport at Rahmatpur taking about 30 minutes and then returned to Dhaka in the afternoon. Aero Bengal officials said.

The commercial flights to Barisal will begin today, flying three times a day. But the number of flights will be raised to four after measuring the success of the service.

Aero Bengal is the first of nine

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Rajuk Commercial Plot Auction Notice

Most ideally located Residential-cum-Commercial Plot No. 19 and 21 measuring more or less 334.57 Sqr. Metre (5 katha) each on Road No. 113/A at Gulshan, Dhaka will be allotted for 99 years lease on open auction.

Applications on prescribed form to be obtained with terms and conditions from Janata Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk 500/- (Taka five hundred) only in cash for each set (Non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates) from the intending bidders up to 2:00 PM on 25.7.95.

The auction will be held on 26.7.95 in the Conference Room, 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10:00 AM.

Chairman

DPP-17272-12/7 Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha G-1084 Dhaka.