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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1064.72 (+2.30%)
Market capital Tk 7228.42 cr
Transactions in volume 442229
Transactions in value Tk 6.97 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 445.08 (+1.14%)
Market capital Tk 4004.89 cr
Transactions in volume 19735
Transactions in value Tk 48.29 Lakh

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



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NEWS BRIEFS

Orientation course for AL MPs

A two-day special orientation course for the ruling party MPs begins today at the conference room of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban at 4 pm. Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the programme aimed at making the MPs aware about the parliamentary etiquette, said a press release yesterday, reports UNB.

Moon sighting body meets today

A meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee to ascertain the beginning of the holy month of Rabul Awal will be held at the Islamic Foundation head office at 7:30 pm today. Mulana Muhammad Nurul Islam, State Minister for Religious Affairs and president of National Moon Sighting Committee, will preside over the meeting, an official handout said yesterday, reports BSS.

Poura commissioner sent to jail

KISHOREGANJ, July 15: A magistrate court here today rejected bail petition of sitting pou-ra-commissioner who was arrested on Sunday. First Class Magistrate Shamim Sara Khan rejected the petition of pou-ra-commissioner and labour secretary of district BNP, Mohammad Nazamuddin Khan Choyon. He was sent to the district jail, reports UNB.

Hasina visits Quamruzzaman

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited ailing Awami League leader principal Quamruzzaman at the Shurwardi Hospital yesterday. The Prime Minister stayed some time beside the ailing leader and inquired about his condition, said a party press release, reports UNB.

Deputy Jailor, 11 others suspended 13 escape from Central Jail



The cross mark in the photo shows the spot where the prisoners scaled the boundary wall and escaped through the staffquarter gate in the foreground. — Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

Thirteen prisoners escaped from the Dhaka Central Jail in the early hours of Monday making a hole in the cell and scaling the high boundary wall.

The escapees include five convicted criminals serving 10 to 30 years prison terms for murder, dacoity, terrorism and possession of illegal arms and eight under trial prisoners accused of similar charges, police said.

According to a case filed with Lalbagh thana by Jailor Didarul Islam, the 13 inmates from Room No. one and two of Cell-15 of Block 2 fled between 3 to 4 am by making a 13 inch x 18 inch hole in the wall and scaling the 20 feet boundary wall beside the jail staff quarters with the help of a make-shift ladder.

The spot where they scaled the wall is very close to Lalbagh police station in the old part of the city.

The escapees ripped off a pair of about 15 feet long water pipes and made a ladder with iron bars cut off from the pipes and two 'cyn beri' (iron rod used for shackling dangerous criminals in the legs) and tied those with ropes made of new bed-sheets, police officials at the Lalbagh thana said showing the ladder to the newsmen.

Jail officials suspected that the prisoners came out from the cell through the holes and reached the rooftop of the jail building breaking the door of the staircase and then scaled the boundary wall.

The convicts who escaped are: Golam Azam of Tangail and Shamsul Islam of Mymensingh (both were serving 30 years), Mizan of Pabna (20 years), Khokon of Satkania, Chittagong and Ali Miah alias Ali Hossain of Keraniganj (10 years), police said.

The eight under-trial prisoners are Hawlader Md Kamruzzaman of Bhola, Abdul Berek of Barisal, Md Sayeed of Munshiganj, Shawkat alias Abdur Rahman of Moneswar Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Abdul Aziz of Savar, Selim Haider of Jharkhand.

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Gaibandha town under knee-deep water Flood situation in N-dists takes alarming turn

Flood situation took an alarming turn in the country's northern districts as rivers swelled with rain and deluge of water from across the border burst their banks inundating crops and many homes, reports UNB.

Several lakh people were hit hard, many of them reported marooned, according to reports from Kurigram, Lalmanirhat, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Bogra, Sirajganj, Jamalpur and Sherpur districts.

With heavy to moderate downpour, water level of some major rivers swelled further inundating fresh areas of the northern parts of the country.

Heavy to moderate downpour raised the water levels of some rivers during last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday. The Dharla, Brahmaputra, Punarhaba, Ganges and Surma were flowing above their danger marks at different points.

According to a Flood Information Centre bulletin, all these rivers excepting the Surma registered rise while the Surma fell during the period.

Gaibandha

In Gaibandha district, deluge of hill water and swirling water from river Ghagot flooded most parts of the district town yesterday worsening the overall flood situation.

District Relief Office said 25,000 people were marooned as the vast areas in Sadar, Sundarganj, Fulchhori and Saghata thanas were inundated due to rise of water level of nearby rivers.

The district town went under knee-deep water affecting most of the schools, offices and houses.

HSC Examination at Gaibandha Adarsha College centre has become uncertain as flood water also entered the classrooms of the centre.

Local people recovered the body of a child on the flooded Kodomtola road of the town.

Swirling flood water also submerged Fulchhori-Gaibandha road snatching the road communications of Fulchhori and Saghata thanas with the district headquarters.

Sirajganj

In Sirajganj, about a thousand thatched houses in 16 villages in sadar thana were destroyed overnight by swirling water from the Jamuna.

People of these char areas started moving out to the town by boats after the flood water through a breach in embankment entered the area Sunday midnight.

The villages include Shimlachar, Boyarpara, Khasboira, Moishakangla, Soyapara, Dougachhi, Chhotokara, Rehaiboni, Bedakona and Kewakola.

Situation in Kazipur, Chouhali, Sadar, Shahjapur and Raiganj thanas further deteriorated with the rise of the river water at Sirajganj point.

Lalmoinirhat

The overall flood situation deteriorated in Lalmoinirhat as fresh areas of Sadar and Aditmari thanas were submerged by the flood waters due to the

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Presidential polls on August 1

By Staff Correspondent

The Presidential election will be held on August 1.

The polling will take place at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban from 2 pm to 5 pm, according to an Election Commission gazette notification yesterday.

The Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena yesterday called on newly elected Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury at the Parliament Secretariat and finalised the schedule of the presidential election in consultation with him.

According to the schedule, nomination papers will have to be submitted to the Chief Election Commissioner from 8 am to 2:30 pm on July 22 which will be scrutinised the next day at 10 am.

The last date of withdrawing candidature is July 24 till 2:30 pm.

The gazette notification was issued as per provisions of Clause 5(2) of the President Election Act 1991, the EC said.

As per rules, the CEC will be the Returning Officer of the presidential election and the submission of nomination papers, scrutiny of the papers and withdrawal of candidatures will take place at his office.

According to Article 50 of the Constitution, the tenure of President is five years from the date of his takeover. As per the rule, the term of President Abdur Rahman Biswas will expire on August 1.

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President of Turkey to visit Sept 6

By Staff Correspondent

President of Turkey Suleyman Demirel is due to arrive in Dhaka on September 6 on a three-day state visit to Bangladesh, according to official sources.

The visit, is expected to further strengthen the existing bilateral ties and expand business cooperation between the two countries.

The Turkish President's entourage is likely to consist of 200 members, including top officials and leading businessmen.

Several advance teams are expected to arrive here before the visit of the President of Turkey which is the only OIC country to be a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

A meeting of the Turkish-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission will take place ahead of Demirel's visit.

Commerce Minister tells MCCI Dialogue with pvt sector soon to frame industrial policy

By Staff Correspondent

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed told a gathering of businessmen yesterday that his government had a target to double export earnings by the turn of the century.

Lasting the Awami League government's economic priorities, the Minister said that open market policy would be the guiding principle of the government's strategy.

"May be some of you are still suspicious about the AL that it could again nationalise industries. But I assure you nothing will be repeated," he said while meeting the members of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) at its conference hall.

Making a fervent call to the business community, Tofael sought the cooperation of them in running the affairs of the state and said that he would soon initiate a dialogue with the private sector to frame the new industrial policy of the country.

"We will run the state in accordance with the principles laid down in our manifesto as well as your suggestions and expertise," he said. "We can not do anything without your cooperation."

He also supported the idea of private sector government cooperation forwarded by the MCCI President Samson H Chowdhury who suggested establishment of a forum called with the National Economic Council with the Prime Minister as the chairperson and with the Ministers for Finance, Commerce and Industries, Foreign Affairs, Energy and Labour as its members.

Tofael said his government would act as facilitator and would remove all bottlenecks that impede business and investment.

"When the government starts behaving like a businessman, then all problems start including corruption, nepotism and politicisation. Politicisation is the root of destruction of a government."

He also assured that his government would not be a party government rather a 'people's government' and be guided by national consensus.

Advocating 'national consensus' he said, "the state can be run efficiently only by a co-ordinated wisdom. That is why we are propagating this." He also mentioned that soon after assumption of his office he talked to former finance minister Saifur Rahman to benefit from his knowledge.

During his two-hour long deliberation which was attended by past presidents of the chamber and heads of leading business houses including...

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Record number of relatives in 7th JS

By Nazmul Ashraf

The Seventh Jatiya Sangsad has a record number of members who are relatives.

They belong to the ruling Awami League, the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Jatiya Party.

The nature of relationship is couple, brothers, sisters, cousins, uncle-nephew, brothers-in-law and other types of in-laws.

Besides, the Seventh Parliament also has a good number of relatives of national leaders and prominent figures in various fields. Prime Minister and the Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition and former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia are among those who fall in this category of lawmakers.

In the present Parliament,...

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CAAB negligence UK now to reassess DARS proposal

By Inam Ahmed

The British Government has imposed a new condition of reassessing the refurbishment works needed for the Disabled Aircraft Recovery System (DARS), long in disuse, to determine whether it is still economic to do the work, according to sources concerned.

Britain had offered an outright grant requiring no counterpart funding by the government in 1994 for servicing of the DARS at a cost of two lakh pound sterling. But the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) had been dilly-dallying over the question of who is to bear the customs duty (CD) and VAT for the equipment and spares needed.

The Civil Aviation Ministry had cleared the issue on May 25 1996, and accordingly CAAB informed the British High Commission on June 13 that the required CD/VAT will be borne by the beneficiary.

But the High Commission promptly wrote back on June 19, "in view of the considerable time which has elapsed since we received the proposal for refurbishment of the DARS, it will be necessary to update the assessment of what is required, including whether refurbishment is still economic, before commissioning any work."

Following this letter, the local office of the Crown Agents, which acts on behalf of the British government in providing services, had written to its head office in London last week to expedite a visit by an engineer of the manufacturer to Bangladesh for reinspecting the DARS, Crown Agents sources said.

Meanwhile, talking to the Daily Star, a CAAB official said, "We have cleared the CD/VAT..."

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Pile driving work of JMB ends

BHUAPUR, Tangail, July 15: Work of pile driving of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB), a major substructural construction part of the project, ended today, reports BSS.

Communication Minister Anwar Hossain Manju attended the concluding ceremony celebrated by the construction workers of South Korean Hyundai Company.

British-Dutch company Nedco has been working as the consultant of the main bridge construction component.

Senior presidium member of the Awami League Abdul Mannan MP, Abdul Latif Siddiqi MP and Abdul Latif Mridha MP were present on the occasion as special guests.

In all 121 piles have been driven under the river Jamuna on which 48 piers will be set up to carry the load of 4.8 kilometre long and 18.5 metre wide bridge expected to be completed in December 1997.

The work of constructing guide bundhs on both ends of the bridge, as part of river training, the major component of the bridge project is going on.

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Five Central Asian nations to debut at Atlanta

ALMATY (Kazakhstan), July 15: The Olympics are a special source of pride on the Central Asian steppes this year, reports AP.

It's the first time the five little-known nations located between China and the Caspian Sea are competing on their own in the Summer Games.

Only huge Kazakhstan, which is sending a contingent of 97 athletes, but will thrill to the sight of the Turkmen flag on worldwide TV from the opening and closing ceremonies.

At the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, the independent former Soviet republics had to compete together one last time as the United Team — representing the Commonwealth of Independent States but still dominated by Russia.

This time they'll have their own flags and anthems.

Kazakhstan is four times larger than Texas and dwarfs any country in Western Europe. But the Olympics will be a rare opportunity for the nation of 17 million people to be in the world spotlight, albeit briefly.

"I believe our sportsmen now have more opportunities than in the Soviet Union," said Anatoly Saranin, sports chief in Kazakhstan's Ministry of Tourism and Sport.

The Kazak contingent, he noted, will be nearly five times the size of the 20-person team that was sent to Barcelona with the Unified Team.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan fielded small teams for the Winter Olympics for the first time in 1994, with a Kazak and Uzbek skier even winning medals. But the mostly flat, southern region seems more suited to summer sports.

A boxing contingent that traditionally was a backbone of the Soviet squad provides hopes for Kazak gold. Among the eight boxers, some are current champions of Asia or were medalists at the last world championships.

"It will be good for our country and our people. It's a great responsibility," said 23-year-old boxer Bulat Dzhumadilov.

Dzhumadilov was a winner at the Asian championships in 1994 and 1995 in the flyweight category and second at last year's world championships.

Akhteruzzaman Babu freed on bail

Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, a multimillionaire businessman from Chittagong, was released yesterday on bail in the sensational Humayun Zahir murder case, reports UNB.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Akhlakur Rahman Chowdhury granted the bail upto August 3 upon a bond of Tk 2 lakh and a lawyer's surety when he surrendered himself before the court.

The court also ordered Babu, who was an Awami...

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Hasanat Abdullah appointed Chief Whip of 7th JS

President Abdur Rahman Biswas appointed Abul Hasanat Abdullah, MP, as Chief Whip of the 7th Parliament, reports UNB.

His appointment took effect on June 26, said a PID handout yesterday.

President yesterday also appointed Professor Rafiqul Islam, MP, Vice-Principal, Md Abdus Shahid MP, SM Mostafa Rashidi (Suza) MP and Md Mizanur Rahman Manu MP, as Whips of the Seventh Parliament, the handout said.

The Changes of Office Address

Head Office of the Department of Environment, House # 02 (New), 380 (Old); Road # 16 (New), 27 (Old), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209 and Dhaka Divisional Office of the Department, 7/8 Block C, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207 have been shifted to Plot No: E/16, Poribesh Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 with effect from the 1st July, 1996.

All concerned are requested to contact with the new address:

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Environment
"Poribesh Bhaban"
Plot No-E/16, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207

D-744