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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	784.58 (-0.26%)
Market capital Tk	48.60 billion
Transactions in volume	125052
Transactions in value Tk	26.85 million

Supplement

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NEWS BRIEFS

Clash during trial in Sathkhira court
 SATHKHIRA, Aug 13: A middle aged man and his six sons were injured during their trial at the local court today. Court sources said the plaintiff of the case, Bazole, attacked Babar Ali and his sons Akbar, Pakbar, Asgar, Afsar, Yeard and Jafar as they entered the court in the morning. Police later detained the injured and Bazole for interrogation, reports UNB.

Foreign Secy will attend Delhi meet

Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan will attend the two-day second special meeting of SAARC Standing Committee to be held in New Delhi from August 25, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday. The special session of the SAARC committee, he said, was expected to review institutional mechanisms and activities of SAARC including possible alterations to be brought to the mandate of the technical committees for amalgamations, reports BSS.

GCO enforces strike at DU

Classes and administrative function at the Dhaka University could not be held as the Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) enforced a two-day strike on the campus from yesterday demanding cancellation of the controversial admission rule. The GCO activists brought out a procession on the campus and chanted slogans against the "illegal" and "discriminatory" admission rule, which favours the wards of university teachers and staff, reports UNB.

Two killed in Ctg, Cox's Bazar Rain triggers flash floods, landslides

Triggered by an active monsoon, torrential rains paralysed life in different parts of the country, causing flash floods and landslides in some areas, killing at least two people and injuring many.

Reports reaching The Daily Star said that in Chittagong a woman was killed and three children were seriously injured in a landslide caused by incessant rains at the slope of a hill at Lalkhan Bazar.

Flash floods hit the districts of Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, Kushtia and Lalmonirhat, causing damages to property and standing crops.

The incessant rains also paralysed city life and caused water-logging in different areas. The low-lying areas around the city were also inundated.

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent said that one person was washed away by the swelling Matamohuri river at Mcherna village under



Incessant rains disrupted normal life in the city and elsewhere in the country yesterday. — Star photo

Hasina demands trial of Bangabandhu's killers

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for taking a fresh vow to establish an exploitation-free society as dreamt by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"I have no personal ambition. I have been struggling to change the lot of the teeming millions and establish their rights," Hasina said while speaking as chief guest at a discussion on 'Bangabandhu and post-75 Bangladesh'.

The Bangabandhu Parishad organised the discussion on the occasion of the 20th death anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Institution of Engineers, Justice K M Sobhan was in the chair.

In an emotion-choked voice, Hasina, eldest daughter of Sheikh Mujib said, "Why am I deprived of seeking trial of the killers of my parents being a citizen of Bangladesh? What was the crime of my 10-year-old brother Russel? I want to place these questions to the people."

The AL chief said 'some special envoys' of the Prime Minister in August, 1991 had assured that the killers of Bangabandhu would be tried. "But the bill for repealing the Indemnity Ordinance did not see day light. They betrayed us," she added.

See Page 12 Col 6

50 businessmen kidnapped in Chittagong in 6 months

CHITTAGONG, Aug 13: At least 50 businessmen were taken hostage by armed goons and released after realising ransom in the last six months, according to sources.

But only three cases of abduction were recorded with police.

Police and intelligence people are aware of the situation but they hardly come forward to track down the abductors most of whom tail political parties, it is commonly alleged.

One Mohammad Ali, a businessman, was allegedly kidnapped from Raozan in 1993 by the same group of terrorists which abducted Fakri. Ali was released after fifteen days on realisation of Taka two lakhs. Ali's family sources claimed.

When relatives of Ali went to Raozan thana, police declined to record a case. Rather the police advised them to pay ransom to the kidnappers to obtain release. Ali's relatives alleged while talking to this correspondent.

Abduction of millionaire Taher Ali Fakri recently which raised alarm in the business community here was the latest incident.

The two other major incidents in the city were abduction of the son of a prominent industrialist, Shah Murad and banker-cum-gold trader Fakrul Anwar, both from the Chittagong Government College Road.

Another businessman was abducted from Chittagong New Market (Bipani Bitan), located in the heart of the city within shouting distance from Kotwali thana about three months back. He was released after payment of ransom.

Jewellers very often fall prey to abductors. But they do not go to police fearing harassment as they also reportedly have some 'Achilles heel' in their business deal.

A businessman of Korbanigonj, Sunil Majumder, who hails from Chikdair village under Raozan thana today told this correspondent that he was forced to pay Taka two lakh for release of his abducted son Bavalosh Majumder.

Sunil said his son was abducted on October, 1993 from Chikdair by an organised gang of terrorists backed by an opposition political party and was kept hostage for five days at Uttar Sarta village in Raozan where Fakri was also kept hostage.

"But after release, I did not dare to keep my college-going son here and I sent him to Calcutta for study," Sunil said adding many other businessmen including 'Dubaiwalas' were taken hostage from surrounding villages by those organised armed terrorists.

A senior police official of Chittagong range talking to this correspondent said "It is difficult to catch those political terrorists as they take shelter in the city hide-outs when their sanctuaries are raided."

However, police officials observe that those terrorists could be nabbed by launching operations both in the city and thana areas simultaneously provided there is no pressure from any political quarter.

All FYPs have failed, says Moyeen

By Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan yesterday criticised all the five-year plans of the country in the past saying, "none of these plans could change the fate of the masses because of their alienation from the people."

He was addressing an open discussion on the formulation of the Participatory Perspective Plan for Bangladesh, 1995-2010, which aims at poverty alleviation, empowerment of women, development of human resources, creation of job opportunities and conservation of ecology.

"This perspective plan would be formulated for the See Page 12 Col 1

Politicians, bureaucrats blamed Talks of democracy went in vain due to dishonesty : Saifur

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday lamented a poor state of financial accountability in the government and said years of parliamentary democracy could hardly improve the situation, reports UNB.

"Merely setting up a Parliament or an election mandate do not necessarily mean the government is fully democratic and accountable," he said at a seminar on public accountability at a local hotel.

"If the attitude of the people in the government is not democratic, there will hardly be any democracy and accountability," said Rahman bitterly criticising both the politicians and bureaucracy for creating indiscipline in public accounting system.

Said the outspoken finance minister: "I'm unhappy during my eight years in the Finance Ministry and ten years in the government... All the talks of democracy and accountability mostly remained unrealised because the officials and politicians are not always honest about it."

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'Prof Mohammad Yunus addressing the national conference on 'CEDAW and Women of Bangladesh' organised by the CEDAW Sub-committee at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Rashed Khan Menon, Farida Rahman, MP and Dr Nazma Chowdhury are seen sitting. — Star photo

Pak govt ready for talks with Altaf group

ISLAMABAD, Aug 13: Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto tonight said her government is willing to hold "unconditional talks" with the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

"The government has not closed its doors for talks despite provocations by the other side," Ms Bhutto said while talking to reporters in her chamber in parliament house.

The Prime Minister maintained that "the government is taking necessary steps against provocative acts by miscreants and terrorists in Karachi."

Ms Bhutto charged the "militant wing" of the Altaf group with being involved in killings, abduction and creation of a law and order situation in the southern port city.

Mostafiz favours full ratification of CEDAW

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman said yesterday that his ministry had no objection to full ratification, without reservations, of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

"If the Ministry of Law, whose vetting is required for signing any international agreement, waives the present reservations on CEDAW, then the foreign ministry is prepared to fully endorse the convention before the Beijing Conference," said Rahman, addressing the concluding session of the National Conference of the CEDAW sub-committee.

Presided over by Salma Khan, Convener of the CEDAW sub-committee, the concluding session was also addressed by Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star, as a special guest.

Recommendations to the government, finalised at the working session of the conference, included immediate withdrawal of the reservations regarding clauses 2, 13(A), 16(A) and (F) of CEDAW; formation of a technical committee for effective implementation of CEDAW, incorporation of CEDAW in the manifestoes of all political parties, and reform of the laws of the country, if necessary, to reflect the spirit of CEDAW.

Speaking as chief guest, the Foreign Minister said, "The issue of gender equality is not an issue of male or female, but an issue for the whole of humanity." Combined efforts of all are needed to overcome discrimination against women, he added.

"We are fortunate not only because the present ruling See Page 12 Col 3

Kuwaiti army on alert

KUWAIT, Aug 13: Kuwait has put its army and interior ministry forces on alert as a precaution after the defection of senior Iraqi officials to Jordan, the Gulf state's defence minister said in remarks published today, reports Reuters.

"We have taken all precautions, our armed forces are on alert, also on alert are our men in the interior ministry," Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al-Sabah was quoted as saying by the English-language Arab Times.

"We are monitoring the south of Iraq but until this day and this hour there is nothing exceptional or extraordinary."

Kashmiri rebels behead Norwegian hostage

SRINAGAR, India, Aug 13: Kashmiri guerrillas have beheaded one of their five western hostages, carved their group's signature on the corpse and dumped it in a road with a threat to kill their other captives within days, reports Reuters.

The head and body of Norwegian Hans Christian Ostroe were found about 20 metres apart near a town southeast of Srinagar, summer capital of troubled Jammu and Kashmir state, police said.

With them was a note saying others of the trekking party kidnapped on July 4 would be killed unless the Indian government released at least 15 jailed Kashmiri Muslim separatists within two days.

Police said the killers had carved the name Al-Faran, the militant group which claims responsibility for the kidnappings, into the body.

The Indian government held an emergency meeting in New Delhi to consider mounting an armed rescue operation — an approach it has so far avoided, hoping that the hostages would be freed by negotiations.

The other hostages are German Dirk Hasert, American Donald Hutchings and Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan.

"We have called a meeting on what further ways we can See Page 12 Col 8

Opposition drafts agitation programme

By Nazmul Ashraf

The mainstream opposition parties yesterday prepared a draft of their identical agitation programmes scheduled to be announced from separate public rallies in the city on August 16, competent sources said.

Editorial on page 4

The programme aims at compelling the BNP government to concede to the opposition demand for immediate dissolution of the Parliament to pave the way for holding a fresh general elections under a non-party caretaker administration.

The draft programme include a 48-hour hartal later

See Page 12 Col 7

EC guidelines for selection of polling centres

The Election Commission (EC) has formulated a set of rules and guidelines for selection of polling centres for the next Jatiya Sangsad elections, reports BSS.

The district election officers have been instructed to follow the rules and guidelines in selecting the polling centres.

According to the 11-point guidelines the district election officers should determine the place for setting up a polling centre after an on-the-spot survey of the place and the building.

A polling centre for some 2,000 voters should have at least five rooms, according to the guideline.

Garments workers' gherao programme on Aug 16

The garments workers will gherao the office of Chief Inspector of Factories on Wednesday protesting the death of nine workers in a fire at a garments factory in the city recently, reports UNB.

Four workers' federations — the National Garments Workers' Federation, Bangladesh Garments Sramik-Karmachari Federation, Bangladesh Poshak Shilpa Sramik Federation and Bangladesh Garments Workers Federation — will jointly organise the demonstration.

The garments workers have already put forward three-point demand, including Tk 1 lakh as compensation for each worker killed in any accident and Tk 25,000 for every injured worker.

Stay of Eliadah's release extended till Nov 2

By SC Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday extended upto November 2, the stay of the High Court verdict for release of the American girl Eliadah McCord, who was earlier sentenced to life imprisonment by the trial court in a heroin smuggling case.

Upon a prayer of the government Justice Latifur Rahman of the Appellate Division extended the stay of the HC verdict in his Chamber and fixed November 2 for hearing of the petition for leave to appeal.

Earlier, Justice Latifur Rahman gave a probationary stay from his house after the HC verdict was announced on August 9 last.

Talking to The Daily Star See Page 12 Col 2

25 hurt as N'ganj BCL workers clash with police

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 13: At least 25 people were injured as the BCL workers clashed with police today in the town.

Witnesses said, the Narayanganj Town unit of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out a torch procession in the town at 7 pm. When the rally reached the Raigate No. 2 of the town, some processionists started throwing stones at the on-duty policemen.

The police retaliated with mild lathi-charge and dispersed the demonstrators.