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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1047.03 (+0.21%)
Market capital Tk 7109.27 cr
Transactions in volume 400689
Transactions in value Tk 12.05 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 445.79 (+2.14%)
Market capital Tk 2011.97 cr
Transactions in volume 16402
Transactions in value Tk 1.09 cr

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



A Source of Beauty
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NEWS BRIEFS

President goes to Barisal today

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will leave Dhaka today on a two-day visit to Barisal. The President will meet the local elite at the Barisal town hall today and plant a sapling at Durga Sagar and release fish fry in the Durga Sagar pond tomorrow, reports BSS.

Ctg Board SSC results tomorrow

The results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations of the Chittagong Education Board will be announced tomorrow. Prof Ahsan Ullah, Chairman of the Board, disclosed this while talking to UNB over telephone today.

Boat capsizes: 3 of a family drown

BARISAL, July 9: Three members of a family drowned when a passenger boat sank in the Arial Khan river in Babuganj thana of Barisal district yesterday afternoon. Babuganj thana police recovered the bodies of Rabeya Begum, 36, and her son Suman, 8, but failed to trace the body of her husband, Abdur Rashid. He is also feared dead. According to police, the boat capsized and sank when it was caught by a storm.

CMC reopens July 14

CHITTAGONG, July 9: The Chittagong Medical College (CMC) will reopen on July 14, a college press release said tonight. The decision was taken at a meeting of the academic council of the college today with Principal Syeda Nurjahan Bhuiyan in the chair. The hostels will be open to the students from July 13. The CMC was closed since due to June 30 following clashes between rival groups of students, reports BSS.

Power shortfall to reach 450 MW in winter

By Sharier Khan

An Energy Ministry committee on power generation, transmission, distribution, load shedding and its solution forecast an inevitable power shortfall of 450 MW in the coming winter, official sources said.

The committee headed by a joint secretary of the Energy Ministry recommended to the government to immediately initiate negotiations with private sector companies for setting up power plants, they added.

In its report, the committee comprising experts and officials of the Petrobangla and the Power Development Board (PDB) also suggested the government to augment gas production by drilling new wells where there are already proven reserves.

Currently, the power plants in the country are generating around 1800 MW against a peak demand exceeding 2000 MW.

According to PDB sources, some natural gas-based power plants were unable to go for optimum production due to short supply of gas.

The sources said that because of the huge demand for gas by the fertiliser factories, specially the KAFCO, the power plants were getting less gas supply.

Implementation of the Ashuganj-Bakhrabad pipeline project, which was initiated to improve the gas supply network in the country, has been delayed by a year, the sources pointed out.

"But our plants are also performing poorly," a PDB official said. "Even if we had the required gas supply to these plants, the power production could only reach 1975 MW, which is 25 MW less than the current demand."

Different private sector companies have expressed their keenness to undertake feasibility study for the 310 MW Meghnaghat power plant. But even if the study is undertaken immediately, it would take at least three years to complete the project, PDB sources pointed out.

British company Midland Power International will submit a feasibility report for a gas-based 110 MW power plant

later this month. It is conducting the study in Haripur.

Sources concerned pointed out that once agreement is signed between the Midland and the government, the company would set up a plant within 15 months.

Cairn Plc of Scotland, which discovered a huge gas field in February last in the shallow waters of the Bay of Bengal, will also submit a feasibility report for power plants after site survey in Baghabari, Haripur, Semutang and Barisal this month.

The Cairn has started its work to build platform, and plans a 50 km pipeline from the Shangu-1 well in Block-16 in the Bay. The company would submit its appraisal plan and development plan for the Shangu-1 well in December and declare it as commercial, the sources said.

The Cairn has also conducted a 1200 km seismic survey for hydrocarbon reserves in Sandwip with "very optimistic outcome," the sources said adding, it would also conduct a 1100 km seismic survey.

47 pc pass Comilla Board SSC exams Cadet colleges yet again dominate merit list

By Staff Correspondent

The results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations, 1996 under the Comilla Education Board were published yesterday.

The percentage of pass was 47.02.

The cadet colleges yet again dominated the merit list. Out of the top ten positions

cadet colleges captured nine, except the second place.

As many as 80,464 examinees appeared in the examinations under the board, of which 37,434 came out successful.

Of the successful candidates, 22,546 got first division, 15,137 second division

and 151 third division.

The percentage of pass in the Science Group was 66.59 while it was 30.47 in the Social Science.

In the Science Group, a total of 36,876 students sat for the examinations, of whom 24,554 passed.

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First: Habib-e-Rasul



Second: Amita Bikram



Third: Kamrul Hasan

Sudden credit growth in '95 mysterious: Kibria

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria yesterday questioned the economic achievements by the BNP government saying much of its claim does not reflect the true picture.

Speaking at a discussion meeting with members of the Economic Reporters Forum at the National Press Club, he alleged that there had been a mysterious increase in credits in the last year of the BNP government and said that much of the acclaimed domestic credit mobilisation was made by borrowing.

The finance minister pointed these out while noting a recent statement made by the secretary general of BNP Mannan Bhuiyan, blaming the AL government of mismanagement.

Kibria said there had been a sudden spurt in the growth of credit disbursement in the last year of the BNP government and questioned the quality and reason behind this sudden credit disbursement.

Giving out a comparative picture of credit growth, he said in 1991, it grew by 10.14 per cent, in 1992 by 7.25 per cent, in 1993 by 7.59 per cent, in 1994 by 3.84 per cent and in 1995 by 19.16 per cent.

"What is the mystery of this growth?" asked the finance minister. "Imagine how much of this loans will become bad debts. This abnormal jump in credit disbursement on the eve of the election. This was not done for the interest of the country. This answers the reason for inflation in the last year."

Kibria also said the reason for increased resource mobilisation in the ADP is failure of the BNP government in utilising foreign aid. The statement on domestic resource mobilisation is not objective. The ADP was financed from local resource by borrowing, he claimed saying this had increased the domestic debt of the government.

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General Science merit list

By Staff Correspondent

The following is the combined merit list of the Comilla Board General Science group 96

- 1st: Saad Habib-e-Rasul Mullah, Sylhet Cadet College (932) - seven letters (E. M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM)
- 2nd: Amita Bikram Deb, Sylhet Govt Pilot High School (928) - seven letters (B. M. G. Hind GS, AG-S, EM)
- 3rd: Mohammad Kamrul

Social Science merit list on page 2

- Hasan, Sylhet Cadet College (928) - seven letters (E. M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM)
- 4th: Md. Golam Aminul Mahbub Bhuiyan, Comilla Cadet College (919) - seven letters (E. M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM)
- 5th: Muhammad Sharif Ullah, Sylhet Cadet College (915) - seven letters (E. M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM)
- 6th: Md. Ahsanul Hoque Bhuiyan, Comilla Cadet College (912) - seven letters (B. M. G. IS, GS, AG-S, EM)
- 7th: Md. Oliur Rahman

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Top priority to ties with Riyadh, says Hasina

JEDDAH, July 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said that her government has initiated a move to give voting rights to the 60 lakh Bangladeshis working in Saudi Arabia and other foreign countries, reports BSS.

"My government is pondering very seriously on franchise to the Bangladeshis living abroad," Sheikh Hasina told Saudi Gazette in an exclusive interview.

The interview first ever to any Arab press since she took over the responsibility of the government was given at her Dhaka office and was published today on the front page with her photograph prominently.

Sheikh Hasina said her government gave top priority to Bangladesh's relations with Saudi Arabia and hoped that her current visit to the kingdom would "give a new sense of direction to the existing relations between Dhaka and Riyadh."

Sheikh Hasina said her government would take all possible steps to further consolidate and strengthen the relations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. "We will exchange ideas on issues of common Islamic, regional and international concern."

"We will encourage cooperation in the areas of investment, manpower training facilities, trade and commerce."

See Page 12 Col 1



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was received by acting Governor of Makkah and Western region Prince Saud Bin Abdul Mohsin on her arrival at Jeddah. — PID Photo

Law and order worsening, Khaleda tells Feni rallies

FENI, July 9: BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today said the patriotic people resisted all conspiracies against them in the past and also would stand to any such mischief in future, reports UNB.

"BNP would not allow any move against the interest of the nation and the country. It will foil all conspiracies," she said while addressing a series of public meetings in the district.

The former Prime Minister who now became leader of the Opposition in Parliament addressed 12 public meetings today during her day-long mass-contact tour of Chhagalnaiya, Parshuram and Fulgazi thanas of the district.

Speaking at the largely attended meetings, she said the BNP has a close link with the people and the soil of the country and its leaders did not have to visit foreign countries frequently.

"We always remained with the people during their sorrows and happiness and tried to improve their condition."

See Page 12 col 5

Changes in BNP hierarchy Khaleda prefers to go slow to avoid intra-party feud

By Nazmul Ashraf

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia is preferring to go slow with her plan to bring about changes in the party hierarchy as the appointment of a new secretary general has already resulted in dissatisfaction in a section of the party top notches, sources close to the party chief said.

Therefore, she (Begum Zia) seems to prefer risking no intra-party feuds among the party's senior leaders at this critical hour when she needs absolute support from all concerned to consolidate the party's strength and unity, an influential BNP leader remarked.

Begum Zia, who is also Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad, is still under-

cided on choosing leaders of the BNP parliamentary party (BNPP). But she is considering appointing Moudud Ahmed as deputy leader of the BNPP provided he wins the by-election in Laxmipur-2 constituency, according to sources concerned.

Nevertheless, the former prime minister is going ahead with her plan to recast the front organisations of the BNP. For this, she had already met the leaders of the party's youth and student front — Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal (JJD) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) — and assigned the party's new Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan to prepare lists of new leaders of the two fronts in consultation with all concerned, the sources said.

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Fund sought for agri subsidy in next budget: Matiya

By Reaz Ahmad

The Agriculture Ministry has put forward a set of proposals to the Finance Ministry seeking allocation of fund in the 1996-97 national budget for giving subsidy to the agriculture sector.

Disclosing this to The Daily Star in an interview yesterday Minister for Agriculture, Food, Relief and Disaster Management Begum Matiya Chowdhury however said, "Finance Minister will enjoy freedom in accommodating our proposals and discussions with donors will continue in this regard."

"Everything is still in an intermediary phase," Begum Matiya added. She mentioned that giving subsidy to agriculture, if necessary, was an election pledge of Awami League. Subsidy could be given through supplying agri-inputs and irrigation facilities at subsidized rates and through price support to



Begum Matiya Chowdhury

products, the minister said. She was, however, not in a position to say readily how much budgetary allocation will be required for the subsidy.

Mentionably, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria in letters on June 30 requested all ministries to put forward their re-

spective plans and suggestions so that those could be accommodated in the budget for the current fiscal.

The government is now working on the provisional budget for fiscal 1996-97, prepared by the caretaker government of Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman.

When her attention was drawn to the World Bank's position regarding agriculture subsidy, Begum Matiya cited examples of two other WB-supported countries — Pakistan and Indonesia — where subsidy is given to boost agricultural production.

"World Bank has its own set of principles. But there certainly remains scope for flexibility to accommodate our plan for giving subsidy to agriculture," said the Minister.

She observed that there was no scope for rigidity and that

See Page 12 Col 3

Fire damages flour, fodder mills in city

The government flour and fodder mills under the Food Directorate at Postagholia in the city was damaged in a fire yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

Official sources said fire started on the fifth floor of the mill No one at around 12.45 pm. It was, however, brought under control by the fire brigade personnel and workers and employees of the mills.

Food, Agriculture and Disaster Management Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury visited the place of occurrence. She directed the authorities concerned to take measures to start production in the mills as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, an enquiry committee headed by a direc-

See Page 12 Col 3

Flood situation improves as rivers fall further

Flood situation across the country is showing a sign of improvement as the water levels in the major rivers including the Ganges and the Brahmaputra are continuing to recede, reports BSS.

However, the Flood Information Centre officials said, the prevailing flood situation at three thanas of Munshiganj, three thanas of Manikganj and three of Dhaka (Dohar, Now abgan) and Keraniganj are likely to remain unchanged till today.

The centre in its forecast for next 48 hours said that the major river systems particularly the Ganges and the Brahmaputra would continue to fall.

The centre said yesterday afternoon that the Brahmaputra and the Ganges have registered further fall at all points.

In the Meghna basin in greater Sylhet, the Surma and the Kushiara recorded slight rises at different places of Sylhet and Sunamganj but the Manu has receded further in Sunamganj and other places.

The bulletin said, despite the recession of the major river systems, the Brahmaputra at Bahadurabad, the Ganges (Padma) at Bhagyal, Munshiganj, the Surma at Kanaighat and the Kushiara at Anahaid and Sheela, all in Sylhet were still flowing above their danger marks.

EC proposal to form electoral law reform commission soon

The Election Commission (EC) will soon put forward a proposal to the new government to form an electoral law reform commission for making the election rules suitable to present time and effective in the interest of fair election, reports UNB.

This was stated by Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena while inaugurating a workshop for district-thana election officials, TNOs, OCS and thana Ansar-VDP officers, organised by the electoral training institute in the city yesterday.

The CEC mentioned that there were limitations and inadequacies in the existing election laws and rules. "Some fundamental changes should also be considered," he said.

Abu Hena called upon the officials to conduct the forthcoming byelections in a free, fair, impartial and transparent manner.

According to the Election Commission Secretariat, the byelections in 16 vacated seats of parliament are likely to be held in the first week of September.

The CEC told the officials to keep themselves above all influences in holding the byelections impartially and ensuring transparent voting.

He urged the officials to enforce the election rules and regulations strictly. "Only existence of laws is not enough,"

See Page 12 Col 2

Shibir gheraoes CU VC's office

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 9: Several hundred Shibir activists gheraoed the office of the Vice Chancellor of the Chittagong University for five hours from 2 pm today, police said.

They also demonstrated in front of the VC's office and pelted stones damaging some window-panes to press home their demands.

According to campus sources, the telephone lines of the VC's office were cut off by the demonstrators who launched the attack when a Syndicate meeting was about to be held.

Police said the demonstrators dispersed after 7 pm and the situation was brought under control.

The Syndicate meeting was cancelled. The demands of the Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami, include allotment of hall seats as per its suggestion, improvement of food in the dining halls and increased accommodation in the dormitories, sources said.

The Syndicate meeting could also not be held on July 4 in the face of resistance by Shibir activists, police said.

Young man murdered in city

By DMCH Correspondent

One young man was murdered at Kazla under Demra thana in the city late Monday night.

Zahidur Rahman Chowdhury, 25, of Govindapur, Sanir Akra was fatally injured when a gang of about 15 unidentified people stabbed him in his head and legs. He was attacked while he was going to a relative's house at Kazla at about 11.45 pm. Zahid succumbed to his injuries on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

Zahid, son of Mahbubur Rahman Chowdhury, was the sports secretary of a local club, Agrani Jubo Sangha.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

Meanwhile, police recovered the body of an unidentified man, aged about 40, from Dholaiapur area in Demra thana early yesterday morning, police said.

Deep cut injuries were found in his neck, police said adding that the body was sent to the Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

Tuhin murder: 2 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Police yesterday arrested two persons in connection with the killing of Monirul Islam Khan alias Tuhin in the city's Mahakhali area.

Gulshan police arrested Khokor alias Manik from Baupara village in Bhawal Mirzapur under Gazipur district. Later, after his confession his associate Kiron Chandra Lal was arrested from Teigaon.

Tuhin, 27, was shot dead by an unidentified gang at his residence at the Roads on Highways staff quarters at Mahakhali around 2 am on Monday, according to reports.

Police were interrogating the arrested persons till last night.