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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index 800.10(+0.00%)
Market capital Tk 49.89 billion
Transactions in volume 18999
Transactions in value Tk 27.84 million

Dinajpur people urged to maintain peace Killers will be tried: PM

DINAJPUR, Sept 12: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia extensively toured this troubled northern town today and assured the people that those responsible for the "unfortunate" incidents be brought to book, reports UNB.

"We are sorry for all the incidents that have occurred (in Dinajpur)," she told a gathering while visiting the residence of a victim at Keradangi, six kilometre from the district town.

Begum Zia, who came here following a widespread violence sparked by rape and murder of a teenage girl last month, also visited the residence of other two people killed in police firing.

Paramilitary BDR and armed police patrolled the roads.

The prime minister also went to the residence of Yasmin, reportedly raped and killed by a patrol police team on August 24. She expressed deep shock and sorrow and consoled the mother of the victim.

As Begum Zia went to the place of killing of the girl near Doshmle crossing, hospitals and the residences of the firing victims, a huge number of men and women rallied round her.

They informed the Prime Minister of the incidents that reportedly left a total of eight people, including the girl, dead. The authorities, however, confirmed four deaths.

While visiting the residences of the four victims, she declared financial assistance for the bereaved families and offered prayers for the departed souls.

"I could not come here personally as I had to go to Beijing soon after the incidents. But I had sent my cabinet members that resulted in improvement of the situation," she told the residents of Dinajpur.

She also announced that the government would take "stern punitive measures" against those responsible for the "tragic and unfortunate" killing of four people, attack on the local press club and five newspaper offices.

Begum Zia also handed over cheques for Tk 1 lakh to the family of each killed, and declared that the government would bear all the costs of treatment and rehabilitation of the injured people.

While urging the people to maintain peace for the sake of the country, she said:

Protest march

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Sept 12: A procession was brought out in the town after the public meeting of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Gorashahid Maidan this afternoon.

The processionists, chanting anti-government slogans, set off from the town towards the residence of the Home Minister, demanding the removal of the Home Minister.

US Senate to consider tough immigration reform bill today

WASHINGTON, Sept 12: Immigrant rights supporters have launched an intense lobbying drive as the US Senate immigration subcommittee considers some of the deepest cuts yet proposed for legal immigration tomorrow.

Another bill, authored by Representative Lamar Smith of Texas, has already been approved by the House of Representatives Sub-Committee in July.

The lobbyists say that the proposed immigration reforms will break up families, leave jobs unfilled and increase government intrusion.

The bill that awaits discussion by the Senate Sub-committee Wednesday is being drafted by Republican Sen. Alan Simpson, a leading congressional authority on the subject.

Under the proposed bill, parents may be sponsored as immigrants only if they are at least 65 years old and majority of their children are US citizens or legal immigrants.

The legislation also proposes: Elimination of family-sponsored immigration for brothers and sisters and adult children of US citizens and unmarried adult children of legal immigrants.

More than 150,000 people entered the US under the bill that awaits discussion by the Senate Sub-committee Wednesday is being drafted by Republican Sen. Alan Simpson, a leading congressional authority on the subject.



Romario collapses

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 12: Soccer star Romario collapsed during practice today and was rushed to a hospital, a radio network reported, says AP.

The Flamengo center-forward was training shots on goal when he suddenly put his hand on his chest and fell unconscious to the ground, the CBN network said.

After five minutes, he regained consciousness but fainted again in the locker room, the network said.

Romario, 29, led Brazil to the World Cup title last year and was voted the 1994 FIFA player of the year. In January, he switched to Flamengo from Spain's Barcelona for a reported 4.5 million dollars.



Police intercepted a procession of the Nari Pragoti Sangha protesting the Dinajpur incidents in the city yesterday.

Removal of Home Minister demanded

The Samillita Nari Samaj yesterday demanded the removal of Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury for his failure to protect the dignity and security of the women, reports UNB.

Addressing a hurriedly called press conference at the Jatiya Press Club to protest police action on a procession of the Samillita Nari Samaj in the city yesterday morning, the women's group leaders warned that they launch a greater movement if the Home Minister is not removed within 10 days.

Reading out a written statement on behalf of the Samaj, Dr Maklum Ratna alleged police had again repeated repression on women and demanded punishment of those responsible.

Samaj leaders claimed that three of their members were injured during the protest.

Force govt to hand over power to CJ: Hasina

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her call for making the 72-hour countrywide hartal from September 16 a success to force the government out handing over power to the Chief Justice for a free and fair election, reports UNB.

Addressing the Mohila Awami League activists in front of the Jatiya Press Club, where they staged a token hunger strike, Hasina said the government was pushing the country towards ruin.

About 50 members of the Mohila Awami League staged a day-long hunger strike demanding exemplary punishment of those involved in rape and murder of Yasmin Akhter in Dinajpur on August 24 and killing of seven others in police firing on August 27 during protests.

3 JP MPs' seats vacated for floor-crossing

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Pannil yesterday informed the House that the seats of three Jatiya Party MPs were vacated for joining BNP by defying the floor crossing provision of the Constitution, reports UNB.

Major Gen (Rtd) Mahmudul Hassan, Paritosh Chakrabarti and Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury who were elected as JP members lost their seats with effect from August 28 under Article 70 of the Constitution.

Earlier, JP acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury brought the matter to the notice of the Speaker and requested him to take necessary action against them.

NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda, Hasina greet Deuba

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina have felicitated Sher Bahadur Deuba on his assumption of the office of the Prime Minister of Nepal.

In messages, they hoped that the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and Nepal would be strengthened further under his leadership, report agencies.

Mostafiz operated upon at NY hospital

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman was operated upon for suspected lung cancer at a New York Hospital yesterday, according to a foreign ministry source.

"It was a successful operation. And he is making good progress," quoted the source referring to hospital authorities.

The Foreign Minister was admitted to the hospital on September 2.

Two more Bills passed in JS

Parliament passed two more Bills yesterday without any discussion. The Bills are: The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (Amendment) Bill-1995 and the President's Pension (Amendment) Bill-1995. Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Haq moved the ICDDR Bill and Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam moved the President's Pension (Amendment) Bill, reports UNB.

Saifur leaves for Malaysia

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman left Dhaka yesterday for Kuala Lumpur to attend the special meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group on Bosnia-Herzegovina. The two-day special meeting of the defence and foreign ministers of the 13-member OIC Contact Group on Bosnia begins in the Malaysian capital on September 14, reports BSS.

Arms recovered in Ctg: 6 held

CHITTAGONG, Sept 12: Police in a pre-dawn swoop today recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition from a Buddhist Orphanage in Rowzan thana and arrested six youngmen in this connection, reports UNB.

Tale of a 'smugglers' paradise'

By Morshed Ali Khan, back from Dinajpur

Streams of buffalo carts stagger through the muddy village roads carrying merchandise in jute sacks hardly half a kilometre away from the Bangladesh-India border post of Barogram, ten kilometres away from Dinajpur town.

Their destination is the "People's Square" a spot where four village roads meet. At the Square, there are few stalls dozens of old bikes parked outside.

The carts arrive at the People's Square and unload their merchandise — paddy, onions, sugar etc. smuggled from across the border. Some people come out of the stalls, settled prices offer bargaining with the cart drivers and each put a sack on his bike and rode away towards the town.

The bikers from another stream on this calm muddy village road leading to the town.

Further down the road, as one proceeds towards the Indian border, similar streams of bikes pass by. The bikers, carrying smuggled goods, look least bothered with presence of strangers.

Past the BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) post at the extreme corner of Bangladesh territory, a triangular concrete post demarcates the border between the two neighbours. Few hundred yards away, Indian BSF (Border Security Force) men look anxiously through their binoculars. Presence of the strangers raise their curiosity. All around, farmers weed their green paddy fields, apparently unconcerned about what is happening.

A sign on one side of the concrete post reads "Bangla" for Bangladesh and on the other side, "Ind for India."

Within minutes two BDR personnel arrived at the spot and asked: "What are you doing here? This is no-man's land."

After a brief interrogation, the BDR personnel were convinced and invited the strangers to join them for a cup of tea in their camp.

About twenty BDR personnel man the post. The Havildar in-charge of the platoon said that only in the month of July, this year, they seized Tk 1.74 lakh worth of smuggled goods from India.

"Here, people are our best friends. They are not concerned about what is happening."

ALCWC observes PM's remarks on hartal provocative

Awami League Central Working Committee yesterday called upon the people to enforce a 72-hour hartal from September 16 for realising the demand for caretaker government to ensure a free and fair elections, reports UNB.

The call came from a meeting of the party policy-making body held at the Dhiamond office of Awami League with its president Sheikh Hasina in the chair, a day after the party's special council.

The meeting said the opposition parties were compelled to call hartal for the "obstinacy and meanness" of the government for hanging

Jobs in Malaysia Advice to enlist with employment exchanges

By Reaz Ahmad

Bangladeshi workers seeking to go to Malaysia for employment have been advised by the authorities to enlist themselves with the district employment exchange offices.

Name enlistment would automatically guarantee an interview for work in Malaysia when the Foreign Workers Task Force (FWTF) of Malaysia informs the Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL) about their requirements for foreign workers.

Sources in the Ministry of Labour and Manpower said, BOESL would send interview cards to all foreign employment seekers at their addresses if their names are enlisted with the any of the 21 employment exchange offices all over the country.

This initiative was taken following a recent agreement regarding manpower export was signed between the concerned authorities of Bangladesh and Malaysia.

Under the agreement, signed in August 16, the role of private manpower recruiting agencies to Malaysia was abolished and all kinds of manpower export to Malaysia, except maids and shop-assistants, will now be handled by the two state entities.

Expulsion of BUET student stayed

By SC Correspondent

The High Court Division yesterday ordered stay of the expulsion of M Masum Iqbal, a student of level-2, Term-1 in the Architecture Department, from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

A vacation bench of the HC comprising Justice M Badruzzaman and Justice K M Hasan, upon a writ petition filed by M Masum Iqbal, also

'Poor status' worries SAARC women

BEIJING, Sept 12: Countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) today demanded "equitable political and social strategies" to eliminate poverty in the region, reports PTI, AP.

Regretting the inadequate importance given to this issue at the ongoing Fourth World Women Conference here, the South Asian countries said poverty needed to be further addressed to correct the economic discrimination in the region.

South Asian countries which have formed a caucus at the conference expressed concern about the "poor status" of women in the region and called for regulated operations of trans-national corporations and a commitment from the developed countries for "new and additional resources for poverty alleviation programmes."

Referring to violence against women, particularly in situations of internal armed conflict, the South Asian countries demanded that countries of South Asia sign and ratify the Geneva Conventions of 1949 to protect the rights and ensure the security of all persons affected by the armed conflict.

Addressing the conference on behalf of SAARC countries, the Minister of State for Women and Child Development of India, Mrs Basavrajeshwari, said majority of the 1.2 billion people living below the poverty line in the world live in the region.

"We call for strong vibrant leadership role for women" in the region to tackle this issue as women were the worst affected by poverty. The region, she said, has had four women prime minister.

The SAARC also demand that violence in all forms should be condemned and eliminated, particularly domestic violence. It also called for ending sexual exploitation of women.

The SAARC countries also stressed upon equality before law, economic empowerment, education of girls and healthcare.

Meanwhile, several international organisations made commitments for women development at the Fourth World Women Conference.

They include the US Development Programme, World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organisations and UNESCO. The International Monetary Fund also made a presentation in which it said it would strive for women development.

According to the Executive Director of the WFP, Mrs Catherine Bertini, the world body would input 60 per cent of its food aid to

200 injured as workers clash in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 12: Some 200 people were injured, 15 seriously, as the workers of Amin Jute Mills and Amin Textiles fought a fierce battle today, reports UNB.

Police said the clash between the workers of the two mills erupted at about 11 am over collection of shop rents.

50 injured in N'ganj clashes

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 12: At least 50 people were injured in two separate incidents of clashes between rival groups of youths in the town today and last night.

Two youths, Delwar Hossain, 18, and Gopal, 20 were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet wounds.

Young man shot dead in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A young man died from bullet wounds in the city Monday night.

Nazrul Islam, 32, a motor mechanic, was seriously injured when a group of about five people attacked him near Jigatola bus stand at about 7



US feminist activist Bella Abzug (C) presents to journalists in Beijing yesterday the results of an informal poll conducted by 23 NGOs in response to the announced US commitments to the Platform for Action of the Fourth World conference on women.

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