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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index 758.20 (+0.02%)
 Market capital Tk 46.89 billion
 Transactions in volume 139946
 Transactions in value Tk 20.71 million

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Join the Joyride Page 3

Hearing on Presidential reference MPs were absent, no matter how it is termed, SC told

By Staff Correspondent

The Opposition MPs were absent from Parliament, no matter how their action is termed — walkout or boycott — Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed asserted at the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday.

"There is an element of protest in walkout while boycott is something which has elements of desire to punish or coerce," the legal expert said adding "but these nevertheless result in absence from the sitting of Parliament without leave of Parliament."

"The fact that it will be an absurdity to suggest that leave of Parliament can be

taken for such group actions, does not take them out of the mischief of absence," he added.

Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed concluded his submission before the full bench of the Appellate Division yesterday, the fourth day of hearing on the presidential reference on MPs' absence and vacation of seats.

The full bench is chaired by Chief Justice ATM Afzal. The four other members of the bench are: Justice Mostofa Kamal, Justice Latifur Rahman, Justice Abdur Rouf and Justice Ismailuddin Sarkar.

Besides Barrister Ishtiaq and two other amicus curiae — Dr. Kamal Hossain and Khandaker Mahub Uddin — gave their views on several points of reference on the day.

Ishtiaq Ahmed said a member or a group of members are entitled to remain absent without leave of Parliament for less than 90 days.

"But when 90 days will come up, it will attract the Constitution," he said adding "in every written constitution the days are determined and fixed."

He cited dictionary meanings of the words

'walkout' and 'boycott'. Explaining 'consecutive' and 'continuous' he said both refer to an unbroken process. He also cited examples from neighbouring countries and Britain.

About counting of 90 days, he said in reckoning the first day to count absence without leave, 'time starts to run from the first sitting day' after the Opposition's walkout.

Every sitting day thereafter from which an Opposition MP was absent without taking leave would also be counted under Article 67 (1) (b) unless the MP broke the

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Toxic waste from storm sewerage pollutes Dhanmondi Lake again

By Morshed Ali Khan

The highly toxic waste that has contaminated the Dhanmondi Lake water and killed fish and posed health hazard in the area came from the storm sewerage near Shukrabad, according to sources in the Department of Fishery here.

Floods in the city's low-lying areas have pushed back the toxic sludge which usually flows into the Balu river. The sludge entered the lake from the sewerage through the canal under the Panthopath and Mirpur Road crossing, the sources said.

Within a few hours vast area of the lake was contaminated. There was nothing we could do to stop the inflow of the sludge."

Dhanmondi Lake is connected with the storm sewerage at Shukrabad point and

it serves as the only outlet for flood water in the lake. One of the city's main sewerage lines also flows through the same area and officials allege the sewerage pipe has been leaking for a long time now.

Last year also, a similar incident occurred when toxic waste from the same sewerage was diverted to the lake by contractors building the canal under the Panthopath.

Hundreds of people were seen on Tuesday catching the 'suffocated' fish floating on the blackened water of the lake. The loss of fishery may run into lakhs of Taka.

The water of the lake, particularly at the Shukrabad side, has turned thick and black spreading unbearable stench in the area.

Experts of the Department of Environment (DOE)

has said harmful poisonous gas is now being produced in the lake water and this can pose serious health hazard in the area.

"To clean up the lake now is a mammoth task involving a huge amount," an official of the DOE said.

Some pointed out that the cleaning-up should be done by the Water and Sewerage Authority which runs the city's sewerage system.

The seemingly helpless fishery officials who are authorised to look after the lake has set up an embankment along the bridge on road No 8 in a bid to stop spread of contamination.

Fishery officials and local people have urged the authorities to construct a sluice gate at the outlet point im-

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Wailing mother of schoolboy Badal who was shot dead in the city's Mahakhali area yesterday. — Star photo

2 shot dead in city

By DMCH Correspondent

Two persons including a schoolboy were shot dead and another was seriously injured in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Schoolboy Arifur Rahman Badal was shot dead by some armed youths near Titumir College at Mohakhali in the city. The killing was a sequel to an earlier killing of a youngman in Mohakhali area last month, according to police.

Badal, son of Anisur Rahman of 176 GP Ga of Mohakhali, appeared at the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination from Mohakhali Model High School this year.

Md Zayed Hossain, 20, was shot dead by a group of unidentified young men in front of Abdullah High

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City flood waters may recede from today

By Staff Correspondent

The flood around the capital is likely to start improving today, the Flood Information Centre said yesterday.

The situation in most of the 38 flood-hit districts continued to improve as almost all the rivers registered further fall yesterday. However, the Ganges, the Goral and the Sameshwari recorded slight rise.

Flood condition in Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Kishoreganj districts may remain unchanged today while that in Munshiganj is likely to start improving, according to a bulletin issued by the Flood Information Centre.

Our Narayanganj Corres-

pondent reports: Ten relief centres, housing some 10,000 flood-hit people, were opened in different areas of the district by various voluntary organisations. No such centre was, however, set by the authorities. The civil surgeon told newsmen that 10 medical teams were formed for the flood victims but none of them was seen in operation during a visit to some affected areas yesterday.

Lack of pure drinking water was multiplying the sufferings of people as tubewells went under flood waters. Water purifying tablets were also not made available to them, many victims alleged.

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PM ends tour of flood-hit Feni dist

FENI, July 19: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia returned to the capital today concluding a two-day tour of the flood-affected areas of Feni, reports UNB.

During the tour, Begum Zia distributed huge relief materials, visited river and embankment erosion spots, addressed a number of wayside gatherings, reviewed the post-flood rehabilitation activities, exchanged views with the local people, public representatives and officials, and discussed with the party workers.

As part of today's programmes, Begum Zia first went to Natun Ranirhat, eight-kilometre from Feni sadar, and distributed relief goods, among hundreds of victims.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Saifur leaves for Saudi Arabia
 Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman left Dhaka yesterday for Saudi Arabia to attend the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Jeddah. The Finance Minister is leading a three-member Bangladesh delegation to attend the meeting, reports UNB.

Peace talks with MQM resume today 22 more killed in Karachi

KARACHI, July 19: An upsurge of violence claimed 22 lives here today, ahead of another session of peace talks between the government and the opposition Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), officials said, reports AFP.

Tension was high in western Orangi township follow-

ing a pitched battle between police and militants, which left six people dead, including a police officer, security officials said.

Police in armoured vehicles have intensified their patrols in the area were firing erupted Tuesday night, residents said.

"I shut myself and my

children in a room and switched off lights," said housewife, Asma Begum. "My children started screaming, and I could hear cries from neighbouring houses," she added.

Police officer Khadim Hussain, 50, was kidnapped by masked armed men from his Orangi residence. His



The Bangladesh!
 By Staff Correspondent

A seal identifying the country as The Bangladesh is being used by the Passport and Immigration Department on passports.

The seal, usually found on the first page of the passport, reads 'Government of The Bangladesh' and in every case it is authenticated by the issuing officer. The error has remained undetected for the last four months.

According to an official of the department, the "upgraded and forged proof" seal was introduced about four months ago and so far about forty thousand passports have been issued with the erroneous seal.

"We are working here under too much pressure in this department and this has happened because of a human error," the official said yesterday. He said claimed that after The Daily Star detection of the error, it has been corrected.

The official said that the mistake was made at the level of maker of the seal.

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Hostages held by Kashmir rebels still alive

SRINAGAR, July 19: Five western tourists held by Muslim rebels in Kashmir were still alive today, more than 24 hours after a deadline set by their captors for killing them expired, sources close to the kidnappers said today.

The sources close to Al-Faran, the Muslim militant

outfit responsible for the abductions, told AFP the hostages were still alive this evening.

Meanwhile, sources close to an official team of negotiators, said in this state summer capital that the abductors had spoken with officials three times over the telephone.

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Jyoti Basu denies infiltration from Bangladesh

West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu has refuted the claim of BJP chief LK Advani regarding increase in Muslim population in West Bengal state as a result of infiltration from Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He was giving reactions to newsmen at the New Delhi

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Chittagong Port Authority Notice

Chittagong Port Authority invites the attention of its valued customers and Port users to the following comparative performance situation relating to container vessels in the Port of Chittagong.

(A) Comparative position of container vessels during the period from 01-7-94 to 15-7-94 and 01-7-95 to 15-7-95.

Period	No. of vessels handled	Average waiting time at outer anchorage (in days)	Average service time at berth (in days)	Average turn around time (in days)	Average No. of containers handled per day per vessel (in TEUs)
1994 1st July to 15th July	8	1.12	4.37	5.49	159.51
1995 1st July to 15th July	7	0.85	3.28	4.13	198.56

(B) Comparative position of container vessels during the period from 01-5-95 to 15-5-95, 01-6-95 to 15-6-95 & 01-7-95 to 15-7-95.

Period	No. of vessels handled	Average waiting time at outer anchorage (in days)	Average service time at berth (in days)	Average turn around time (in days)	Average No. of containers handled per day per vessel (in TEUs)
1995 1st May to 15th May	6	3.33	4.5	7.83	167
1995 1st June to 15th June	7	2.85	4	6.85	190
1995 1st July to 15th July	7	0.85	3.28	4.13	198.56

The above picture shows a significant improvement in the overall performance of container vessels at Chittagong Port.

The Port Authority earnestly requests for cooperation from all concerned and assures to improve the situation further.

CPA/PR-79/95-18/7
 D-741

Chairman
 Chittagong Port Authority.

Editorial on page 4

body was later dumped in an isolated area, police said, adding that another person was shot dead by militants on suspicion of being a police informer.

"This is the fate of informers," said a note found in the deceased's pocket, a police official said.

Four others were killed in the sprawling eastern industrial district of Korangi, while three were shot dead in Gulbahar neighbourhood and one more died in sniper fire in the nearby Nazimabad district in central Karachi, hospital sources said.

Shops and markets remained closed and traffic was thin in Gulbahar where five people were shot dead Tuesday.

Groups of armed men fired guns in the volatile central district of Liaquatabad, forcing shopkeepers to pull down their shutters.

The sudden escalation in the violence came on the eve of Thursday's fourth round of

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Canadian counsel says Outside world wants to know fate of Ershad

Canadian lawyer Marcel Denis, now here to defend former President HM Ershad in the sensational Manzur murder case, has said it is a case of international dimension.

Explaining his contention, Denis, a queen's counsel, told UNB last night it is a case of international dimension on two counts: First, it has implicated a former President in a murder charge and secondly because of the delay involved in reviving it and starting the trial.

It is a case which has death for penal provision and that is why the world outside wants to know the fate of the former president who has been implicated in this case.

Denis, who was also a former minister and a Deputy Speaker of the Canadian parliament, said.

Denis said he was informed by the additional Home Secretary in response to his application submitted yesterday to the government seeking permission to meet his client that his application was under consideration of the government. He has been assured of an early reply.

Denis told the additional Home Secretary that he was expecting a reply by this morning. He further told him that if he was not given any reply today he would consider it a negative reply.

Asked what step he would

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