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Announcement
 The recommendations of the Open Discussion on the 'Streets of Dhaka' will be published along with photographs in our Weekend Magazine tomorrow.
 Read our next investigative story on 'food adulteration' on front page tomorrow.

Inside Today
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God Save Dhaka City From Lawlessness
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 300 women's organisations to take part in national conference; Rwanda's women rebuild the country; and Women in politics Page 5

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 Japan announces soaring yen Pages 6, 7

STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	771.89 (-0.12%)
Market capital Tk	47.74 billion
Transactions in volume	14895
Transactions in value Tk	27.84 million

Metropolitan
Dhaka Day by Day
 Absurd Advertising Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS
Salary of non-govt teachers, employees
 Salary of the non-government school, college and madrasah teachers and employees for the month of July has been sent to the head offices of Agrani, Janata, Sonali and Rupali banks. Heads of the institutions have been asked to receive the money by August 10, reports UNB.

4 die in road accidents
 SAVAR, Aug 2: Four people were killed and five others injured in three separate road accidents on Dhaka-Agacha and Kaliakoir-Nabinagar highways today police said, reports UNB.

Hartal observed in Balaganj, Chhatak
 From Staff Correspondent
 SYLHET, Aug 2: A half-day hartal was observed today at the thana headquarters of Balaganj in Sylhet and Chhatak of Sunamganj district at the call of SSC examinees demanding restoration of question bank system in the examinations.

Body recovered
 By Staff Correspondent
 Police recovered body of a middle-aged man from Dhanmondi lake near Road No 32 in the city last night. The victim was identified as Ashrafud Alam Ratan, 34, of Jafraud, Mohammadpur. Dhanmondi police said that they recovered Tk 4,000/- and a syringe from the pocket of Ratan's trouser.

PM, party colleagues talk Ishtiaq formula

By Nazmul Ashraf
 Prime Minister and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday discussed with her senior party colleagues various aspects of the latest formula for forming a caretaker government, within the constitutional framework, to conduct the next general election.
 The three and a half hour meeting held at the PM's cantonment residence scrutinised the formula proposed by veteran lawyer Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, calling for electing some "neutral non-partisan persons" through by-elections in the recently vacated Parliament seats.
 According to meeting sources, some flaws were identified in the formula and some possible alterations were also discussed.
 This was the first formal meeting of the ruling party following the gazette notifications on the vacation of the seats of 87 Opposition MPs. The meeting, which continued till late last night, was attended by senior cabinet members and party leaders. Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali also attended.
 The meeting, however, did not finalise the party position in this regard, a BNP standing committee member told The Daily Star, requesting anonymity.
 Participants at the meeting viewed that the proposed formula was defective and impractical as the Constitution did not permit the MPs to be elected in the

Dr Kamal's formula

Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday prescribed a 10-member caretaker government with five representatives each from the government and the Opposition to be elected through by-elections as a basis for an acceptable election framework, reports UNB.
 Such caretaker government is possible without changing the Constitution to overcome the present political crisis, he told a press conference at the Gano Forum office yesterday.
 Dr Kamal, President of the Gano Forum, said the government party should initiate steps urgently for a national consensus and the Opposition should make their reasonable contribution to the process.
 He said a caretaker government, sovereign Election Commission and strict election rules free from the influence of arms, black money and defaulters as well as code

Diarrhoea spreading fast in flood affected areas

By Reaz Ahmad
 Diarrhoea has broken out in most of the flood-hit districts including Dhaka following the recession of flood waters.
 According to the Central Control Room at the Directorate of Health, 11 diarrhoeal deaths were reported in the last one week and some 9,045 people were attacked with the disease in 32 districts. Noakhali and Dhaka being the worst affected.
 During the last seven days, 1552 people were attacked with diarrhoea in Noakhali, followed by 1356 in Dhaka, said Dr Sayed Shahinur Rahman, Medical Officer at the control room, which monitors the situation and sends report everyday to the Prime Minister's Office and the Health Ministry.
 The control room recorded one diarrhoeal death in Pabna yesterday and 915 other cases of attack.
 Though experts termed it a regular post-monsoon phenomenon, they expressed serious concern at the outbreak of the disease taking an epidemic form over last two weeks.
 Each day over 400 diarrhoea patients were being admitted to the ICDDR, B Hospital in the city.
 During a visit to the hospital this correspondent found hundreds of patients, majority of them children.

US Congress votes to lift arms ban on Bosnia

WASHINGTON, Aug 2: The US House of Representatives, following a similar move by the Senate last week, voted Tuesday to unilaterally lift the arms embargo on Bosnia, reports AFP.
 Approved by a margin of 298-128, the bill sets up a confrontation between Congress and President Bill Clinton, who has vowed to veto the measure.
 Once the President imposes his promised veto, the Congress could then take a subsequent vote to override Clinton's action, but it would take a two-thirds majority in each House to pass it over his objection.
 Though the measures passed by margins large enough to override a veto in



A police tow-truck taking away a car for illegal parking, contributing to traffic jams, at Motijheel in the city yesterday.

PM launches Integrated Nutrition Project

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday reiterated her government's pledge to ensure overall social development through better utilisation of human resources, reports UNB.
 She said her government attached priority to human resources development as well as education, health and other social sectors for the last four years.
 Begum Zia was inaugurating a new project styled "Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project (BINP)" which aims at ensuring better health care for the pregnant, the mother and the child at the International Conference Centre here in the afternoon.
 The 4-year project has been undertaken by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at a cost of Tk 261 crore with the assistance of the World Bank. Of the amount, Bangladesh government will provide Tk 27 crore while UNICEF will extend its technical support.
 According to official statistics in Bangladesh 93 per cent of children are malnourished, 35-50 per cent of new-born babies are below normal weight, 70 per cent of mothers and children suffer from anaemia, 30,000 children become blind due to vitamin-A deficiency 84 million people suffer from iodine deficiency and 56 million people have visible and palpable goitre due to iodine deficiency.
 The Prime Minister admitted that many mothers and children in Bangladesh still suffer from malnutrition though the per capita income has increased and the country achieved a tremendous success in its development activities.
 She underscored the need for a proper and integrated programme to resolve the malnutrition problems.
 Begum Zia said her government will provide Tk 27 crore while UNICEF will extend its technical support.

Ration supply to Bangladeshi troops in Bihar resumes

Normal supplies of ration and fuel to the Bangladeshi troops deployed in Bihar enclave of Bosnia-Herzegovina resumed, yesterday, reports UNB.
 Reports received in Dhaka also said that road communications have been restored between Coralic where Bangladesh battalion headquarters is located and Valika Kladusa where a company of Bangladeshi troops are stationed.
 Besides, the observation posts and other positions where from Bangladesh Battalion had to adjust and readjust as a result of Croatian Serb military offensive have been reoccupied.
 The reports said all members of Bangladeshi Military Contingent, including the military observers in Bosnia-Herzegovina, are safe and sound.
 They are in good spirit and doing their normal assigned duties, according to reports.
 Meanwhile, Sepoy Md Kazi Monirul Haque, who was injured on July 21 last, is recovering fast, the reports said.

Dhaka must get a fair share of Ganges waters: Experts

By Staff Correspondent
 Experts from Bangladesh, India and Nepal have suggested a long-term solution to the issue of sharing of waters of the region as soon as possible in which Bangladesh would get its 'fair share'.
 "The sharing of the Ganges waters is of major concern and Bangladesh is entitled to a fair share of the waters," said the agreed minutes of a two-day regional conference on "Converting Water into Wealth: The Case of the Eastern Himalayan Rivers," that ended here yesterday.
 The conference stressed political will of the governments of the countries of the region for harnessing the water resources.
 More than 25 former ministers, legislators, bureaucrats, water resources experts, and journalists participated in the conference, jointly organised by the Bangladesh Ummayan Parishad (BUP), the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) of India and the Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS) of Nepal. It was the first of a series of six such conferences planned, one more in Bangladesh and two each in India and Nepal as part of a follow-up programme of studies conducted by these think-tanks.
 Pointing to the tremendous potential for developing hydropower in the region, the experts felt that an effective cooperation was feasible through developing a regional energy grid linking the three countries.
 The conference resolved that regional cooperation in disaster preparedness and management was essential and should immediately be put in place to minimise losses from floods, landslide and drought.
 "Bangladesh needs to receive data from upstream points, on continuous basis to ensure better flood preparedness," it added.
 Nine fields have been identified for further research by the three organisations. These are: water sharing and augmentation of its flow, water-based integrated development in the region, quality of water of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basin rivers, operational coordination of Teesta barrages, developing a regional energy grid, regional cooperation in disaster management.

First meeting of Sylhet Div held

SYLHET, Aug 2: The first meeting of the newly established Sylhet division was held here today with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair, reports UNB.
 Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, the Divisional Commissioner and the DIG of Sylhet division, and the DCs and SPs of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulavibazar and Hobiganj were present.
 Meanwhile, our Staff Correspondent adds: The Sylhet Bibhag Ummayan Parishad (Sylhet Division Development Council) this evening held a colourful rally in front of the National Press Club in the capital to celebrate the functioning of the division.
 Speakers at the rally, presided over by its president Abed Raja, reiterated their commitment to work for the welfare of the people of Sylhet division. A procession was brought out after the rally.
 Before the rally, a cultural programme was arranged in which Fakir Alamgir and folk singers from Sylhet took part.

71 pc pass Jessore Board SSC exams

By Staff Correspondent
 The results of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations of 1995 under Jessore Board was announced yesterday.
 This was the last SSC examinations held under the question bank system.
 Out of a total of 1,42,367 candidates, 70.74 per cent or 1 lakh 711 came out successful.
 Of the successful candidates, 48,227 got First Division, 50,905 Second Division and 1,59,7 Third Division.
 In the combined merit list, (male and female) for Science group Barisal Cadet College secured the first six positions with Md Waliullah Khan Nonami at the top. He got 900 marks with letter marks in seven subjects.
 Abu Sayeed Muhammad Saifullah secured the second position with 897 marks and seven letters. Hasraf Ahmed Sagor stood third with 891 marks, Md Golam Mursheed fourth with 887 marks, AM Helali Mortuza Bhuiyan fifth with 885 marks and MHM Mahmudul Hassan sixth with 884 marks.
 Kazi Md Razib Hasan of Khulna Zilla School and Ramakrishna Das of Sagor Dari Michael Madhusudan Secondary School jointly secured 884 marks.
 Merit list on page 12

Two Saudi ministers dropped

RIYADH, Aug 2: King Fahd replaced his veteran oil and finance ministers today in Saudi Arabia's most significant leadership shakeup since he came to power in 1982, reports AP.
 Oil Minister Hisham Nazer will be replaced by the president and chief executive of the giant petroleum company Saudi Aramco, Ali Ibrahim al-Naimi, according to a royal decree.
 The finance and planning minister, Mohammed Abalkhalil, also lost his job.
 A former commerce minister, Suleiman bin Abdel-Aziz al-Sulaiman was named minister for finance and national economy, while Abdel-Wahab bin Abdel-Salam al-Attar was named minister of planning.
 There was no immediate word on whether the two ousted ministers would receive new ministerial posts.
 Nazer had been petroleum minister for almost nine years after Sheikh Zaki Yamani was fired.

Political uncertainty hindering foreign investment

CHITTAGONG, Aug 2: A Western diplomat today said that a negative image created by poor infrastructure and political uncertainty in Bangladesh is hindering establishment of a general credibility for making investment in Bangladesh, reports UNB.
 The longer the present political stalemate and uncertainty continues the more damaging that will be to the investors' confidence, British High Commissioner Peter J Fowler said.
 Speaking at a meeting with the members of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) here, the envoy said the continuing political uncertainty would make it more difficult to change Bangladesh's image.
 He further observed that the longer the political stalemate continues, the more difficult it will be to make progress on further reforms that are so urgently needed if Bangladesh is to realise its potential and assure the future of all its citizens.
 "Stressing the need for an enabling environment for business, the High Commissioner said it should include a civil society that would ask the politicians and political parties to put the interests of the country ahead of the struggle for power."
 Referring to his recent visit to UK which synchronized with that of a FBCCI trade mission, he said he himself as well as the Bangladesh delegation at meetings with British business community tried to convince people that Bangladesh's "still mainly negative image" was increasingly out of date.
 "We pointed out that Bangladesh is by no means alone amongst developing countries in having deficiencies of physical and legal infrastructure and problems of bureaucracy and corruption," he said.
 "We can claim that in some respects Bangladesh is better than many," Fowler said.
 CCCI President Sarwar Jamal Nizam, Senior Vice President Zafarul Islam Chowdhury, former president of the chamber Ali Ahmed, and Director Motiur Rahman, and QI Chowdhury of James Finley PLC were among those who spoke at the meeting.
 Despite some successes and some improvements of management, the public sector industries as a whole "still lay an immense burden on the rest of the economy," the High Commissioner pointed out.

Farhad's detention HC asks govt to show cause

By SC Correspondent
 The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to show cause within seven days as to why the detention of Farhad Mazhar, Editor of the fortnightly 'Chinta', will not be declared illegal.
 A Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hoque and Justice Mohammad Nurul Islam also directed the government to explain why Farhad Mazhar should not be brought before the court to satisfy itself that he is not illegally detained and why he should not be released and set at liberty.
 The application on which the court issued the rule is a Habeas Corpus are filed by Farhad Akhter, wife of Farhad Mazhar.
 Farhad Mazhar was arrested by Special Branch police on July 30.

Eliadah appeals to HC for clemency

By SC Correspondent
 US citizen Eliadah McCord, sentenced to life imprisonment for drug smuggling, yesterday begged mercy of the High Court while promising not to repeat such offences in future.
 She was produced before the court by the government upon a suo moto rule issued earlier by a Division Bench of the High Court Division.
 "I am, for the thing which happened, sorry and repentant, and I am full of remorse for such happening," said the young lady before the division bench comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hoque and Justice Mohammad Nurul Islam.
 The rule was issued on July 18 last upon the government following a press report saying that Eliadah was underaged when she was convicted. By the rule the government was directed to show cause as to why Eliadah should not be produced before the court to treat her according to law and the court also directed the government to produce her before the court on August 2.
 But in her statement recorded by the court she said that her date of birth is March 27, 1973. She also recalled the story how she was involved in trafficking heroin.
 She came to Bangladesh on February 10, 1992 as a tourist and on February 22, 1992 she met Robert Blankson, a Nigerian citizen who instigated her to traffic heroin, at the Dhaka Museum, she stated.
 She added that Blankson proposed to her to carry some packets for a person residing in the United States

China expels 2 US Air Force officers

BEIJING, Aug 2: China expelled two US Air Force officers today, accusing them of illegally gathering military intelligence, reports AP.
 The expulsions came as relations have sunk to their worst point since China's 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square.
 They were reported by the official Xinhua News Agency and announced on the nationally televised evening news.
 The two officers entered China July 23, "sneaked into a number of restricted military zones in China's south-east coastal areas and illegally acquired military intelligence by photographing and videotaping," Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang was quoted as saying.