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STOCK MARKET

Table with 2 columns: Index, Value. DSE price index: 782.31 (+0.10%), Market capital Tk: 47.14 billion, Transactions in volume: 121255, Transactions in value Tk: 18.45 billion

Supplement

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NEWS BRIEFS

President, PM's greetings

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday felicitated President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt on the occasion of its national day to be observed today. In the messages the President said the friendly relations between the two brotherly countries will be further strengthened in the years ahead. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in a separate message greeted the Egyptian Premier Dr Atef Mohamed Naouib Sedki on the occasion, reports UNB.

Two held with heroin

By Staff Correspondent A special squad of the Detective Branch police recovered one pound of heroin and arrested two persons in this connection from Monipuri Para in the city yesterday. The arrested were identified as Md Rashid, 24, and Motiar Rahman, 58, police said.

CHT ceasefire extended

The government and Chittagong Hill Tracts Jansanghati Samity resolved to extend the ceasefire in three districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) till September 30, 1995, a PID handout said yesterday. According to an earlier decision, between the two sides the ceasefire was to expire on July 20, reports BSS.

Bosnian presidency bldg rocketed



French UN soldiers inspect the remains of a rocket that hit a residential area of the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo yesterday. —AFP photo

SARAJEVO, July 22: Six rockets slammed into Sarajevo today, a day after the international community warned Bosnian Serbs against attacks on UN "safe areas," witnesses and police sources said, report Reuter, AP.

There were six rockets, probably from a multiple-barreled rocket launcher, a local police source said.

A Reuters television team on the scene said two of the missiles hit the Bosnian Presidency building. There was no immediate report of casualties.

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Reporters could hear the distinctive scream of some of the rockets as they whizzed overhead into the city from the north.

Heavy fighting erupted also in the besieged Zepa today as tank and mortar fire ripped through the "safe area," a United Nations spokesman said.

It seems there is a significant battle west of the town itself with reports of tank and mortar fire and there may be some infantry movement, said UN spokesman Alexander Ivanko in Sarajevo.

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Aggressive but ambiguous

LONDON, July 22: The nations with troops in Bosnia came to London on Friday hoping to deliver a clear message to the Bosnian Serbs, and left with a thousand-word statement fraught with ambiguities, reports AP.

Individual delegations, however, pointed to policy changes putting them in a more aggressive posture.

Special UN representative Yasushi Akashi, who has been accused by US officials of vetoing air strikes in Bosnia, has been removed

Bangladeshi soldier shot

A member of the Bangladesh battalion deployed in the UN peace keeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina was injured Friday, reports BSS.

He sustained bullet wounds in his legs while he was on duty at an observation post at western Bihać, an ISPR press release said.

The injured soldier sepoy Md Kazi Monirul Haq is a son of late Md Moksed Kazi of village Kasundia under Gopalganj district.

Monirul Haq was immediately taken to the Bihać hospital. See Page 12 Col 8

Varsity closed sine die 25 hurt in RU gunbattle

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 22: Rajshahi University was closed for an indefinite period today following fierce gun fights between two rival groups on the campus in which at least 25 persons were injured.

Vice Chancellor Prof M Eusuf Ali closed the university sine die through an executive order at 4.30 pm and asked the students to leave their dormitories. Accordingly, male students left the 10 residential halls by seven this evening while the female students of the four halls will leave the campus by nine tomorrow morning.

The trouble-torn university which opened on May 30 after an unscheduled closure for 106 days had to be closed again today after the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Jamaat-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) fought each other with firearms for over an hour at noon today.

Of the injured, ten students and a constable were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, Sultan Ahmed of the armed police battalion received injuries in his head.

The ten students are, Farhad, Nazrul, Fazul, Shohag, Pritish Chakravarty, Tipu, Abul Kashem, Anowarul Haq, Milon and Sirajuddoula.

The clash started when students belonging to the JCD entered the halls and urged the Provost of Shaheed Habibur Rahman Hall, Prof Sadequ Islam to ensure that the rooms, allegedly occupied by students belonging to the Shibir, are vacated.

At one stage, JCD activists reportedly caught a Shibir activist with crackers in his hand. On hearing this, Shibir activists from other halls went there and the fight began.

The violence soon spread to the Zoha Hall, Suhrawardi Hall and the whole campus. Over one hundred cocktails were exploded and both the groups used stenguns, rifles and other weapons, said witnesses.

Police and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) were deployed on the campus.

Police picked up three Shibir activists from the Rajshahi. See Page 12 Col 4

AL agitation programme from Aug 1

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League will launch a month-long agitation programme from August 1.

The central working committee (CWC) of the party yesterday approved the fresh programmes, including a half-day hartal on August 15, meeting sources said.

Other programmes include street rallies, discussion meetings, public relations and the "National Mourning Day" on August 15 to mark the assassination of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

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SAARC ministerial level meet in Dhaka July 29

Women's affairs ministerial level meeting of the SAARC countries will be held in Dhaka on July 29 and 30, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the two-day SAARC meeting at the International Conference Centre here.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Sarwari Rahman will preside.

The main objective of the meeting is to draft a common position of the SAARC countries regarding women's development for the fourth world conference on women to be held in Beijing in September this year.

A Dhaka resolution will be adopted at the meeting.

The Women and Children Affairs Ministry will arrange a cultural programme on July 29. The SAARC ministers will also visit some women development projects in the city on July 30.

Writ on behalf of Danis to be filed today

By Staff Correspondent

Local lawyers are due to file a writ petition on behalf of Canadian jurist and lawyer Marcel Danis in the High Court today.

The writ will be filed challenging the Home Ministry's decision of not allowing him to meet jailed former President H M Ershad.

Danis, a former minister and deputy speaker of the Canadian parliament, came to Dhaka on July 17 to defend Ershad in the Gen Manzur murder case and sought permission to meet his client. The request was turned down on July 20.

A press release of the Canadian lawyer signed by his press secretary S M Salam said yesterday, the writ petition will be moved by former Attorney General Barrister Rafiqul Haq who will be assisted by Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, Justice (Retd) Habibul Islam Bhuiyan, Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan, and others. Marcel Danis is expected to be present in the court during the hearing.

TELEGRAM TO EMEKA Meanwhile, Marcel Danis has sent a telegram to Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeke Anyaoku informing that he has been asked to act as a law consultant to the former president who has been accused

See Page 12 Col 4

Time to submit objections to draft voter list extended

The Election Commission yesterday extended till July 29 the time for submission of objections and amendments to the earlier published draft voter list, reports UNB.

The time extension has been made in view of the on-going floods in the country and at the request of different political parties, the commission said.

The Election Commission has also revised the schedule for preparing the final voter list. The new schedule is as follows:

- (1) The last date for settling objections and amendment to the draft voter list by the revising authorities is August 14.
(2) The last date for incorporating decisions on objections and amendment is August 27.
(3) The date for publication of final voter list is October 7.

Tidal surge in coastal belt forecast

By Staff Correspondent

The low-lying areas in the coastal districts, off-shore islands and chars are likely to be inundated by a wind-driven tidal surge of three to five feet above the normal astronomical tide.

A special bulletin of the Met office last night said that there was 60 per cent chance of inundation of the low-lying areas of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna, Lakshimpur, Pirojpur, Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira and off-shore islands and chars. The areas may go under three to five feet tidal waters, which could rise up to eight to 16 feet near the

coastal belt. Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have hoisted local cautionary signal number three at the advice of the Met office.

Our correspondent from Cox's Bazar reported late last night that gusty wind at a velocity of 40 to 45 km per hour was blowing under the influence of seasonal monsoon pressure. Fishing trawlers could not sail out due to the gusty wind.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports: The district administration sent messages yesterday evening to the coastal areas, off-shore islands and chars warning

the people there about possible inundation by the surge. All fishing boats and trawlers in the North Bay was advised to remain in shelters till further notice.

Meanwhile, Deputy Director of the Storm Warning Centre Sajedur Rahman told The Daily Star last night that in the event of inundation of the coastal belt, the pace of recession of flood waters from upstream had every possibility of being slowed down. Because of this, the flood situation might remain static.

An expert said that with the Ganges basin currently

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Meghna devours 100 feet more of Chandpur embankment

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, July 22: Another 100-foot stretch of the Chandpur Town Protection Embankment in Natun Bazar area was devoured today by the mighty Meghna as the erosion continued unabated, further threatening this river town's existence.

So far some 3,000 square feet area of the town including most part of the railway station was eroded by the river.

A nearly 200-foot stretch of the embankment was washed away till last night. The erosion began Thursday night.

The dumping of boulders and cement blocks on the river bank is being hampered due to a strong current in the river and heavy rainfall. Some 1,000 cement blocks have already been dumped to protect the embankment.

The Chairman of the Water Development Board and the Chief Engineer of the Bangladesh Railway today visited the affected areas and had meetings with district officials concerned.

Four drown as boat sinks during storm in Sunamganj

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, July 22: At least four persons drowned when a boat sank during a severe storm in Deral thana of Sunamganj district Thursday afternoon. Two others are missing.

Three of the deceased were identified as Sanu Miah, 20, of village Karimpur, Abdul Basit, 22, of village Daudpur and Abdul Wahid, 36, of village Matipur.

Abdul Rakib, 25, and another person were still missing.

According to reports, a number of boats sank in the Chapir Haor during the sudden storm that lashed the area at about 3:30 pm yesterday.

Power supply in 4 zones privatised

By Staff Correspondent

The government has decided to privatise power distribution in four zones in the country as part of its reform measures to do away with the staggering losses in the power sector.

Power distribution in four other zones will be given to the Power Development Board's (PDB's) Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) "so that there can be a comparative success study between the units run by the private sector and those run by the CBA." Energy Minister Dr Khandkar Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday.

The four units which will be "contracted out" to private hands for metre reading,

billing, collection etc, are Tangail, Chandpur, Dinajpur and Kushtia. Presently, these units are performing poorly, the minister told a press conference following the PDB's 1994-95 review meeting at its headquarters.

The PDB's CBA will be given charge of the Feni, Jamalpur, Pabna and Barisal units, which are also performing poorly.

The PDB will float a tender at the end of this month and contracts will be given by October, Dr Mosharraf said, adding Tk two crore would be needed to privatise each of the four units.

If private sector performs well, See Page 12 Col 1.



Larwood dead

SYDNEY, July 22: Harold Larwood, the England fast bowler who was the scourge of Australia's batsmen during the controversial 1932-33 'bodyline' cricket series, died in a Sydney hospital on

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Saturday, his family announced, report agencies.

Larwood entered hospital two weeks ago with a chest infection. His biographer and friend Kevin Perkins said the cause of his death was a combination of pneumonia and a stroke.

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5 killed in Natore bus plunge

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, July 22: Five persons were killed and 25 injured when a Natore-bound bus from Bogra fell into a roadside ditch at Basher-bridge village under Shilgra thana yesterday.

According to witnesses, the driver lost control of the speedy bus, which plunged into the roadside ditch and instantly sank in flood waters.

Police recovered the bodies. Only two of the dead were identified when this report was filed. They were Saratim, 12, and the helper of the bus Ayub Ali, 25. The injured were sent to the nearest hospital.

A case has been filed at Shilgra thana in this connection.

SAARC parliament speakers for independent judiciary

NEW DELHI, July 22: SAARC speakers and parliamentarians today urged member states to take requisite steps for making the subordinate judiciary independent and out of the clutches of the executive organ, reports PTI.

Delivering the keynote address at the SAARC speakers and parliamentarians conference, Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, Shaikh Razzak Ali stressed that the most essential ingredient of judicial independence is that a judge should be able to decide without fear or favour on purely objective and just considerations.

He felt there had been a general tendency of framers of the constitution of SAARC countries not to spell out specifically as to the appointment, promotion, control and posting of the subordinate judiciary, which has been manifestly left with the executive.

Ali was of the view that the speaker's candidature in his parliamentary constituency should remain uncontested in the next election so that he may be re-elected unopposed without his being at the mercy of the party he belongs to.

Participating in the discussion, the Speaker of the

Pakistan National Assembly Yousuf Raza Gilani said in Pakistan the parliament and the judiciary have maintained an attitude of mutual regard and meticulously restrained from transgressing these limits.

The Pakistani speaker contended that it is an universally accepted principle that one is innocent until proved guilty and this also applied to a member of parliament who has no better rights than an ordinary citizen in respect of criminal law.

The will of the assembly is represented by its majority. See Page 12 Col 5

43 coup plotters in Lagos executed

LAGOS, July 22: Forty-three people were executed by firing squad in the top security prison of Kirikiri here today, an AFP correspondent who attended the execution, reported.

The execution of 10 others due to take place was postponed following official instructions, C O Odikpo, the chief prison administrator of Lagos state told reporters attending the executions.

Today's execution came as a military court review was expected in the cases of 43 people convicted in connection with a failed coup attempt in March. Former Nigerian President Olusegun

Obasanjo was reportedly sentenced to life in prison while his former top deputy and 13 others were sentenced to die.

There has never been an official confirmation of the sentences, and officials have not specified whether the coup plotters were among those executed.

On Friday, Nigeria's official news agency NAN announced 53 executions would take place at the top security prison of Kirikiri in Lagos.

The 53 were found guilty of various acts of armed banditry, the official statement carried by NAN said.