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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	823.09 (+0.87%)
Market capital Tk	51.16 billion
Transactions in volume	200199
Transactions in value Tk	37.24 million

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day
 Boons and Banes of
 Hartal
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NEWS BRIEFS

**Eyes of 3 gouged
 out in Barisal**
 BARISAL, Sept 23: Criminals gouged out eyes of three persons reportedly belonging to the National Biplobi Front at the village Selimpur under Batamara union of Muliadi thana of the district on Thursday, police said. The victims are Nurul Islam 49, Maniruzzaman, 14, and Monir Hossain 27.

**Saudi envoy
 hosts reception**
 Abdullah Omar Barry, the Saudi ambassador in Bangladesh, held a reception here yesterday evening to celebrate the 64th National Day of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The reception was attended by cabinet ministers Majidul Haq, Jamiruddin Sircar, and Abdul Matin Chowdhury, politicians, diplomats, high civil and military officials, journalists and elite of the city, reports BSS.

Appointment
 By Staff Correspondent
 The Secretary of Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), Safiur Rahman, has been appointed Secretary of the Ministry of Jute. Professor of IPGM&R, Dr Md Kamrul Islam, has been reappointed on contract basis for another two years by terminating his LPR, says a PID hand out.

Library policy soon
 The government has planned to formulate a library policy aiming at building a smooth library management system in the country. This was told at the 42nd meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on Cultural Ministry held yesterday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban

No solution thru' illegal means, says Khaleda

CHAUDDAGRAM, Comilla, Sept 23: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said the Opposition did not want any legal solution of the political problem and, instead, indulged in blocking country's economic uplift to keep the nation poor, reports UNB.

She said her government repeatedly offered dialogue for solving the problem within the framework of Constitution, but the Opposition preferred 'illegal means' of a solution.

"The BNP government does not support any illegal

means, and it won't even allow anybody to take recourse to such means," Begum Zia categorically said while addressing a big public meeting at the BSCIC Industrial State ground here in the afternoon.

She said the Opposition parties resorted to agitation for toppling a democratically elected government at a time when it has been struggling for eradicating poverty from the country.

Accusing the Opposition of enforcing hartals and strikes to block investment, she said they (Opposition) called for hartals and strikes 'intentionally

whenever foreign investors came here for largescale investment.

"You people have to choose whether you will be attached with development or with the politics of violence and destruction," the Prime Minister asked the gathering.

Tens of thousands of people, who came to the meeting venue from various surrounding areas to listen to Begum Zia, replied in chorus with slogans that they are for development.

Begum Zia told them that

JS session resumes today

By Staff Correspondent
 The Jatiya Sangsad (JS) session resumes today at 5 pm after a 9-day recess.

The session was adjourned on September 14.

Earlier, the 21st session of the country's 5th Parliament began its session on September 6 without the Opposition amid tight security as the major Opposition parties called a dawn-to-dusk general strike on that day.

The period of adjournment covered another three-day hartal from September 16 called by the major opposition political parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami demanding holding of the next general election under a caretaker government.

Hasina urges foreign countries Do not sign accords with 'illegal' BNP govt

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday branded Prime Minister Begum Zia's government 'illegal' and appealed to foreign countries not to enter into any accord with it, reports UNB.

"After the resignation of all the opposition members, Parliament has clearly lost its legitimacy. The legal status of the government, as a result, is open to question... She is heading an illegal regime," she told members of the Overseas Correspondents' Association of Bangladesh (OCAB) in a meeting at a local hotel.

Hasina, who led en bloc resignation of 147 opposition MPs from the 330-seat Parliament in December last year, is now spearheading an out-governments agitation for fair polls under a neutral caretaker administration.

"A parliamentary system cannot function if there is no opposition in Parliament. Begum Zia does not understand or does not want to understand this simple but basic truth. She is refusing to recognise that her government has lost its mandate to rule."

BNP working on 'certain plans' to resolve crisis

by Krishna P Roy
 The ruling BNP is now working on 'certain plans' for resolving the persisting political impasse as the Opposition awaits a 'concrete proposal' from it.

The three major Opposition parties are, however, taking all out preparations for the September 28 'show-down' in the city and the ruling party is maintaining 'silence' over its next move.

"We have certain plans to overcome the political stand-off," said BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder while talking to The Daily Star yesterday. But he declined to elaborate.

Nari Samaj demands trial of Yasmin's killers

By Staff Correspondent
 Hundreds of women marched through the streets of the capital yesterday evening with torches in their hands demanding trial of the killers of Yasmin and removal of the Home Minister.

Women from all walks of life joined the torch procession, organised by the Sammilita Nari Samaj, a combine of at least 30 women's organisations, from in front of the National Museum at around 6:30 pm. Many groups arrived there to join the procession playing drums and signing in a chorus.



The Sammilita Nari Samaj brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday evening to mark one month of Yasmin's killing in Dinajpur. — Star photo

50pc congestion surcharge at Ctg Port threatened

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Sept 23: Foreign shipping lines and feeder vessel operators have set October 20 as the deadline for imposition of an extra 50 per cent congestion surcharge on containers if the situation at Chittagong Port does not improve, official sources said today.

The deadline was given as a result of continued congestion of vessels at Chittagong Port and its outer anchorage.

Talking to The Daily Star, acting chairman of Chittagong Port Authority Captain Jahruddin Mahmud said "we have been informed of the deadline through a notice. We

AKC-MSC crucial tie today

Sports Reporter
 Arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra will lock horns in a crucial Lifebuoy Premier football league match at the Dhaka Stadium today. The Dhaka derby kicks-off at 5.30 pm.

Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh will cover the nerve-wrecking encounter of the two most crowd-pulling outfits in the domestic sports circuit from the big bowl.

It was the 40th clash of two perennial foes. Earlier, in their previous 39 meetings both have 12 wins against an

Donors prescribe interim rise in power tariff

Donors, committing 729 million US dollars in fresh loans to the country's vulnerable power sector, have asked for an interim rise in electricity price, reports UNB.

Informed sources said the donors had tagged the condition of interim increase in power tariff by April 1996 without waiting for the final report of the consultants, in view of substantial increase in cost of fuel and manpower as well as depreciation of the local currency during last four years.

The pledged credit, they

said, is expected to help make remarkable headway in achieving targeted six per cent growth by enhancing power consumption.

On the basis of significant improvement in collection-generation ratio, the donors have resumed lending which was suspended six years back due to huge system loss in power sector, according to an aide-memoire.

The aide-memoire, prepared in a meeting of the Bangladesh power sector donor coordination committee held in the middle of this month, said Bangladesh had

achieved the performance targets set at the 1992 meeting to get fresh loan.

The meeting was designed to assess the progress made in the power sector both in terms of sector performance and sector reforms and agree with the government and its sector agencies targets for the next few years.

It was also aimed to eliminate gaps in the related technical assistance and discuss donor-funded projects and their linkages to the proposed reform measures.

Despite inadequate power

Opposition may boycott meet with EC

Star Report
 The major opposition political parties are likely to boycott tomorrow's meeting with the Election Commission (EC) to discuss the code of conduct for next parliamentary elections.

The Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami had earlier boycotted another meeting with the EC on same issue in May. They, however, conveyed their suggestions to the EC in August when the Commission sent a 'draft code of conduct' to them and sought their response.

"We have decided to boycott the meeting since the EC

Bangladeshis in Malaysia Govt to bring back sick detainees

The government has decided on humanitarian consideration, to take necessary steps to bring back the sick Bangladeshis detained in different camps in Malaysia for illegal travel, reports UNB.

The decision came from an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday with Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali in the chair.

The meeting was informed that the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, in consultation with the Malaysian government, will arrange appointment of

Malay and Bengali speaking part-time physicians in the detention camps to look after the seriously ill patients.

The meeting also decided that special task force will be used at different levels, particularly at the airport, to interrogate and detain any Bangladeshi trying to illegally travel as tourists to Malaysia in search of employment there.

The meeting was informed that 16 people were given detention under the Special Powers Act this year

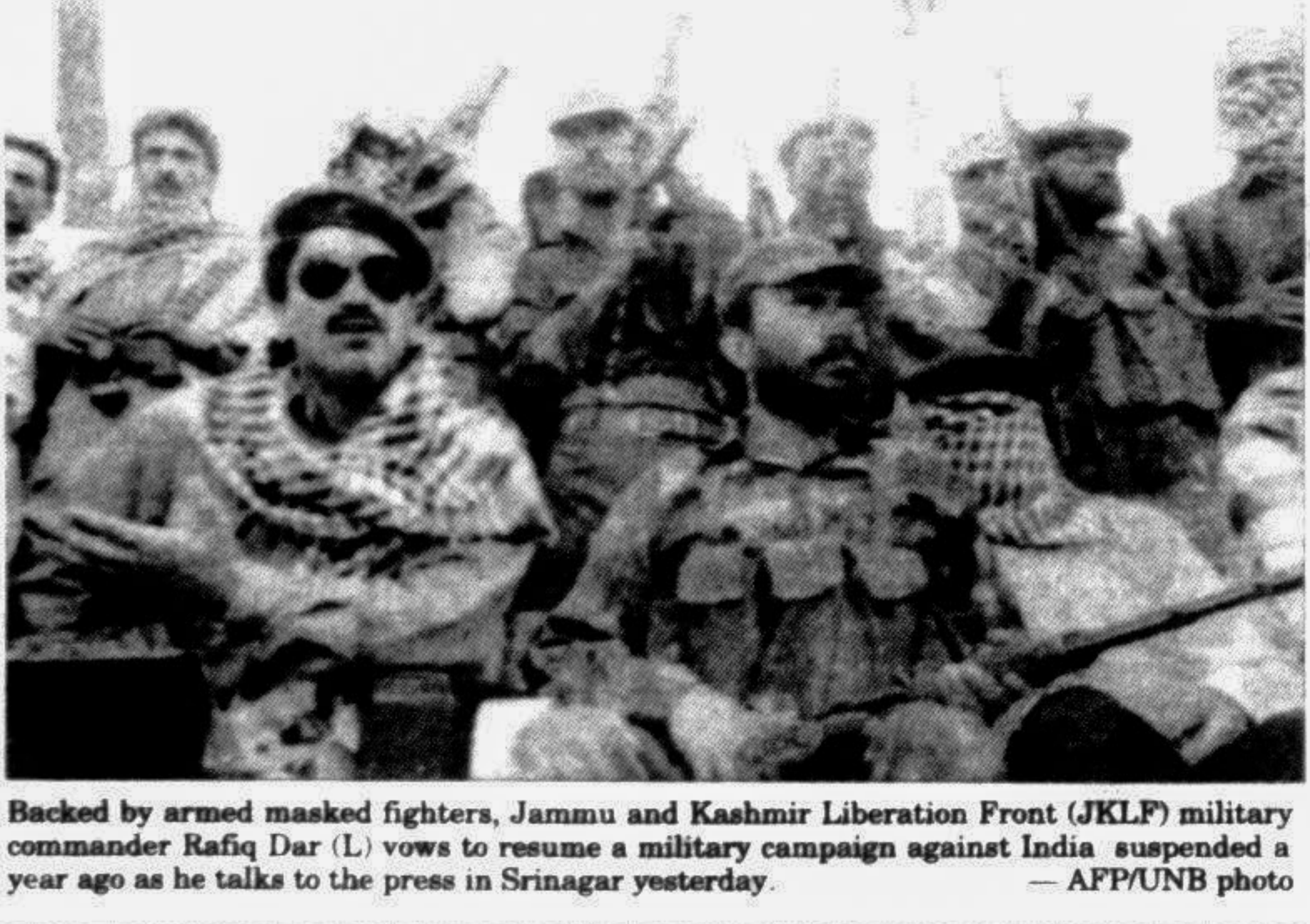
100 injured in B'baria clash

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 23: More than 100 people were injured, 39 seriously, in a clash between the residents of two villages in Sarail thana this afternoon, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted following an altercation between a passenger and an autorickshaw driver over the fare. They were from Syedtuia and Uchhalpara villages.

About 50 crackers, sticks and bricks were used during the clash that continued for about three hours until Sadar police appeared in the scene and brought the situation under control.

Seven of the injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital and 32 to Sarail health complex.



Backed by armed masked fighters, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) military commander Rafiq Dar (L) vows to resume a military campaign against India suspended a year ago as he talks to the press in Srinagar yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

Kashmir govt urges Al-Faran not to harm hostages

SRINAGAR, Sept 23: The government appealed Saturday to the kidnapers of four Western tourists not to harm the captives and return to negotiations that were broken by the kidnapers four days ago, reports AP.

"We still do not have contact with Al-Faran kidnapers, but we are making serious efforts to get in touch with them," said government spokesman Kulbhusan Jandial.

The last time government negotiators had spoken to Al-Faran kidnapers was on Tuesday.

Jandial said the government believes that the four hostages — one American, two Britons and one German — are safe. "We do not have any adverse report to suggest that they have been harmed, so we draw the conclusion that they are safe," Jandial said.

9358 project vehicles yet to be returned

By Rafiq Hasan
 The government transport pool is facing problems in re-allocating vehicles to different government departments and agencies as about 9,500 vehicles allotted for different projects now completed are yet to be returned.

The authorities, specially at district levels, are 'handicapped to provide contingency services due to the lack of transports' according to sources in the Establishment Ministry.

The vehicles allotted for development projects were supposed to be returned to the central transport pool with the completion of the projects. But these were being 'misused' by high officials, the sources alleged.

"This is putting tremen-

dous pressure on the government's revenue budget as a lot of money has to be spent on maintaining the vehicles," one source said.

The standing committee of the Establishment Ministry had urged the authorities concerned a number of times to return the vehicles to the pool, but to no effect.

A recent report of the Ministry of Planning shows that as many as 9,358 vehicles of different types bought in three ('90-'93) fiscal years, were not returned to the Directorate of Government Transport, as required under law.

These were bought for the implementation of 307 development projects during

Young man beaten to death in city

By DMCH Correspondent
 One person was beaten to death and another electrocuted in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Four others, including a teenage girl, were injured.

A young man was beaten up by a mob allegedly for stealing a pair of shoes from a mosque in Lalbagh area yesterday afternoon.

The victim Zamal, 20, rescued by the police in a critical condition, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at about 5 pm.

One Bachchu (20), was electrocuted while working at a flat at Mohammadpur Housing Society yesterday morning. He died on the spot.

\$ 121.7m Dhaka Urban Transport Project proposed

The World Bank discussing a project with the government aiming to salvage the capital city from a horrendous traffic congestion, has prescribed phenomenal increase in passenger bus services, reports UNB.

A project-preparatory mission of the Bank that visited Dhaka early this month observed that non-motor vehicles (rickshaws) and autorickshaws became dominant modes of transport in absence of adequate bus transport, causing severe traffic jam in the national metropolis.

Provision of adequate number of buses will definitely improve the situation, said the mission in the report on its visit.

Normally in urban areas

50 per cent of passenger traffic is carried by large city buses. In Dhaka city, by contrast, the figure is less than 10 per cent.

The Bank mission made observation that rickshaw-plagued traffic has been a major factor discouraging private bus operators to invest in 'premium services' in city routes. Low or no-profit in a dictated tariff environment was identified as another major factor behind the absence of quality bus transport in Dhaka city.

The proposed project, Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP), has chalked out wide-ranging programmes, including construction of new roads, improvement in city road maintenance, construction of flyovers, foot

bridges, capacity development of traffic police and Dhaka City Corporation, and improvement of railway commuter services.

The project cost has been estimated at 121.7 million US dollars.

An official source here said the government was attaching much importance to the project, and working on necessary steps so that the credit could be lined up early.

As suggested by the World Bank as a pre-requisite to the project, initiative has already been taken to constitute a single body, Greater Dhaka Transport Planning and Coordinating Agency (GDTPCA), to administer and coordinate the city transport network.

Another case of eye damage at Islamia

By Staff Correspondent
 Mahmuda Khatun (60) had gone to the Islamia Eye Hospital for a check-up but both her eyes were damaged in an operation, mistaking her to be another patient.

Dacryocystitis, a tube that carries tears, was removed from her eyes. Without this, tears continuously roll down her eyes, according to her relatives. Dacryocystitis is removed only in case of infection.

Mahmuda Khatun had gone to the out-door department of the hospital few weeks back. Doctors advised her to do some tests and to go for a cataract operation.

But she was mistaken to be another patient with the

No change in medical admission system yet

By Ripon Baig
 Despite the recent recommendation by the Education Ministry to change the admission procedure in the Medical Colleges, the Directorate of Medical Education is yet to receive any formal request from the authorities concerned in this regard.

"We will sit down to decide whether to go on with the recommendation after we receive a formal letter from the Education Ministry" said Prof AKM Nurul Anwar, Director of Medical Education.

The Ministry of Education recently abolished the system of admission test for admission in Higher Secondary Institutions. A high level meeting at the ministry also recommended the same for

admission in higher education institutions.

Prof Anwar said that the Ministry of Health has not received any official request from the Ministry of Education regarding the admission system. The ministry of health will take the decision whether to change the admission procedure or to retain the present system, he said.

Confusion has been prevailing among students since the government made the declaration to change the admission procedure. "We are confused how to prepare for admission in the medical college," said one student.

In the situation, many coaching centres which offer

56.22 pass CU B Sc exam

CHITTAGONG, Sept 23: The results of B Sc pass examination 1993 held in December 1994 and January 1995 under the University of Chittagong were announced today, reports BSS.

According to a university gazette, 587 students from 33 colleges appeared in the examination. Of them, 330 came out successful. The percentage of pass is 56.22.

Mohammad Helaluddin of Chittagong College is the lone candidate who got first division in the examination, while 123 second division and 206 got third division, the gazette said.

In the B Sc pass supplementary examination-1992, a total of 142, out of 164 students, also came out successful.

The percentage of pass in the examination is 86.59, it added.