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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	772.72 (+0.35%)
Market capital Tk	47.96 billion
Transactions in volume	53415
Transactions in value Tk	9.14 million

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



No Fire without Some
Smoke
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NEWS BRIEFS

**11 fishermen
abducted**

From Our Correspondent
COX'S BAZAR, Aug 26: Eleven Bangladeshi fishermen were abducted by the Myanmar border security forces from the river Naf early this morning. The fishermen were fishing in the river near Naikgang Para when the forces abducted them along with 12 fishing boats. The relatives of the fishermen lodged a formal complaint with the Teknaf thana.

**Carpet donated for
Bamako mosque**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday donated a carpet for the grand mosque in Bamako. The donation was announced during the official talks between the Prime minister and the visiting President of Mali at the International Conference Centre, reports UNB.

Body recovered

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Aug 26: The body of an unknown young man 25, was recovered by the police of Balaganj thana today from a paddy field of village flashpar near the Dhaka-Sylhet highway. The body was sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital Moulgoue.

Phensidyl seized

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Aug 26: Police recovered 19 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup from Bagia village under Kotwali thana of the district last night.

**JP extended meet
Sept 9, 10**

By Staff Correspondent
An extended meeting of the Jatiya Party Central Working Committee will be held on September 9 and 10 to discuss the country's latest political situation, according to a JP press release.

Konare backs proposal for OIC summit on Bosnia Dhaka, Bamako to diversify economic cooperation

Bangladesh and Mali yesterday agreed to increase and diversify bilateral economic cooperation, particularly in the agriculture, trade, industry, rural development, fruit processing and the health-care sectors, report agencies.

The agreement was reached in official talks between the two fraternal countries at the International Conference Centre.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia led the Bangladesh delegation at the meeting which covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

The visiting President of Mali, Alpha Oumar Konare, headed his country's side at

the talks held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Exchanging views on international issues, the two leaders focused on the situation in the Balkans.

The Malian President fully supported the Bangladesh Premier's call for an emergency OIC summit to devise ways for protecting the territorial integrity and independence of the Muslim republic in the trouble-torn peninsula, the Principal Secretary to the PM, told newsmen after the talks.

The two leaders reached an agreement that the OIC countries must work out a strategy to protect Bosnia-Herzegovina deterring Serb aggression. They also called



Formal talks were held between President of Mali Alpha Oumar Konare and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at ICC yesterday. — PID photo

'Withdrawal of Ganges water violation of HR'

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday described the unilateral withdrawal of Ganges water at the Farakka barrage by India as an act of "violation of human rights," reports UNB.

She made the remarks during her official talks with the visiting Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare, apprising him of the adverse effects of the barrage on the socio-economic condition of Bangladesh, the Principal Secretary to the PM, ANM Eusuf, told newsmen after the talks.

Begum Zia said due to the dehydrational impact of the barrage, disrupting the historical natural flow of the international river and depriving Bangladesh of its legitimate share of water, one-third of the country's population was facing severe hardship.

The barrage, constructed at the upper riparian of the

Khaleda, Konare for closer LDC ties

The visiting President of the Republic of Mali, Alpha Oumar Konare, and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night stressed the need for expansion of cooperation among the least developed countries to overcome the economic complexities facing them, reports BSS.

Speaking at the official dinner hosted by Prime Minister Begum Zia in honour of President and Madam Konare at her Hare Road office, they reiterated particularly the potential for the bilateral cooperation between Mali and Bangladesh.

The two leaders expressed the hope that the current visit by President Konare would strengthen economic, business and commercial relations between the two countries.

The guests at the dinner included the Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, ministers, Supreme Court judges, politicians, the elite of the city,

Admission tests for HSC classes abolished

By Staff Correspondent
Admission tests for HSC classes in colleges have been abolished and students will henceforth get admission to government and private colleges according to marks obtained in the SSC examinations.

This was decided at a meeting of high officials of the ministry of Education and principals of over 30 colleges here on Thursday, according to sources yesterday. The secretary of the Ministry was in the chair.

The college authorities will announce in advance the number of students it will admit in a particular academic year. Prior to the announcement, the authorities will take into consideration the infrastructure, number of teachers and other facilities in the institution.

The institution will also maintain a "waiting list" of

15-yr perspective plan likely to be placed before NEC in Sept

Star Report
The final draft of the 15-year Participatory Perspective Plan (PPP) is likely to be placed before the National Economic Council (NEC) sometime next month.

The presentation for approval by the NEC, headed by the PM, has been shifted from August 30 due to the PM's preoccupation with the visit of the President of Mali. We have already sought a fresh date from the PM's office," State Minister for Planning Dr A Moyeen Khan said while talking to The Daily Star at his office yesterday.

In the medium term, the PPP, (1995-2010) envisages attainment of, among others, a GDP growth rate of seven per cent by 1996-97 and sustenance of that level up to 2000, a basic literacy rate of around 60 per cent, primary health care for about two-thirds of the population and limiting population within 130 million.

At the end of 1993, the present government had decided not to formulate any fifth five-year plan and instead decided to go for the PPP.

To this end, Prime



Nazrul's death anniversary today

By Staff Correspondent
The 19th anniversary of death of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be observed today.

Various socio-cultural organizations have drawn up elaborate programmes to pay tribute to the memory of the poet.

The programmes include placing wreaths and offering *fateha* at the *mazar* of the late poet on the Dhaka University campus, discussions on his life and works and musical soiree.

The Nazrul Institute will hold a discussion meeting at the Kabibhaban at Danmondi at 4:30 pm. Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam will attend the meeting as the chief guest, while chairman of the institute trustee board Obaid-ul

Economic seminar Political stalemate dominates discussion

By Staff Correspondent
Speakers at a seminar titled "poverty to prosperity: opportunities and challenges," in the city yesterday focussed on the present political stalemate, emphasising national consensus to resolve it.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), which organised the seminar at a hotel, however, presented an ambitious 'double-digit growth model' projecting an average 9.8 per cent GDP growth rate over the next 10 years.

Presenting the model, FBCCI President Salman F Rahman said that the two-pronged growth strategy was devised to attain a sustained high growth rate, beginning with 8 per cent this fiscal, coupled with direct poverty alleviation programmes at the grassroots level.

Presided over by former chief justice Md Habibur Rahman, the seminar was also addressed by Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad as guests of honour. M Asafuddin, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, journalist Ataus Samad, Owise Saadat, head of private sector development and finance unit, Resident Mission of the World Bank, were discussants.

The speakers stressed national consensus on economic issues to achieve the desired growth, forgetting the past and an end to making non-issues issues by building active partnership among political parties, business

AL will stage demonstration today

By Staff Correspondent
The Awami League will stage demonstrations and bring out processions across the country today to protest the Election Commission's decision to defer the by-elections to vacant parliamentary seats.

This is part of the Opposition's agitation programme to be followed by a 32-hour country-wide hartal beginning September 2.

As part of today's demonstrations, the Awami League will hold a rally at Panthapath in the city at 3 pm. A procession will be brought out after the rally.

The EC deferred the by-elections in 144 seats that fell vacant due to consecutive 90-day absence from the House without leave by 142 Opposition MPs and death of two ruling party MPs.

Party general secretary Zillur Rahman in a statement yesterday called for making the country-wide programme a success to protest the EC's 'politically motivated' decision.

28000 US forces in 'high state' of readiness in Gulf

ABOARD THE USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, Aug 26: Around 28,000 US military personnel are in a "very high state of readiness" to deter any Iraqi threat to its neighbours, the commander of US navy forces in the region said today, reports AFP.

Iraqi forces have raised concern with "unusual" military activity since July although "at this point in time there are no movements of forces toward Kuwait," Vice Admiral Scott Redd told reporters on this aircraft carrier in the Gulf.

But Redd warned: "If we see a column of Iraqi troops and heavy equipment heading south, we're not going to sit around and picnic.

We're not going to let them line up a bunch of tanks on the Kuwaiti border before deciding that this is something serious."

In line with military practice, he declined to say exactly how US forces would respond.

Under a UN resolution adopted after a military buildup along the Kuwaiti border last October, Iraqi troops are barred from crossing the 32nd parallel, which runs through the city of Najaf, unless they are based in the south.

Deterring Iraq were a total of 23,000 US navy, army, marines and air force personnel in the region, along with another 5,000 aboard a

Bangladesh HC in Malaysia probing deaths

By Reaz Ahmed
The Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia is enquiring about the reported deaths of three more Bangladeshis in a detention camp in that country, official sources said yesterday.

Following the Malaysian opposition leader, Lim Kit Siang's statement that 42 illegal immigrants, 28 of them Bangladeshi nationals, had died in detention camps, the Ministry of Labour and Manpower in Bangladesh asked the High Commission to enquire about the reported incidents.

When approached last night, the Manpower Secretary, Dr Harunur Rashid, said,

50 LTTE men killed in clash with police

COLOMBO, Aug 26: Fifty Tamil Tiger guerrillas and seven police commandos were killed when the rebels launched an abortive attack on a police detachment in eastern Sri Lanka today, senior military sources said, reports Reuter.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fired mortar bombs on the special taskforce post 12 miles south of Batticaloa, but were repulsed with machinegun fire, the national news agency quoted the sources as saying.

Army headquarters in Colombo confirmed seven police had been killed and six wounded but did not say how many rebels had died.

The sources said 25 bodies of Tiger guerrillas had been recovered and that police had monitored radio instructions to the retreating Tigers to carry their dead colleagues with them. They estimated the total number of Tiger casualties at 50.

The Tigers in July lost an estimated 400 fighters at northeastern Welioya when they launched a simultaneous attack on four military bases. The armed forces had been tipped off and were ready and waiting.

The Tigers are fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east in a war that has raged since 1983. More than 50,000 people have been killed.

Floor-crossing EC verdict on 3 JP MPs likely tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
The Election Commission (EC) may give its verdict on the case of floor-crossing by three MPs belonging to Jatiya Party tomorrow, according to sources here yesterday.

Three Jatiya Party MPs — Mahmudul Hasan, Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury and Paritosh Chakrabarty — reportedly joined the ruling BNP separately, crossing the floor.

As Jatiya Party brought the issue to the EC, the three MPs submitted that they did not join the BNP and continued to be Jatiya Party members.

Hearing of the case was scheduled for yesterday, but

'We want to know more about Bangladesh'

By Staff Correspondent
Nearly one thousand bright and promising students of the city's English medium schools (EMS) in an unequivocal voice yesterday expressed their heart-felt urge to learn more about Bangladesh, her rich culture and heritage.

Speakers after speakers, all students from EMS, emphasised the need for the parents, the schools and the teachers to do much more in teaching them about the history, geography, culture and heritage of Bangladesh.

This view was expressed as a response to inadequate curriculum content in their schools.

Some 50 teachers including several principals and their deputies, of almost all of the city's reputed EMS, also shared their feelings with the students joining them in a symposium on "Knowing about Bangladesh: Role of English Medium Schools" held at the auditorium of the Jatiya Press Club.

The EMS students exhibited a tremendous desire to know about their motherland so that they could feel proud of their national identity. The Teenage Awareness Group (TAG), a forum of EMS students, organised the symposium, which was sponsored by The Daily Star.

In speeches after speeches the boys and girls admitted their limited knowledge about the country they live in. Their confession appeared to have signalled a subliminal message for the educationalists. The speakers called the authorities of all EMS to get together and work out revised curriculum on Bangladesh studies.

They deplored controversies and legacy of political slanting on some basic issues like — national identity, national hero — which they said were preventing them from knowing the true history of Bangladesh.



A section of the nearly one thousand students, teachers and parents from almost all the English Medium Schools in Dhaka who attended a symposium on "Knowing Bangladesh: Role of English Medium Schools" at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. The symposium was organised by the Teenage Awareness Group (TAG) and sponsored by The Daily Star. — Star photo

Bid to loot garments at DEPZ: 26 held

SAVAR, Aug 26: Twenty-six persons were arrested when they were looting readymade garments worth 19,000 US dollars from a factory compound in Savar Export Processing Zone today, reports UNB.

Police caught red-handed the 26 persons at about 8 am and on their confession also arrested two guards of the Finetree Industries Ltd. A truck was seized.

All 28 arrested were produced before Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate court which rejected their bail prayer and sent them to Dhaka Central Jail.

Savar Thana OC Toshadeq Hossain said the arrested persons are suspected members of an organised group.