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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	768.31 (+0.04%)
Market capital Tk	47.51billion
Transactions in volume	131325
Transactions in value Tk	29.37 million

Metropolitan

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NEWS BRIEFS

Son kills father

JESSORE, July 26: One person was killed by his son over a trifle matter at Uzirpur village in Chowgachha thana of Jessore district today. Witnesses said Mosharraf hit his father, Mozahar Ali, on the head with a spade following an altercation over building a house. Mozahar succumbed to his injuries at the sadar hospital. Mosharraf went into hiding after his father's death. A case was filed with Chowgachha thana, reports UNB.

French frigate arrives today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 26: A French Navy frigate arrives here tomorrow on a four-day goodwill visit. The frigate will be anchored at the port Jetty No 2.

Bangladeshi honoured in UK

Wali Tasar Uddin honorary consul of Bangladesh in Scotland, has received a medal of the Member of British Empire (MBE) at Buckingham Palace. Wali Tasar Uddin, a justice of the peace was honoured as the MBE in recognition of his service to race relation on the New Year's Day honours list by the Queen, according to a message received in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Ship with sacrificial meat due tomorrow

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 26: A cargo ship, carrying sacrificial meat from Saudi Arabia is scheduled to arrive here on July 28. The ship will anchor at the Jetty No 1.

Women and children driven by the Bosnian Serbs from the fallen enclave of Zepa, leaving the town by bus for the nearer govt-held area. — AFP/UNB photo

Senate votes for lifting arms ban on Bosnia

WASHINGTON, July 26: In a direct slap at Clinton administration foreign policy, the Senate voted overwhelmingly today to lift the arms embargo over Bosnia, reports AP.

The 69-29 vote took place in an emotionally charged atmosphere, with lawmakers reading news reports of fresh Bosnian Serb atrocities against ethnic Muslims, and complaining that a Clinton administration promise of stepped up air strikes was being thwarted by a timid United Nations.

The margin was enough to override a promised presidential veto.

At the White House, press secretary Mike McCurry said Congress will bear the responsibility for a 'dreadful decision' if the resolution becomes law.

"This is not a partisan discussion," said Senate Majority leader Bob Dole, co-author of the measure. "It's about whether some small country that's been ravaged on all sides, pillaged, women raped, children killed, has any rights in this world."

Democrats and Republicans joined forces to end a ban that they said locked Bosnia into a military disadvantage against rebel Serb forces.

If the Bill passes the House and survives a promised presidential veto, it would require President Clinton to end US support for the United Nations arms ban over the war-torn Balkan nation.

The Senate added an amendment to the measure requiring Clinton to seek a United Nations Security Council vote to lift the embargo, marking one final attempt to avoid a split with NATO allies. If that failed, a second amendment to the Bill would require the administration to seek a UN General Assembly vote to end the embargo.

"There's only one thing that's going to protect the Bosnian people against the Serb expansion," Michigan Democrat Carl Levin said, "and that is if they're allowed to defend themselves."

At the White House, McCurry said prospects of mustering the votes needed to sustain an expected veto of the measure did not appear encouraging.

"But make no mistake, what they have done here is to substitute the judgement of those senators voting for this measures for the decisions the president of the United States has taken, the secretary of defense, the secretary of state, the ambassador to the United Nations and the chairman of the joint chiefs," McCurry said.

"And good luck to all of us after they take this vote today and it is finally ratified and survives a veto, because there

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Holding of 2 posts at a time

HC rejects writ against Rouf

By SC Correspondent

A High Court Division bench yesterday dismissed the writ petition filed against Justice Md Abdur Rouf challenging his holding of two constitutional posts at a time.

The Division Bench comprising Justice Habibur Rahman Khan and Justice MM Ruhul Amin also rejected prayer of the petitioner for certificate to file an appeal in the Appellate Division.

But Ml Farooqi, counsellor for the petitioner however, said that he will move to the higher court.

In the judgement, pronounced yesterday it was held that the cause of action — holding of two posts simultaneously — for which the Rule was issued does not subsist now. The judgement said "Writ of *quo-warranto* cannot be sustained and therefore, the Rule became infructuous".

It also added, "The petitioner is not entitled to get relief as claimed for and at this stage the Rule is discharged."

M Saleem Ullah, an advocate of the Supreme Court, filed the writ petition challenging the legality of Justice Rouf's holding simultaneously the office of the judge of the Supreme Court and the office of the Chief Election Commissioner of Bangladesh.

On preliminary hearing of the writ petition on July 11, 1994 a High Court Division bench comprising Justice Mohammad Ismail Uddin Sarker and Justice Hamidul Huq issued rule upon Justice Abdur Rouf and the government asking them under what authority Justice Rouf is holding two posts at the same time.

While holding the office of a judge of the High Court Division bench of the Supreme Court Justice Rouf was appointed as CEC on December 24, 1990. He took oath of office on December 25, 1990 by the order of then acting President and former Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Justice Abdur Rouf resigned from the post of Chief

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Artists undergoing training at the Shilpakala Academy organised an exhibition of their works at the Academy yesterday. —Star photo

JEC meet in Islamabad ends

Accord on long-term trade arrangement

ISLAMABAD, July 26: Bangladesh and Pakistan have agreed to undertake long-term arrangement to promote trade of jute and jute goods, tea, rice and cotton between the two countries, reports BSS.

Trade delegations and missions of the two sides will also visit each other's country to study opportunities for further widening the bilateral trade.

This was decided at the two-day sixth session of the Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission concluded here today.

Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam led the Bangladesh side at the JEC session while Pakistan team was led by adviser to the Prime Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs V A Jaffery.

Bangladesh delegation also included a group of six businessmen representing various chambers of commerce and industries.

The two sides decided to organise single country exhibitions and fairs with a view to introducing manufactured items.

Bangladesh side indicated that it will consider the offer of the heavy mechanical complex (HMC) of Pakistan for supply of cement, sugar and thermal power plants under joint venture collaboration. Dhaka will also favourably consider the bid for supply of 26 railway coaches by Railcorp of Pakistan.

The two countries also agreed to explore the potentials for collaboration in manufacture of automobiles.

Bangladesh will extend assistance to Pakistan in the form of training, holding workshops in the field of population welfare.

Islam, during his stay in Pakistan capital, called on President Farooq Ahmed Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Farooq Leghari told Islam that both Bangladesh and his country could be immensely benefited if the trade and economic relation between the two countries was enhanced further.

Leghari said the two countries should identify the areas where cooperation could be promoted further in the pri-

See Page 12 Col 7

BNP safe sanctuary for minorities: Khaleda

THAKURGAON, July 26: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said a democratic process can ensure security to the people of all religions, reports UNB.

"We all will suffer if conspiracy against democracy cannot be foiled," she told a meeting of minority communities at the local Circuit House in the morning.

Begum Zia said there is no room for communal feeling in the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) which believes in communal harmony. The BNP is the safe sanctuary for the minorities, she added.

She urged them not to call themselves minorities. "Never feel you are minorities and never claim you are minorities... We're all Bangladeshis."

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Panel of experts

JMBA approves contract of appointment

The 47th meeting of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) was held in the conference room of the Railway Bhavan yesterday with Communications Minister Oli Ahmed in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting had discussion on the guideline regarding identification of genuine and fake affected people in the light of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project (Land Acquisition) Act, 1995.

The meeting approved the contract regarding appointment of a panel of experts during the construction of Jamuna bridge.

The meeting discussed certain problems created following the recent floods and took decision for appropriate action.

Regarding adverse effect on environment due to implementation of the project and as a part of environmental management activities the meeting took decisions to compensate the affected members of fishing community and measures to overcome the deficit of fish.

Nat'l council for pvt sector suggested

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday expressed his dissatisfaction at the slow pace of reforms and admitted that several loss-making public sectors could not be privatised due to socio-political sensitivity.

"The present government is about to complete it's tenure. The reforms need longer time to yield fruits. We have begun reforms, and these should be completed," Saifur said at a meeting with members of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) here.

The MCCI meeting, chaired by it's president Anis-ud-Dowla, proposed formation of a National Economic Council for the private sector for periodical review of development and planning policies.

The Finance Minister praised the idea and told the meeting that he would take it to the Prime Minister.

"Public sector losses are affecting growth and increasing the country's debt burden. The government is repaying their loans. Taxes could be reduced more if losses could be avoided there."

"Organisations like the BCIC, PDB, WASA are not paying anything. Yet, with all our commitments, we failed to privatise these loss-makers due to some social and political obligations and sensitivity. The country is paying the price," Saifur observed.

He regretted that reforms in the financial and energy sectors and in the bureaucracy and law were not up to the mark.

"If there had been a consensus on the economic issues, things would have been easier. We had verbal support from different quarters at the initial stage of the reforms. But when we started implementing those, everybody started protesting to become popular," Saifur commented.

"Even the problem created by hawkers on footpaths cannot be solved for fear of losing popularity. These footpath vendors are not even voters and their removal from the roads would be beneficial for all in the long run," he observed.

Anis ud Dowla, proposing setting up of the National Economic Council for Private Sector (NECPS) said it could function like the ECNEC and help ensure the much needed coordination among the ministries concerned.

He suggested that the NECPS would be headed by the Prime Minister. Ministers for finance, commerce, foreign affairs, energy, labour and home affairs as well as representatives from trade and industry would be its members. The NECPS would meet every three months.

The MCCI president also criticised the Ministry of Law saying "the way it is functioning is a major hindrance to updating the laws relating to trade and industry."

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Collective action has 'critical' role in dev

By Staff Correspondent

Although role of market in resource allocation and innovation is important, collective action also has a 'critical' role in development, a British economist and development strategist now on a visit here has said.

"The danger is that individualistic version of the market is being advocated and introduced, with the failure of communism being used to deny the critical importance of groups and collective action in development," said Dr Frances Stewart, Director, International Development Centre, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford.

She was initiating a dialogue on "The Role of Collective Action in Development in the Age of the Market", organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) at its office yesterday.

"If collective action is undermined, together with the minimisation of the role of government, groups will still emerge but they will increasingly be more destructive than constructive," cautioned the former president of the UK and Irish Development Studies Association.

Existence and behaviour of the groups could not be looked in isolation. They are strongly influenced by socio-economic structure of the

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Tanbazar tragedy

Rescue others immediately

By Mahfuz Anam

Yesterday, our Narayanganj correspondent wrote a heart-rending story about a 14 year old girl named Shadhina, who was rescued after five months of slavery as a prostitute. On leave from her garment factory job, and on way to her village, she was picked up from Narayanganj launch terminal under false pretense, sold for Tk.20,000 , and forced into prostitution. Shadhina used to work at a garment factory in Mohakhali in Dhaka. On her way to meet her mother, a woman named Baby offered her a very good job, and talked her into going with her.

By the time she realised that she has been allured into the local prostitute's den - Tanbazar -, it was too late. Baby sold her to Shilpi (what an irony of a name) for Tk.20,000, and she became the 'property' of this female pimp.

It was a chance visit by a fellow villager to Shilpi's den, that gave Shadhina the opportunity to send words to her mother, who rescued her with the help of Narayanganj police.

The slavery to which Shadhina was sold, and the most degrading and exploitative life that she was forced to lead, has come to an end. But has her misery? We are delighted at her freedom. But what happens to her now? Where will she go? There is a conspicuous absence of the father in the story, which means he has either abandoned them or is dead. So it will have to be the mother to take care of her. Can she? Will Shadhina be able to go to school, or learn a special skill to earn her own keeps? Where will she find a job? Save a miracle, she is certain not to find any man who will marry her.

We would like to focus our attention on the little girls who are still in Shilpi's grip. According to the story

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'Mistress' Shilpi arrested

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, July 26: Police tonight arrested Shilpi, the 'mistress' of Tanbazar 'red light area' in the town for allegedly compelling an underaged girl to prostitution and doing repression on her.

Police yesterday raided the brothel and rescued a 14-year old girl, Shadhina, who was missing for about five months. Shadhina used to work in a garment factory in Dhaka city.

Police held Shilpi under the recently enacted Women and Child Repression (Special Provision) Act. She will face a special tribunal within 120 days. The maximum penalty in this nonbailable case is death penalty, if

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Gold smuggling case of '88

HC declares Biman purser not guilty

The High Court division of the Supreme Court set aside and quashed after seven years the conviction and life sentence of an employee of Bangladesh Biman on charges of gold smuggling, reports BSS.

The two-member bench comprising Justice Habibur Rahman Khan and Justice M M Ruhul Amin Tuesday set aside the sentence of Sohail Ahmed Chowdhury, a junior purser of Biman passed by special tribunal, anti-smuggling Dhaka, in 1988. Chowdhury was accused of smuggling 240 tolas of gold from Jeddah by a Bangladesh Biman flight in June 1986.

The prosecution alleged that gold were recovered from Chowdhury's wearing such as shoes, socks and anklets and he was tried under Section 161 of the Customs Act and Section 25 (b) of the Special Powers Act.

During the trial in the special court, shoes, socks and anklets which were used to conceal the gold were produced. But it was found that those did not fit the accused person and were also smaller in size. The seized gold were also not produced and proved in court by the prosecution. Yet the court held him guilty and sen-

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ECNEC okays Tk 1012 cr power project

The government yesterday approved four projects, including a Tk 1,012-crore power generation plant and a health project involving Tk 261 crore, reports UNB.

The approval was given at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) at Bangladesh Secretariat with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

The ECNEC meeting approved the Meghnaghat 300 megawatt combined cycle power project (phase-1) at a cost of Tk 1,012 crore with a foreign exchange component of Tk 704 crore.

The Kailashtila small LPG Plant Project at a cost of Tk 35 crore, including a foreign exchange component of Tk