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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	1016.35 (+1.76%)
Market capital Tk	6905.98 cr
Transactions in volume	295120
Transactions in value Tk	2.81 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	429.45 (+0.86%)
Market capital Tk	3864.68 cr
Transactions in volume	19100
Transactions in value Tk	1.05 cr

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



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Flood affected Kazipur thana of Sirajganj district yesterday.

—Star photo by Sheikh Enamul Haq

Padma, Jamuna swell further More areas in Munshiganj may go under water

Flood may hit three more thanas in Munshiganj and three in Dhaka due to swelling of Padma and Jamuna rivers with water rolling down from the upstreams, reports UNB.

Flood Forecasting Centre said more areas of Srinagar, Louhajang and Tongbari of Munshiganj district, Dohar, Nawabganj and Keraniganj of Dhaka district and Harirampur, Daulatpur, Shibabaya and Manikganj Sadar of Manikganj district are likely to be inundated by today.

The forecast said yesterday that the Padma at Goalanda and Bhagyakul points and the Jamuna at Aricha were likely to rise by 8 centimetres each. The river Padma might be flowing 30 centimetre above danger level at Bhagyakul if there is no rain. If rain occurs,

the situation may deteriorate, it said.

Rainfall may increase in the next two days, weathermen forecast.

Overall flood situation in Bogra, Kurigram and Sylhet is now improving, according to the Centre.

Flood situation in Sirajganj and Jamalpur districts worsened further due to the rise of water levels in the Jamuna and Brahmaputra. Situation in other affected districts remained static, unofficial sources said.

Most of the rivers in country a three basins receded but five in Brahmaputra and Meghna basins were still flowing above their respective danger levels yesterday.

According to a Flood Information Centre bulletin, all

the rivers in Ganges basin swelled but most of the rivers in Brahmaputra, Meghna and South Eastern Hill basins receded during the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday.

The Brahmaputra at Bahadurabad further swelled by 2 cm during the period and now flowing 21 cm above its danger mark while Ganges at Bhagyakul rose further by 8 cm and was flowing 14 cm above the danger level.

But the bulletin showed that Kushiara at Amalshid and Sheola points receded further but still remained 24 cm and nine cm above their respective danger mark.

The Surma at Kanaighat also receded by 26 cm and was now flowing above 56 cm of its red mark.

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Khaleda made Leader of the Opposition

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia was given official recognition as Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports UNB.

The Speaker gave the recognition under Rules of Procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad as Begum Zia is the parliamentary leader of the opposition party with the largest number of MPs, said a Parliament Secretariat press release.

Court orders probe into death of shopkeeper

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka has ordered judicial enquiry into the death of Faruq Hossain, a young shopkeeper, reportedly following police torture, a press release of the Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) said here yesterday, reports BSS.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mortuza Ahmed issued the order as a petition case was filed by BSEHR after its own investigation which found the officer-in-charge of Shabujbag ABM Manwarul Islam, Sub-Inspector Mesbahuddin and Deputy Inspector General of Prison Aminul Islam responsible for the death of Faruq.

The BSEHR press release said, Faruq, son of a autorickshaw driver in Shabujbag area, was picked up by police when he was going to his shop on June 24. He was produced before the court next day in a serious condition as he could not even stand on his feet.

The court sent him to jail refusing the police request for remand in view of his condition, the press release said.

Faruq died on June 26 night while undergoing treatment at Dhaka Central Jail hospital.

Ershad may be freed on parole on June 13 to attend JS

Jailed former president and Jatiya Party (JP) chief H M Ershad is likely to be released on parole on June 13 for attending the first session of the Jatiya Sangsad, according to highly placed official sources.

While on parole, Ershad would be allowed to stay at his residence but some restrictions might be imposed on his meeting the press and his public appearance. Parole may be granted to him for a couple of weeks, the sources added.

Under the jail code, convicts or the under-trial prisoners are given parole either after the roll call in the morning or in the afternoon, the sources pointed out.

Earlier on Saturday, Begum Roushan Ershad had met her husband at the Dhaka Central Jail. Begum Ershad confirmed the meeting with her husband and said if given parole, Ershad would be staying in their house in the city.

In another development the scheduled hearings of Ershad's appeal in the money suit and in the Janata Tower cash were not held yesterday, said Ershad's counsel.

Burglary at Dhanmondi

Burglars decamped with valuables worth over Tk one lakh from a ground floor apartment at West Dhanmondi in the early hours yesterday, family members of the house said.

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Accord on water-sharing most likely, says Abdur Razzak

By Nurul Kabir

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak expressed his optimism that the government would be able to reach an agreement with the Indian government on the sharing of Ganges water soon.

"I strongly believe that the government headed by Sheikh Hasina would be able to reach an agreement with India on the issue of sharing of Ganges water," the minister said in an interview with The Daily Star at his official residence on Saturday.

The minister observed that the post-1975 governments of the country did not take any "effective" initiative to resolve the water sharing problem, created by the Farakka barrage in India. "They have only tried to politically benefit themselves by using the issue."

Explaining the reasons for his optimism about a solution to the water-sharing problem, Razzak said the present government of India had already pronounced its commitment to resolve various problems with the neighbouring countries. "In addition to that, the present foreign minister of India, I K Gujral, before taking



Abdur Razzak

office, had, on record, showed a positive attitude towards resolving the problem," the minister said.

When asked whether the government would fulfil the reported Indian pre-condition of allowing her transit facility in exchange of Ganges water, the minister said, "Once the Farakka problem is resolved, the relationship between the two countries would improve further. In a more friendly sit-

uation we would be in a position to discuss other problems including the transit issue."

Razzak was hopeful about a meeting of the JRC (Joint River Commission) "very soon." The JRC comprises representatives of both Bangladesh and India. The last meeting of the JRC was held in 1990.

Meanwhile, the minister expressed the apprehension that the country was likely to experience a devastating flood this year.

Identifying siltation of the rivers to be a major cause for devastating floods, the minister said only construction and repairing of embankments were not the answer to the flood problem in the country. "The Farakka barrage has an indirect role behind floods in Bangladesh," he also said.

"We have to scientifically combine dredging as well as training of rivers with the construction of embankments to resolve the problem," the minister observed.

Replying to a question the minister said that his ministry was now busy facing the current flood. "But I have plans to

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Tk 25 lakh snatched in Mirpur: 6 arrested

Armed dacoits snatched Tk 25 lakh from a business executive at Sheorapara in the city yesterday.

A gang of dacoits hurled explosives at the car carrying Reazul Kabir, commercial manager of SQ Sweater and snatched two brief cases and one bag containing Tk 25 lakh at about 2.30 pm witnesses said.

Reazul, along with other officers of the company, was returning to his factory after drawing the money from the IFIC Bank at Motijheel for payment of salaries to employees.

The gang of 7 to 8 snatchers on board two minibuses followed the car and attacked the vehicle as soon as it entered the factory gate.

Meanwhile, detective police went into action immediately, seized the two micro-buses and arrested five persons, including a woman, from Mirpur

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The arrested persons along with part of the money and arms recovered by police yesterday.

—Star photo

Delhi considering water for transit: Indian FS

By M Anwarul Haq

Foreign policy planners in New Delhi are keen on seeking transit facilities from Bangladesh, Indian External Affairs Secretary Salman Haider has said.

He was talking to The Daily Star yesterday at state guest house Padma after his press conference. Later, he left for home in the evening on conclusion of a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

When asked about speculations that the issue is being linked with the water-sharing problem, Salman Haider said: "Yes, it is correct that transit occupies a pivotal consideration in our thinking."

Salman Haider noted that India had a serious problem in transporting goods and commodities to the seven eastern states.

"Because of the absence of transit facilities, transportation of goods from other parts of India to our north-eastern

states are very expensive. Prices of most items there are often higher by 15 or 20 per cent and sometimes even more," he said.

Bangladesh, he felt "could benefit economically from the use of its port and by providing transit user facilities."

When told that transit might pose a threat to Bangladesh's security, Haider did not agree and said, "There is absolutely no security threat. There would be no passage of military convoys or equipment."

Continuing he felt, "It would just open the economic lifeline of the Indian states in the eastern region and would also be an economic boon for Bangladesh."

Asked if providing transit facilities was central to a permanent solution of the water sharing issue, the Indian foreign secretary evaded a direct reply and said, "I would not say

it is connected with some particular issue, but definitely it is a subject which needs to be addressed."

Earlier, when he was asked at the press conference if the subject of transit was discussed in his talks with the Bangladesh side, Salman replied, "Transit issue was not discussed in any concrete terms."

Meanwhile, the present Indian External Affairs Minister, I K Gujral, had referred to India's transit needs earlier also in an interview with this correspondent during a private visit to Dhaka in February, 1994.

Gujral said, "The water problem cannot be seen or solved in isolation. May be India can give some water, but it can also expect some concessions in return."

Gujral, who had by then already served a stint as External Affairs Secretary, said

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Govt for free flow of information: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the country's mass media to make constructive and objective criticism of her government's activities to help it implement its plans and programmes in the greater national interest, reports BSS.

"Our government believes in free flow of information and we will never impede it whatever critical the situation might be," she said while exchanging views with editors, publishers and owners of national dailies and news agencies at the Prime Minister's Office.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed were present.

Referring to her government's immediate plans and programmes undertaken to overcome the hazards at all levels accumulated over the last 23 years, the prime minister said the present government had given top priority to

removing terrorism and improving law and order situation in the country.

The newspapermen congratulated the Prime Minister on her announcement to give autonomy to radio and television, assess the property of ministers and streamline the airport protocol and for directive not to create traffic jams to help movement of her own motorcade.

Speaking about the newspapers, they requested the Prime Minister for declaring newspapers as an industry and announcing the newspaper advertisement distribution policies.

The editors informed the Prime Minister that the newspapers and the journalists had suffered most by terrorism as well as political repression during the past regimes.

They also requested the Prime Minister to hold at least one press conference every

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Removal of portrait JS caretaker suspended, report today

Caretaker of the Jatiya Sangsad secretariat Mohammad Ruhul Amin has been suspended from service for removing the picture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the cabinet room of the Jatiya Sangsad Saturday without the permission of the authority, a JS secretariat press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The picture has been properly refixed at its earlier position.

Meanwhile, a 3-member committee headed by Joint Secretary (Admin) of Jatiya Sangsad secretariat Mohammad Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury has been constituted to submit a detail report on the removing of the picture by 12 noon today.

The other members of the committee are: M A Mannan, Deputy Secretary (Accounts) and M A Mannan, sergeant at arms.

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Reign of terror has gripped country, says Khaleda

LAXMIPUR, July 7: Khaleda Zia today said her party would cooperate with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government if it continues the trend of development and prosperity initiated by the former BNP government, reports UNB.

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia said this while addressing three public meetings at Dalalbag, Raipur Merchant Academy playground and Char Ababil Jasmuddin High School ground of the district in the evening.

Begum Zia, during her first mass contact tour after being elected leader of the BNP Parliamentary Party on Saturday, warned that her party would resist any attempt to foil the country's independence and democracy.

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Prime Bank Opens its 8th Branch at BARISAL

On Monday, July 8, 1996

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