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Business

Country's export earnings cross mark of previous fiscal year

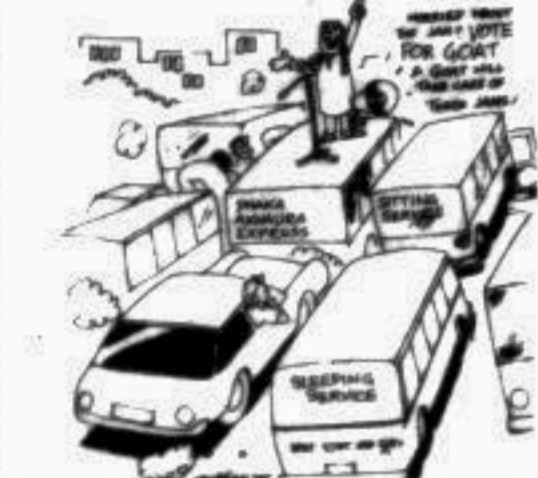
REB to construct 7730 km power lines in '95-96 Pages 6, 7

STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	781.67 (+0.40%)
Market capital Tk	48.34 billion
Transactions in volume	138571
Transactions in value Tk	23.97 million

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Trauma of Traffic Jam Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

ALCWC meets Aug 6

A meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will be held at the central office on August 6. Party chief Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting. Hasina now visiting in USA is expected to return to the country by August 4, reports UNB.

Two hurt in bomb explosions

CHANDPUR, July 30: Two young men were killed and four others injured, one seriously, while making bombs at a house here in the town early today. Witnesses said that Abdur Rahim, 25, and Md Ibrahim, 28, died on the spot and four others injured while making hand bombs at a house at East Srirampur of Puranbazar area in the town at around 1:30 am. Khokon was admitted to Chandpur Zila Hospital with serious burn injuries, reports UNB.

Husband kills wife

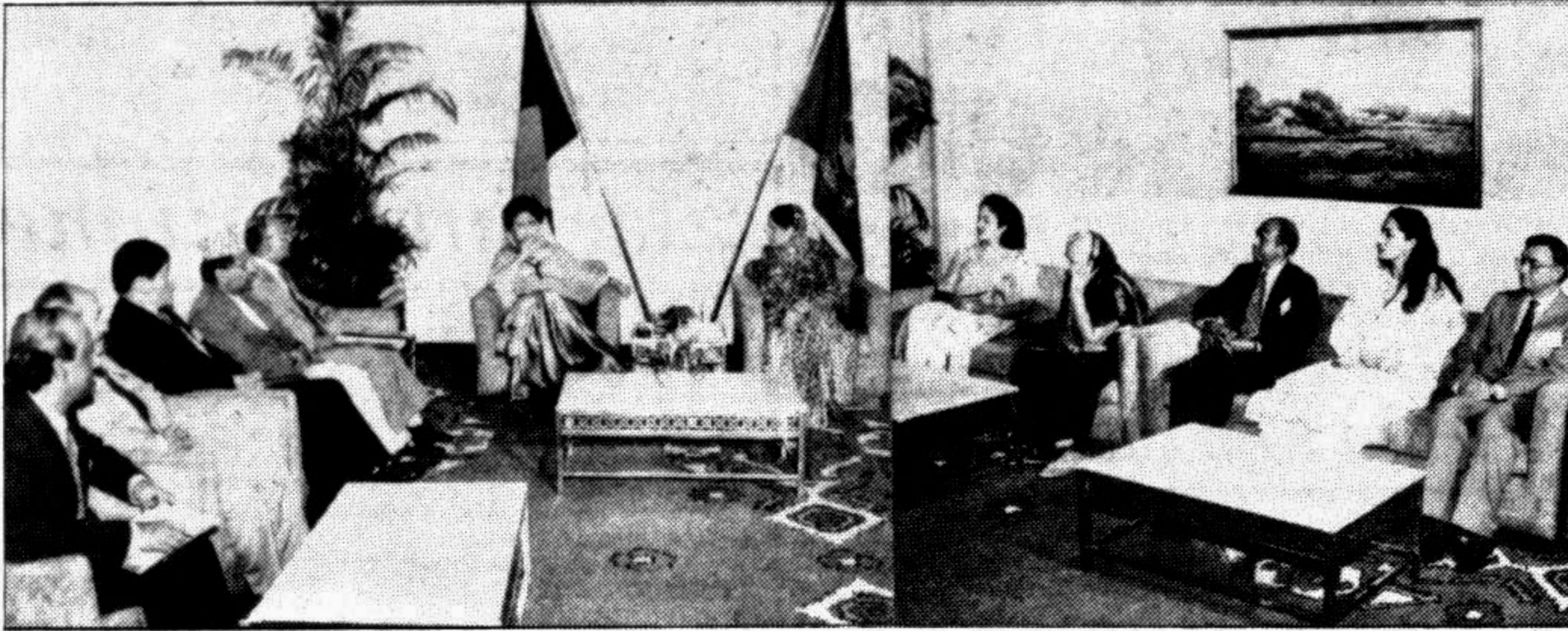
JESSORE, July 30: An angry husband allegedly killed his fifth wife at Baniadanga in Sadar thana early today. Police said Abdul Majid stabbed to death his pregnant wife Rahatunnesa, 30, as she refused to give her gold ornaments. Majid went into hiding soon after the killing, reports UNB.

One shot dead in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, July 30: A man was shot dead by a group of dacoits at Guapanchak village in Anwara thana of the district early today. The dead was identified as Abul Kashem, an employee of the district judge's court. Kashem was shot when he tried to resist the dacoits, reports UNB.

7-pt Dhaka Resolution for Beijing confce adopted

By Staff Correspondent



Ministers and leaders of delegations of SAARC countries attending the SAARC Ministerial meeting on Women paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at ICC yesterday. — PID photo

The two-day SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Women concluded in the capital yesterday with adoption of a seven-point 'Dhaka Resolution' on empowering women, protection of the girl child and women, ensuring equal rights for women and eradication of poverty.

The Dhaka Resolution will reflect a common SAARC position at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September.

"I believe this Resolution will have a great impact on the Beijing Conference because this is an outcome of regional cooperation," State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman said at a press briefing at the International Conference Centre yesterday evening, following the concluding session of the meeting.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated the meeting Saturday. It was attended by SAARC Secretary General YK Silwal, and delegates from the seven member countries. Although it was a ministerial meeting, ministers from Pakistan and the Maldives could not attend it due to their preoccupation at home, Begum Sarwari Rahman said.

The resolution, focussing on eradication of poverty, suggests that national efforts for eradication of poverty

See Page 12 Col 4

Abahani, MSC clash today

Sports Reporter

League Champions Abahani Krira Chakra clash with Federation and DMFA Cups champions Mohammedan Sporting Club in a vital match of the Lifebuoy Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium this evening for a 6.30 pm kick-off.

Abahani with 19 points from seven matches have a five-point advantage over their arch rivals Mohammedans.

A win for Abahani will give them a solid footing at the end of the first leg. For Mohammedans, it is a do or die situation as only a victory in today's match will enable them to close the gap; a defeat will sink them in quagmire.

Gazette notifications ready for vacating 87 JS seats

By Staff Correspondent

The Parliament Secretariat yesterday finalised two gazette notifications announcing vacation of the seats of 87 Opposition MPs whose absence from the House crossed the 90-day constitutional limit.

While 86 of the seats were declared vacated with effect from June 20, that of Aktaruzzaman Babu, who had filed a leave application, was declared vacated from June 27, Parliament sources said.

The gazette notifications are expected to be published today.

The decision about the remaining 55 of the 142 absent MPs, whose absence also crossed the 90-day limit, could not be taken yesterday as they had signed the attendance register at the Parliament lobby during the

boycott period, sources said. The seats to be declared vacated by the gazette notifications due to be published today include that of Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader Abdus Samad Azad — both from the Awami League, Jatiya Party

EC ready for by-elections

The Election Commission will take necessary steps for holding by-elections in the vacated seats of Opposition MPs after receiving gazette notification, the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) said yesterday.

It roughly takes 46 days to complete necessary works for holding elections, Justice AKM Sadeque told UNB. See Page 12 Col 3

parliamentary leader Moudud Ahmed and Jamaat-e-Islami parliamentary leader Matiur Rahman Nizami.

Secretary of the Parliament around 7:30 pm yesterday despatched to the Bangladesh Government Press (BG Press) the announcement for being published as gazette notifications.

Copies of the notifications were also learnt to have been sent to the Prime Minister, the Chief Election Commissioner and the Speaker through special messengers last night.

Earlier, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali had approved the gazette notifications after discussing it with his staff.

On scrutiny of relevant papers, the officials found See Page 12 Col 7

AL programmes to observe Aug 15

The Awami League has taken elaborate programmes to observe the 15th August as a 'National Mourning Day', reports UNB.

The programme include a countrywide half-day hartal on August 15 and public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue on August 16.

The Awami League and its front organisations will organise discussion, milad, destitute feeding, film show and other functions to commemorate the day.

The Party's central programmes are: Hoisting national and party flags at half-mast, hoisting black flag, wearing black badges from August 15-30, Quran Khwani and Milad Mahfil, garlanding the portrait of Bangabandhu, offering fatcha at the mazars and destitute feeding after the hartal.

The party will organise a discussion at Tungipara on August 11 and offer fatcha and arrange milad mahfil there.

Serbs retreating from Bihac

ZAGREB, July 30: Rebel Serbs who invaded the Bosnian government enclave of Bihac have started to withdraw following Croatian army intervention in western Bosnia, UN officials said today, reports Reuters.

They have pledged to pull out of the enclave, UN envoy Yasushi Akashi said.

Hundreds of Krajina Serb soldiers were seen retreating from Bihac into rebel territory inside Croatia but it was unclear whether a full pullout or a regrouping of forces was underway, the UN peace-keeping commander in the enclave said.

There are a few indications that the Krajina Serbs are pulling out. We've seen a dramatic decrease in fighting in the past 24 hours," Colonel Stephen Hirsch told Reuters by telephone from the Muslim enclave in Bosnia's northwest corner.

"Our observation posts have seen hundreds of Serb soldiers pulling out over the border from the northern and western parts of the Bihac area," he said. "But we need confirmation that they are pulling out artillery too."

Thousands of Krajina

Editorial on page 4

Serbs invaded Bihac on July 19 to carve out direct road and rail links to separatist Serb territory in northern Bosnia about 20 per cent of the pocket was overrun and more than 10,000 people fled.

But the incursion lost steam late last week after Croatian government troops surged into western Bosnia captured a large chunk of Serb-held territory and cut the main supply route to Knin, the Krajina Serb 'capital' near Bihac.

Question bank system won't be restored

The government yesterday reaffirmed abolition of the 'question bank' system in the SSC Examination and asked students to shun agitation for its restoration, reports UNB.

The reaffirmation of the decision came in the wake of violent demonstration by the SSC examinees across the country on the demand for

continuation of the system.

"Increasing dependence on the question bank system seriously hampers the standard of education and the opportunity of higher education for the students," said a press release issued by the Education Ministry.

It urged the teachers, guardians and the management of the secondary-level educational institutions to convince their SSC candidates to give up the illusion about question bank in order to improve the quality of education.

According to the press release, the government, on advice from the country's eminent educationists, had decided to do away with the system from the SSC Examination two years back.

As per the decision, steps have been taken to repeal the question bank system from 1996 and all concerned have See Page 12 Col 8

Threats to Monisha Koirala's life

NEW DELHI, July 30: The heroine of a movie about Hindu-Muslim riots in India was provided armed police guards today after threats to her life, a news agency said, reports AP.

Since Thursday, Monisha Koirala has been getting telephone calls at her Bombay apartment and the anonymous caller has been threatening to kill her for playing the role of a Muslim girl in the movie 'Bombay,' Press Trust of India said quoting police.

Five policemen were also deployed outside Oberoi Towers, the apartment block where the Nepal-born Hindu actress stays.

The movie's director, Mani Ratnam, escaped an assassination bid earlier this month when suspected Muslim fanatics threw bombs inside his house in the southern city of Madras. The crude bombs landed close to Ratnam, injuring him slightly.

Non-Rokons may also be allowed to contest polls

By Nazmul Ashraf

Jammat-e-Islami is considering a deviation from its long-practised policy of nominating only the 'Rokons' — the highest-level party members — in the next general elections.

"Since the party has recently decided to test its strength and popularity all over the country by fielding candidates in all the 300 parliamentary seats and there's a shortage of suitable candidates at the level of Rokons, the aberration in the party policy has become inevitable, a top-ranking Jamaat leader told The Daily Star.

The change in the policy has also been prompted by massive campaign of war crimes against Jamaat leaders during the past few years and the party's strained rela- See Page 12 Col 8

100 Bangladeshi troops in Bosnia trapped

By Diplomatic Correspondent

Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan said yesterday that nearly 100 Bangladeshi soldiers are trapped in a pocket at Valika Kladusa in Bosnia and physical links between Bihac town and the besieged pocket presently remains cut off.

Information reaching the Foreign Ministry indicated that "our troops as of now were not in imminent danger. They have adequate supplies and rations and their morale is high," Farooq Sobhan said at a press briefing.

There are presently some 1,277 Bangladeshi soldiers in Bosnia, mainly concentrated in Bihac, Valika Kladusa and a few observation posts.

Explaining the latest position, he said the Bangladeshi troops in Bihac were in the middle of a multi-pronged attack. The forces led by Abdic launched See Page 12 Col 7

an attack from the north while the Bosnian Serbs also launched an offensive from the South. A recent agreement signed between the Croatian and Bosnian governments have led to recovery of some areas seized earlier.

The entrapped company of Bangladeshi troops in Valika Kladusa numbering around 100 were sandwiched in a valley but were not the target of attack by the rival forces, the foreign secretary explained.

He, however, stated that presently there was a stand-off in the fighting in the area.

Only a few Dutch peacekeepers were in the around 135-square mile Bihac enclave, besides the Bangladeshi peacekeepers led by Col Selim. Bihac has an estimated population of 2,00,000 and is See Page 12 Col 7

BGMEA offered jt venture units in Nepal

Nepal has proposed to the Bangladeshi garments manufacturers for setting up joint venture units in the Himalayan kingdom with technical know-how from Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The visiting Nepalese Minister for Finance and Civil Supplies, Bharat Mohan Adhikari, made the proposal at a meeting with leaders of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BGMEA) yesterday.

"Bangladesh is a success story in the readymade garments sector Let's start some joint ventures," said Adhikari, leading a delegation that also included the chief of Nepalese Garments Association.

Agreeing with the proposal, BGMEA President Redwan Ahmed said Bangladesh attained considerable See Page 12 Col 6

ZIA recarpeting runs behind schedule

Star Report

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has issued a notice to a South Korean firm for its failure to complete re-carpeting of the Zia International Airport (ZIA) on schedule.

The Hanjin Engineering and Construction Co Ltd and its local associate the Neptune Commercial Ltd were given the 32 crore Taka Runway Overlay Project (ROP) work in the middle of the last year, to be completed by July 20 this year.

However, CAAB sources told The Daily Star yesterday that the contractors, after receiving the notice, assured that the ROP would be completed soon if fair weather condition prevails.

Primary repair work of runway potholes were finished few months back. Inclement weather and delay in bringing in the necessary equipment by the contractors delayed the re-carpeting work, the CAAB sources said but added "it would hardly take some 40 days to finish the remaining work after the current rainy season." "We are against finishing the task hurriedly disturbing normal flight schedules as

the runway is still in a good shape," the CAAB sources said.

Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation Authority has planned inspection of the runway by an expert of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to make sure that the re-carpeting is done as per ICAO standard.

The 10,500-foot ZIA runway, constructed in the late 60's, was opened for regular flight operation on December 28, 1979. Since then, it has not been re-carpeted. An eight-inch new layer will be given on the runway under the ROP.

STOL service with Shamshearnagar from Aug 6

The Aero Bengal Airlines, the first aviation company in private sector, will start its commercial flight operation to Shamshearnagar in Moulvibazar from August 6, reports UNB.

An aircraft of the airlines successfully landed at the Shamshearnagar Airport after checking the route today. See Page 12 Col 7



An Israeli soldier controls the entrance of a Palestinian woman passenger carrying her baby at Erez crossing point in Gaza Strip yesterday as the Israeli army reopened the crossing points from the Gaza Strip and West Bank, a week after a suicide bomber killed six people on a Tel-Aviv bus in Israel. — AFP/UNB photo

Over 50 hurt in Adamjee clashes

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, July 30: Over 50 people were injured in a series of clashes between rival groups of workers belonging to the pro-BNP Jattiyatbadi Sramik Dal and Awami League backed Jatiya Sramik League at the Adamjee Jute Mills area today.

Seriously injured Rustam Ali was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Ten See Page 12 Col 7

DB takes up Sajjad murder case

The detective branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has taken up the investigation of Saturday's murder of a young man at Malibagh in the city, reports

Editorial on page 4

UNB. Sajjad Hossain, 25, was beaten to death in broad daylight near Malibagh bazar by a group of miscreants, allegedly hired by a recruiting agent who owes money to a relative of the victim.

One of the relatives of Sajjad reportedly gave Tk 3.2 lakh to the recruiting agent See Page 12 Col 3

ANNOUNCEMENT

Join the "Open Discussion" on SAVE DHAKA to be held at 10 am TODAY at DCC (Nagar Bhaban).

The Daily Star, as part of its SAVE DHAKA campaign, will hold a day-long Open Discussion on "Streets of Dhaka" today, in collaboration with BUET and the Dhaka City Corporation. The meeting will be participated by city planners, administrators, researchers, DMP, NGOs and concerned citizens. Representatives of hawkers and rickshawpullers are also expected to speak on the occasion.

All interested citizens are invited to join us at Nagar Bhaban this morning, and strengthen our SAVE DHAKA campaign.