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# The Daily Star

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

In recognition of the increasing participation of women in the country's business world, *The Daily Star* is happy to announce the launching of a new interview series of some of the women entrepreneurs.  
 The interviews will be published in the Business Page on every alternate day starting tomorrow.

**Inside Today**

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**Focus**

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US, KSA may press Qatar to cool ties with Iran Page 8

**Business**

\$14.85m IFAD loan for rural employment generation

Japan sinking into economic crisis, say experts Pages 6,7

**STOCK MARKET**

DSE price index	756.56 (+0.33%)
Market capital Tk	46.79 billion
Transactions in volume	107040
Transactions in value Tk	16.38 million

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**



Fortune-telling by a Bird Page 3

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Biswas assents to 3 more Bills**

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Sunday gave assent to three Bills passed in the Jatiya Sangsad in the last session. The Bills are: The Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (Amendment) Bill, 1995. The Dhaka University (Amendment) Bill, 1995. and The Woman and Child Repression (Special Provisional) Bill, 1995. reports UNB.

**Deputy Secy suspended**

The government has suspended Muhammad Shah Alam, Deputy Secretary of the Industries Ministry, from his job as he recently visited South Korea capital of Seoul with a fake passport, an official handout said last night. Alam has also been given a 120 days detention since he was arrested from the Zia International Airport on his return home July 10. He left for Seoul on July 1.

**Five missing in boat capsized**

SIRAJGANJ, July 17: Five people are missing after an engine boat capsized in the river Jamuna at Kazipurhat in Sadar thana today. Witnesses said the boat overturned in the river due to heavy current at about 9 pm on Sunday, reports UNB.

## Three legal experts express similar views No explanation of 'boycott' in Constitution

By Staff Correspondent

Absence from Parliament due to prolonged boycott is not contemplated in the relevant Article of the Constitution which deals with vacation of seat of an MP for 90 consecutive days of absence from sessions.

This was the view expressed by three of the eight legal experts before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on the second day yesterday of the hearing on Presidential reference.

"Boycott is a different form of absence. It is a special type of absence which is not contemplated in Article 67 (1) (b) of the Constitution," Barrister Ashrarul Hossain, the government-appointed lawyer, told the full bench of the SC chaired by Chief Justice ATM Alizal.

The other members of the bench are Justice Mostofa Kamal, Justice Latifur Rahman, Justice Abdur Rouf and Justice Ismailuddin Sarker. Barrister Ashrarul Hossain, Justice TH Khan and SR Pal expressed their views on

different points mentioned in the first ever Presidential reference.

All the three legal experts took the same stance in interpreting the word 'absence' mentioned in Article 67 (1) (b) but they slightly differed on other points.

Article 67 (1) (b) of the Constitution says: "A member of Parliament shall vacate his seat— if he is absent from Parliament, without the leave of Parliament, from ninety consecutive sitting days."

The other experts who were notified by the court to express their views on the reference would speak in the course of the proceedings which would continue without adjournment. The hearing resumes today at 9 am. President Abdur Rahman Biswas, using his constitutional prerogative under Article 106, made the reference early this month.

Barrister Ashrarul Hossain is a form of protest in parliamentary practice. No one will find the word

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## Bright prospect for export of agri products: WB

By Rashed Mahmud Titumir

The World Bank sees potential for Bangladesh to break into new agricultural product market overseas against the backdrop of low level of non-traditional agricultural production for export from the country now.

This was contained in a World Bank report — Agricultural Diversification: Issues and Prospects — now being finalised by the Bangladesh Agricultural Diversification Mission of the WB.

The report finds "A comparative advantage in producing a number of agricultural commodities for export including high-value fruits and vegetables — both fresh and

processed — for high income consumer markets and traditional ones for expatriate Bangladeshi communities," a highly placed WB source said.

Referring to the varying degree of market sophistication after 'successful' seizing of today's international market opportunities, the report, however, notes that those are "currently uncommon in Bangladesh."

Pointing to the presence of a few Bangladeshi entrepreneurs, who have launched or are considering non-traditional agricultural export, the report, suggests that "the high level of risk and broad number of constraints can be surmounted."

"Bangladesh's recent success in developing its aquacultural export is testimony to what can be accomplished with concerted effort," says the report, adding, "(she) can also learn from the experience of other countries."

The report cited the example of Taiwan's agriculture which, it said, has shifted from one dominated by rice to one dominated by high-value horticulture, livestock, and fish products in response to change in domestic and international consumption patterns.

On the basis of financial and economic analysis, the report also indicates that a Sec page 12 Col 7

## Minister says 15pc of the flood affected really deserve relief

By Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun Al-Rashid said here yesterday, "some 10 to 15 per cent of the flood affected people really deserve government relief. The rest will be able to manage their breads of their own."

He was addressing a press conference here yesterday. The government has so far allocated Taka 1,14,25,000 in cash and distributed 6,827 metric tons (MT) of wheat, 5,475 MT of rice, 1,467.50 MT of other food items as test relief, 13,700 pieces of sarees, 8,500 tins of biscuits, 4,000 pieces of jerrycan and 26 cartons of candles among the flood affected people, the state minister said.

In addition to these, 18,000 sarees, 2900 lungis, 10,600 pieces of garments, 1100 foot wears and 100 jerrycans were given from the Prime Minister's Relief Godown, he added. Each flood-hit district has a ready allocation of 25 to 50 MT of wheat and Taka 50,000 in cash and "enough" reserve of water purifying tablets to face emerging situation, he said.

For Dhaka city, 60 MT of wheat, 100 MT of rice and Taka one lakh have been sanctioned, he added.

The state minister said, so far 66 people died in flood-related incidents. The floods affected 22,02,381 families, destroyed crops on 9,08,068 acres of land. Some 2,07,843 houses and 364 educational institutions.

The loss of life and property will mount when the flood waters will recede completely, he said.

About 2,546 km roads have been washed away and 12,919 km damaged flood damaged 596 equipments and 1,325 bridges and culverts.

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Flood-affected people taking shelter at a high school at Marda in the city waiting for relief yesterday. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Flood situation in city unchanged

By Staff Correspondent

The flood situation in the capital remained unchanged yesterday while fresh areas in Narayanganj, Madaripur and Kishoreganj districts were inundated.

The situation in the northern districts improved further.

Meanwhile, the road communication between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar, snapped Sunday night due to inundation of the road at three points by surging waters from the sea, resumed yesterday morning.

The flood situation in the low-lying areas of the city and its suburbs remained unchanged though the river Buriganga registered a slight fall by one cm yesterday. It was flowing 6 cm above the danger mark.

Various areas in wards 1, 3 and 4 were inundated and over 30,000 houses were submerged. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) sources said.

Over 15,000 flood-hit people took refuge in 35 flood shelters of the DCC.

The river Turag marked slight rise at Mirpur point but registered slight fall at Tongi point and was flowing 43 and 2 cm above the respective danger levels.

Meanwhile, a high-level meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair last night felt that coordinated efforts were necessary to face the flood situation.

The meeting held at the International Conference Centre reviewed the overall flood situation and decided to

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## DCC earns Tk 74cr revenue

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) earned a record Taka 73.96 crore revenue during fiscal 1994-95.

This is about Taka 10 crore higher than the previous fiscal's earning of Taka 64.69 crore, according to DCC source here yesterday.

The DCC raised its revenue earning by gearing up realisation of outstanding taxes and taxes from newly built structures on holdings and changed holdings.

Mentionably, the DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif had promised in his pre-election pledges that if elected, he would not raise any taxes in the five-year term.

The holding tax, being the number one source of the DCC's revenue collection, contributed much in raising the earning in the last fiscal.

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## Move to gear up DSE functioning

The government has decided to separate operational management of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) from the policymaking function in a move to revamp the country's lone bourse, dogged by complaints of irregularities, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at the second meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday to bring more accountability and transparency in the DSE, said a source at the Ministry of Finance.

Chief Executive Officer will be heading the operational management while the DSE Council will be responsible for policymaking.

Currently, the DSE Chairman is also ex-officio chief executive of the stock exchange.

Presided over by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, the meeting also issued a December 31 ultimatum to dormant DSE members to be active or to risk loss of membership.

The Stock Exchange has long been facing criticism that a large number of its members are inactive.

The matter came under critical scrutiny at the meeting. Out of the total 195 DSE members, only 120 are now participating in trading and the rest remain out of business.

The government asked the DSE management to take necessary measures within three months for automation of trading in keeping with modern stock business. Also, regulation allowing Sec page 12 Col 6

## Shifting of Manzur murder case begins

By Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 17: The process of shifting the Manzur murder case from the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court to District and Sessions Judges Court began today, court sources said.

All documents, evidences and 'alamats' related to this case will be sent to the trial court within three or four days, the sources added.

The CMM's court that sat at the VIP lounge of Chittagong airport yesterday had ordered shifting of the case after hearing. The CMM court is the first court for the case.

Deposed president HM Ershad, principal accused in the Manzur murder case, was Sec page 12 Col 6

## Nestle plans to expand manufacturing base

By S Y Bakht

Nestle S. A. plans to further expand its manufacturing base in Bangladesh in the near future, said MWO Garrett, the visiting Executive Vice President of the Switzerland-based multinational company.

"We already import a wide range of (Nestle) products and step by step we would like to extend our manufacturing base in Bangladesh," he added. "We are taking a long-term view and we would like to build it as a substantial market within the Asian framework."

Last year the giant multinational commissioned a 10-million US dollar manufacturing plant in Bangladesh under a joint venture with Transcom Ltd., the sole distributor of Nestle products in the country. Located at Sreepur in Gazipur district, the factory produces sweetened condensed milk and repacks imported milk powder and infant cereals.

In an interview with *The Daily Star* yesterday at his hotel suit, Garrett observed that the Bangladesh market has "very big" potentials and identified three reasons for it: A big population; a growing buying power of the consumers; and, most importantly, the country's commitment towards a free-market economy.

We are happy that we also have our presence here, not just in trading but also in manufacturing and packaging," he said. "Nestle always takes a very long-term view



MWO Garrett in developing countries like Bangladesh.

An Australian national, Garrett oversees the Asia-Oceania regional operations of the Vevey, Switzerland-based Nestle, the largest food company in the world with an annual turnover of 56 billion Swiss Francs in 1994. Founded in 1966, the company has 494 factories in 35

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## WB note on JMB sites Take tough line on 'illegal' structures

By Staff Correspondent

The World Bank has strongly advocated dealing firmly with unscrupulous people trying to realise undue resettlement benefits by erecting 'illegal' and speculation structures on the Jamuna bridge sites, reports UNB.

A note sent to the government last week by a World Bank review mission that visited Bangladesh in May cautioned that giving in to the illegal compensation seekers would be a "dangerous precedence" and make future land acquisitions difficult.

The World Bank further warned that future infrastructure projects in Bangladesh, some of them are due to come up in the same districts (Sirajganj and Tangail), might have to face similar hurdle if such practice is 'endorsed' in the case of the Jamuna bridge project.

Parliament has already passed a law empowering the district administration to resist attempts of building structures overnight on the Jamuna bridge site with ill motive to get compensation. The law, JMB Land Acquisition Bill 1995, was passed on July 3.

The World Bank mission's note also indicated that the bank still remained concerned at the large-scale erection of 'speculation structures' on the West end side of the under-construction Jamuna bridge and on a char land to be acquired in the process of construction.

It estimated that close to 10,000 speculative structures have been built in recent month on the West end side of the bridge and on the char land.

The mission forecast a heavy burden on the project cost if all those speculative structures are compensated. Based on the rate paid on the East end side, it estimated acquisition of those structures on the West side could amount to as much as 15-20 million US dollars.

The World Bank mission insisted on immediate steps on identifying speculation structures setting a new 'cut-off' date. It preferred the June 1994 inauguration ceremony to be the 'cut-off' date.

It also recommended to prepare, in consultation with the Union Parishads, a list of households living on the land at the time of the June 1994.

The mission has even asked to keep pending the socio-economic survey on

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