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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1069.58 (-0.48%)
Market capital Tk 7194.56 cr
Transactions in volume 396021
Transactions in value Tk 8.94 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 441.90 (-0.71%)
Market capital Tk 3678.03 cr
Transactions in volume 18200
Transactions in value Tk 42.03 Lakh

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



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NEWS BRIEFS

**Siratunnabi (SM)
on July 29**

The moon of the Hijri month of Rabiu Alaw was not sighted yesterday anywhere in Bangladesh. The National Moon-sighting Committee at a meeting yesterday with its vice-president and secretary of the Religious Affairs Ministry Mohammad Abdul Hannan in the chair, decided that the month of Rabiu Alaw will be counted from tomorrow, July 18 and holy Siratunnabi (SM) will be observed on July 29, reports BSS.

**Faezul given charge
of textile ministry**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given State Minister for AK Faezul Haq the charge of Textile Ministry with the same status said an official handout last night, reports BSS.

**Rail link with
Dinajpur restored**

Train-communication between Dinajpur and the rest of the country was restored yesterday, official sources in Dhaka said. The communication was snapped due to landslide near Kaogaon railway station under Dinajpur-Parbatpur section caused by heavy rain and hill water from catchment area on Monday night. According to a Bangladesh Railway press release, movement of train through the track resumed at 11 am yesterday after completion of necessary repair works, reports BSS.

**Tenure of envoy to
Poland extended**

The tenure of contract appointment of Nazem Ahmed Chowdhury, Bangladesh's ambassador to Poland has been extended by one year, till July 4, 1997, says a government announcement.

More areas flooded as rivers rise further

The overall flood situation in the northern districts worsened yesterday with fresh areas going under water due to further swelling of rivers in the region, reports agencies. The Brahmaputra continued to rise at downstream points and the Ganges at all points, deteriorating flood situation across the country, according to a Flood Information Centre Bulletin.

Five rivers - the Dharla at Kurigram, the Brahmaputra at Chilmari, Bahadurabad, Sirajganj and Aricha, the Punarbhaba at Dinajpur, the Ganges at Goalundo and Bhagyalak and the Surma at Sunamganj - which were flowing above danger levels, registered further rise at most of the points.

As a result, almost all thanas of Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha and Dinajpur

districts, including Dinajpur Sadar thana and Gangachara, Kaunia and Pirkang of Rangpur district, Sariakandi, Sonatola and Shibganj of Bogra district, Kusirajbari in Kusirajbari thana drowned in the flood water yesterday morning.

Forty-five more villages were submerged while some portions of the flood-control embankments in Shahjadpur and Kazipur thanas gave in the swirling flood water.

With this, some 252 villages in Kazipur, Sadar, Belkuchi, Chauhali, Shahjadpur, Tarash and Raiganj thanas of the district were affected by the flood onslaught.

In Raiganj, a deluge of water from the rain-swollen Jamuna washed away two children inundating fresh areas in the district.

In Jamalpur, some two lakh people in 34 unions of Melaudaha, Dewanganj, Islampur, Madarganj and Sharishabari thanas were affected by the fresh spell of flooding. See Page 12 Col 1



Cuban Olympic campaigners sharing a light moment with Izzy, the official mascot of the Centennial Games, on their arrival at the Atlanta airport on July 15. **AFP/UNB photo**

Israel fails to block use of 'Palestine' at Atlanta



ATLANTA, July 16: The first Palestinian team in Olympic history will definitely compete under the name 'Palestine' at the Atlanta Games, reports AP.

The International Olympic Committee on Monday rejected a request by Israel's new right-wing government to block the use of the Palestine name.

"The IOC position is quite clear," IOC director general Francois Carrard said. "These sorts of requests to change the name we have already approved are purely last-minute political moves."

The Palestinian Olympic Committee was recognised by the IOC in 1993 following the peace accords between Israel and the Palestinians.

The designation of Palestine is perfectly consistent with the designation used by the United Nations, Carrard said. "That's our position and we stand by that position. We do not want to enter into any kind of political issue."

Israel's consul-general in Atlanta, Arye Mekel, sent a letter

of symbols of sovereignty. Israel's letter to the IOC suggested the team could be called Palestinian Authority, Palestinian Autonomy or Palestinian Delegation.

In May, Israel's elected a right-wing government headed by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is more determined than his predecessor to prevent any upgrading of the Palestinians' autonomy to statehood.

Israeli sources in Atlanta said there was never any threat of a boycott or other punitive action by Israel.

"We welcome the participation of the Palestinians," a source said. "However, this appearance should reflect the actual situation of the Middle East. There simply is no country as Palestine. If they appear as Palestine, it is an attempt to use the Olympics to seize some political gains."

Israel's national Olympic committee and Israel's member on the IOC, Alex Gilady, opposed the government move and stood by the IOC's decision.

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25 WARPO key posts vacant despite repeated reminder

By Mizan Ali

The Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO), the highest statutory body created four years ago to plan and advise the government on water resources management and development, is yet to build its organisational structure with its own experts and manpower.

The WARPO was mandated to be formed with multi-disciplinary teams of experts to give decisions regarding water resources development and management projects, according to sources in the organisation.

No project is supposed to get government clearance for implementation without approval from the WARPO, the sources told The Daily Star.

The WARPO was formed under the Water Resources Planning Act 1992 (Act 12 of 1992) and gazetted on April 18, 1992.

But the WARPO could not recruit its manpower even after repeated reminders from the ministry concerned according to sources in the organisation. Since its inception it is being run by personnel most of whom are on deputation from the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). As a result, it failed to

New telephone exchange opens in city today

A new digital telephone exchange with a capacity of 22,000 lines will be inaugurated at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city today, reports UNB.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim will formally inaugurate the exchange by talking to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over telephone, said a press release.

Under the exchange, 7,000 analogue telephones of 31 group will be converted into

Some 500 applicants including some Ph.D degree holders had applied for those 25 posts including one post of Chief Scientific Officer which is now being manned by a personnel having "ordinary educational background," the official added.

The water resources ministry sent at least five letters during the last six months to recruit personnel at the earliest, but no action has yet been taken, another official added.

In its last circular, the ministry urged the WARPO to build up its own manpower structure and end dependence on the BWDB, the official said.

The authorities in the WARPO said that recruitment of personnel would be considered after completion of the job distribution in the organisation.

M H Siddiqi, Director General of the WARPO, talking to The Daily Star, said, "the whole setup of the WARPO was in a mess when I took over as DG and it will take time to reorganise it," adding that the personnel would be recruited in due course.

Some officials however alleged that even after six months of merger of the two

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CID interrogates 15, no trace of jail escapees yet

Star Report

According to police sources.

Meanwhile two committees, one formed by the Home Ministry and the other by the jail authorities, started investigation into the incident.

The four-member home ministry committee, formed yesterday, is headed by an additional secretary Glashuddin Pathan. The committee visited the

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spot and talk to senior officials of the jail yesterday.

The three-member committee formed by the IG, Prison, was suspended immediately after the incident.

Talking to The Daily Star, a high official of the Home Ministry claimed that mismanagement inside the Dhaka Central Jail and serious flaws in planning of construction works inside gave the scope to the prisoners to escape.

Explaining the official said that adjacent to the boundary wall, tinshed houses have been constructed, electric polls have been erected and trees planted without maintaining 'safe distance,' as laid down in the jail code.

According to sources in the Home Ministry and the Directorate of Prison.

Ten persons including Deputy Jailer Subodh Ranjan Saha were suspended immediately after the incident.

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Both the committees have been asked to submit their reports within seven days, ac-

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Indian FM likely to visit Dhaka early Sept

Indian Minister for External Affairs Indore Kumar Gujral is expected to visit Bangladesh early September to discuss the water sharing issue and other bilateral disputes with his Bangladesh counterpart, reports UNB.

Foreign Office sources yesterday said that the date of the visit was yet to be worked out, but it was likely to take place in the first week of September.

IK Gujral, during his visit to Bangladesh in 1990, felt urgent necessity for early solution of all outstanding issues between Bangladesh and India in the interest of improving relations between the two neighbours.

He had told a press conference in Dhaka that effective steps would be taken to solve the Farakka and Chakma refugee problems 'as soon as possible.'

Foreign Minister Abdus

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Taka devalued by 15 poisa

By Staff Correspondent

The Taka has been devaluated by 15 poisa against the US dollar with effect from Monday, said a Bangladesh Bank press release yesterday.

Bangladesh Bank's buying rate for one US dollar from the market now stand at Taka 41.80 instead of the earlier Taka 41.65 and the selling rate is now taka 42 instead of the earlier Taka 41.85.

The press release said, "with a view to maintaining competitiveness of Bangladeshi exports and better return to wage earners, the Bangladesh Taka has been depreciated." This is the first time that taka has been devalued under the 24 day old AL government.

**Sub-jail for Ershad
near JS to cost
Tk 1 lakh a month**

Star Report

The shifting of jailed Jatiya Sangsad to a sub-jail near the Jatiya Sangsad would cost the government over Taka one lakh per month for its maintenance, said an official of the Home Ministry yesterday.

Ershad had been shifted to a house near the Jatiya Sangsad for the convenience of the administration to enable him to attend parliament sessions.

Security measures in and around the house has been tightened with round-the-clock vigilance.

Asked whether Ershad was

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Rathajatra today

The Rathajatra festival begins at Dharmrai today, reports BSS.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Md Zillur Rahman will attend the inaugural function of the festival at Madhab premises at 4 pm today as the chief guest.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Md Nurul Islam and State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Satish Chandra Roy will be special guests at the function which will be inaugurated by the chief guest.

Mayor of Dhaka Md Hanif will attend the Ulтарath function as the chief guest at the same place on July 25.

Hitting the Stands Soon

The Daily Star

special on Atlanta

Olympics

gorgeous pro-

duction in colour on

art paper and

imported newsprint

a 36-page

extravaganza on

the Greatest Show

on Earth for only Tk.

10.0