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**DSE MARKET**

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| DSE price index          | 1095.90 (+1.84%) |
| Market capital Tk        | 7441.73 cr       |
| Transactions in volume   | 591899           |
| Transactions in value Tk | 10.79 cr         |

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## All roads lead to Atlanta



**Atlanta 1996**  
 ATLANTA (Georgia), July 18: The Centennial Olympic Games open here tomorrow in a city of shifting landscape, where a carpark becomes sales tent overnight and the cash tills ring out loud in the temple of sport, reports AFP.

of the 26th Olympiad formally open. Organisers say hundreds of thousands of souls have made the pilgrimage to Atlanta where the high priest of the Olympic Movement, Juan Antonio Samaranch, reportedly said the Games were more important than the Catholic Church. The Olympics have a more tangible advantage. The Olympic Gods are alive and well and here in the flesh. We can see and feel their pain as they perform those superhuman feats that once every four years at the Olympic Games beguile the world. And the world has dumped its bags on Atlanta's doorstep to watch the show. The city is swamped with more athletes, officials, journalists and visitors than it bargained for. The Olympic Village is overflowing and hundreds of athletes and officials have been forced to stay in emergency accommodation. Journalists were lodged in shelters for the homeless. The International Olympic

Committee limited the number of athletes to 10,000 but two days before the opening ceremony 11,200 had already arrived here. Samaranch, the IOC president, and his often squabbling Olympic family have moved in and a tent city of camp followers have sprung up on every available space in the city. Atlanta's Olympic super-salesman Billy Payne, chairman of the Organising Committee, says the Games will be the biggest in history with athletes from 197 nations taking part, 28 more than in Barcelona four years ago. Two new sports, softball, beach volleyball have been added to the list of sports, forcing the Americans to spread the competitions beyond the traditional two weeks. The break-up of the Soviet Union and the emergence of new nation states has swelled the list of guests beyond the acceptable for a city like Atlanta, born in the last century and named terminus after the convergence of three railroads which was its

humble reason for being. What some see as shabby commercialism has been embraced with a passion by sharp Atlantans, denigrated by their neighbours as 'blowhards,' who like to call it 'the world's next great city.' 'I see the commercialisation of sports as the democratisation of sport,' said Andrew Young, an Atlanta who was the former US ambassador to the United Nations, and a member of the Organising Committee. A staggering one billion dollars will be spent in the city during the two weeks, according to economists. Taxis, hotels and restaurants are cashing in. Bottled water sells with 300 per cent mark-ups and dinners face 20 per cent service charges. Canadian Dick Pound, the IOC's marketing head, has hit out at the sea of white tents sprouting across the city, saying it will never be allowed to happen again. The IOC makes its money in other ways. Worldwide TV rights See Page 12 col 6

## Flood situation in N-dists, Dhaka worsens further

Flood situation in the northern region deteriorated further while fresh areas in Dhaka and adjoining districts were inundated yesterday, reports UNB. Most of the rivers continued to swell overflowing banks adding to the miseries of lakhs of the affected. Situation in most of the flood-affected districts in northern parts, including Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Sherpur, Jamalpur and Sirajganj worsened further with fresh areas being inundated. Five rivers — the Dharla at Kurigram, the Brahmaputra at Chilmari, Bahadurabad, Sirajganj and Aricha, the Ganges at Goalundo and Bhagyakul, the Karatoa at Panchagarh and the

Surma at Kanaighat and Sunamganj — were flowing above danger levels. The Ganges is likely to rise further and flood situation in Manikganj, Munshiganj districts, and Nawabganj and Dohar thanas of Dhaka may worsen. More areas of Rajbari, Faridpur, Madaripur and Shariatpur districts will be inundated. The flood situation in Lalmonirhat district deteriorated further due to the onrush of water for the rise of water level in Teesta and Dharla rivers. An old man, Syed Rahman, 55, died at Doubari village on Wednesday while a minor girl, Chandana Pal, reported drowned at Purba Dighaiti village at Panchagarh and the See Page 12 Col 3

## PM's directive for air-dropping of relief goods

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed air-dropping of relief materials in inaccessible flood-ravaged areas of the northern region, reports UNB. Touring the worst affected areas of Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts, Sheikh Hasina also announced donation of Tk 10 lakh from the PM's relief fund for each of the four flood-hit districts of Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Dinajpur and Kurigram for reconstruction of houses. The Prime Minister instructed the district administrations to make all efforts to provide food and shelter to the affected people. She also urged the well-to-do people to See Page 12 Col 4

## Myanmar insurgent killed in firefight with police

From Our Staff Correspondent  
 CHITTAGONG, July 18: Police shot dead one Myanmar insurgent and arrested two others in a gun battle in the Chittagong Hill Tracts on Wednesday. Police were informed by some sources that a number of insurgents of Myanmar had taken shelter in a Buddhist temple of Kaptali Para under Naikkhanchhari thana of Bandarban district. When police raided the temple to nab the insurgents, they tried to escape and started exchanging fire. One short machine gun. See Page 12 Col 4

## Ershad absent from JS session

Deposed president and Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad was absent from the House yesterday though he was given parole to attend Parliament, reports UNB. Ershad attended the opening session of the seventh Jatiya Sangsad on July 14. Party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju, when contacted at his office in the Parliament, expressed his ignorance about the matter. 'I have no knowledge of it. Only the authorities concerned can explain the position. Even I was not allowed to see him in a house where he is detained now. I have only read in the newspaper that Ershad is not taking food,' he said.

## Violation of rule alleged BNP, Jamaat walk out of Sangsad

By Staff Correspondent  
 The second day of first session of the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad (JS) yesterday witnessed a walkout by angry Opposition members from the House. The legislators of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) staged the walkout in protest against what they said violation of a rule of the JS Rules of Procedure and discrimination against them by the Speaker. Jamaat members also walked out at the same time, accusing the Chair of bias against them. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, however, denied the allegations. Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina and her colleagues in the ruling party defended the Speaker. Two Jatiya Party members who spoke on the occasion mildly criticised both the Awami League and the BNP in this regard. The trouble began when the Speaker gave floor to Home Minister Major (Retd) Rafiqul Islam to make a statement on the recent incident of 13 prisoners' escape from Dhaka Central Jail, at a time between the question-answer session and beginning of the order of the day. The BNP legislators insisted that the Chair could not allow a minister to make a statement before disposing of the adjournment motion. See Page 12 col 1

## President's address Most AL MPs against Motion of Thanks

By Reaz Ahmed  
 Most of the MPs at the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) meeting yesterday expressed their opinion against moving a Motion of Thanks to the President's address in the inaugural session of the 7th Jatiya Sangsad on Sunday, according to some MPs. The ALPP meeting was held at the cabinet room of Sangsad Bhaban before the House sat for its first Private Members' Day yesterday. The meeting, scheduled for 3 PM and delayed for half an hour, began as soon as ALPP Leader and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned to the capital from her North Bengal tour. ALPP sources told this correspondent that two 'significant points' were made in the See Page 12 col 5

## TWA jumbo explodes killing all 229 aboard

NEW YORK, July 18: A TWA jetliner with 229 people aboard exploded in a fireball shortly after taking off for Paris and plunged into the waters off Long Island on Wednesday night, apparently killing all the passengers, reports AP. Rescuers pulled burned bodies from the waters early today as an FBI terrorism team investigated what caused the jumbo jet to explode. 'It's too early to tell if it's a bomb,' FBI spokesman Jim Margolin said. Flight 800, a Boeing 747 bound for Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport from Kennedy Airport, exploded about 8:45 pm Wednesday (0045 GMT Thursday) and plunged into the ocean off Fire Island, a narrow strip of land 64 kilometers east of New York City that runs parallel to Long Island. Wreckage and fuel on the water burned for hours as helicopters hovered. A C-130 transport plane circled, dropping parachute flares to illuminate the scene. Overnight, rescuers used infrared night vision goggles to help spot bodies. Fresh crews were brought in at daybreak to relieve those that had been working through the night, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Phyllis Kay in Boston. By 7 am (1100 GMT) today, rescuers had pulled at least 80 bodies from the water, some of them burned beyond recognition. With a water temperature of See Page 12 col 6

## Our right to speak denied: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent  
 Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia has blamed the Speaker for 'not allowing her party's lawmakers to speak in the House and said 'We won't go back there until this issue is resolved.' The BNP chief was talking to some newsmen at the Parliament lobby shortly after her party staged a walkout from the House yesterday protesting the issuance of a statement by the Home Minister on the escape of 13 convicts from Dhaka Central Jail, before that disposal of adjournment motions on the incident. 'What shall we do in the House where our privileges as members of Parliament have been curbed. Today is private members' day whereas the Speaker allowed the minister to speak violating the Rules of Procedure. We have been denied our right to speak,' the Opposition leader said. After walking out of the House, Begum Zia held about one and a half hour exclusive talks with her senior party colleagues at her parliament chamber before she left at 7:50 pm. While leaving her office, the Leader of the Opposition told another group of newsmen that her party had decided not to attend the session for the day (yesterday). 'We've not come here (Parliament) only to sit idle. We have been elected to speak on people's problems,' she said, reiterating that the Speaker was repeatedly violating the Rules of Procedure. Justifying his decision of See Page 12 col 1

## 'Thumb showing' issue to be investigated

By Staff Correspondent  
 Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury yesterday informed the House that he had decided to send the issue of 'thumb showing' to the Privilege Committee for probing and would let the members of Parliament know about the committee's report later. During the inaugural session of the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad on July 14, the Speaker had assured MPs belonging to main opposition BNP that he would give his decision about their allegation of 'thumb showing' by ASM Rab, an MP and a Minister. Bringing allegations of showing his thumb in the House against Rab, BNP lawmakers had urged the newly-elected Speaker to ask Rab for an apology for the latter's indecent posture. Justifying his decision of See Page 12 col 5

## Rules to be amended before forming JS standing bodies

By Nurul Kabir  
 The Seventh Jatiya Sangsad will constitute some parliamentary standing committees during the on-going session, while the rest of the committees will be formed during the second session, sources in the caucus of the ruling Awami League's parliamentary wing said. Under the Rules of Procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad, it is obliged to constitute some standing bodies, such as Privilege Committee, 'at its first session.' The Business Advisory Committee, which is meant for deciding the agenda and length of a session and distribution of deliberation time among the members of the Treasury and the Opposition benches, would be constituted very soon as the national budget would be placed during the current session, said the Prime Minister's Advisor on Parliamentary Affairs Suranjit Sengupta. The standing committee on private members' bills would also be formed during the first session, Sengupta added. On the formation of standing bodies on the ministries, Rule 240 of the JS Rules of Procedure says: 'Parliament shall, as soon as may be, after the inauguration of each new Parliament, appoint the Standing Committee on each ministry.' 'We of course would go for constituting the standing bodies as soon as possible, but before that we have to amend the rules to accommodate the ruling party's election pledges of See Page 12 Col 3

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Plane crash: Biswas Hasina shocked**

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina condoled the deaths of more than 200 people in a tragic plane crash near New York. In separate messages to US President Bill Clinton, President Biswas and Prime Minister Hasina also expressed their sympathies to the bereaved family members and relatives of the victims, reports UNB.

**Khaleda to visit flood-hit areas**

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will leave for northern districts today on a three-day visit to the flood-hit areas. Begum Zia will first visit the flood-affected areas of Pabna and Bogra districts. Several central leaders of the party will accompany the BNP chairperson, reports UNB.

**Session adjourned till 4 pm Sunday**

The ongoing first session of the Seventh Parliament has been adjourned till 4 pm Sunday. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury announced the adjournment of the House at 9:12 last night after a stormy sitting for the second day, reports UNB.

**BANCON-2 returns home**

The second Bangladesh Contingent (BANCON-2) in the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) returned home by a special UN Chartered aircraft Wednesday night after a 10-month successful discharge of duties. The BANCON-2 comprised 45 officers, 24 JCOs and 423 troops of the Bangladesh Army as well as 10 navy and 10 BAF personnel, reports UNB.

**Gen Salam chief of Shooting Fed**

The government has appointed Major General (ret'd) Abdus Salam MP as the president of Bangladesh Jatiya Shooting Federation with immediate effect, an official announcement said yesterday, reports BSS.



President Abdur Rahman Biswas offering Fateha at the mazar of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara in Gopalganj yesterday. —PID photo

**Biswas offers fateha at Bangabandhu's mazar**

TUNGIPARA (Gopalganj), July 18: President Abdur Rahman Biswas flew in here this morning to pay his respect to the Late President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports BSS. President Biswas offered Fateha at the mazar of the Father of the Nation and prayed for the peace of the departed soul. Several hundred people, who assembled there on the occasion, joined him in the prayer. The President also placed wreath at the Mazar. Later addressing a spontaneous gathering, President Biswas said he felt honoured and lucky to pay his tribute to a person, who is the pride of the nation. He said the people of Tungipara are fortunate because the great leader was born and buried here. Describing Bangabandhu as See Page 12 col 3

**Prof Ahsanullah new DMC Principal**

By DMCH Correspondent  
 Prof. ABM Ahsanullah was appointed principal of the Dhaka Medical College (DMC) replacing Prof. MA Hadi yesterday. Before being appointed principal, Prof. Ahsanullah was Director of the Hospitals and Clinics. The outgoing Principal, Prof. Hadi has been given charge of Director of the Hospitals and Clinics, according to DMC officials. Prof. Ahsanullah, who passed MBBS from DMC, was the Head of the Department of Physiology of the college. Meanwhile, the Pro-BNP Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), in a press release last night, condemned the transfer of Prof. Hadi and appointment of Prof. Ahsanullah as the Principal. The JCD press release was signed by M Ashraf Alam Nipu, the joint secretary See Page 12 Col 4

## \$30m ADB-aided project for city slum dwellers

by Naimul Haq  
 The government is planning to undertake a 30-million US dollar slum improvement project to upgrade the living standard of the slum dwellers in Dhaka city, according to a high official of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). A trilateral agreement was signed at a negotiation meeting held at ADB headquarters in Manila in April this year. Signed between the Bangladesh government, ADB and consultants, this will be a five-year plan and will address some four lakh families living in nearly 3,000 slums in the city. This ADB-financed project consists of two parts — a five million dollar pilot housing programme and a 25 million dollar rehabilitation programme. The rehabilitation programme will involve infrastructural development, income generating schemes, vocational training, informal education, sanitation, EPI and health programmes. The pilot housing programme involves acquiring of land and building houses, he added. A factfinding mission from ADB made a 21-day study of the conditions in the slums in March 1995. An 18 member team of consultants arrived in May this year to work out the implementation strategy. They will work here till November this year. MA Gofran, Project Director of the Slum Improvement Project (SIP) of LGED, told The Daily Star that the work of the project was expected to start sometime in January. A meeting was held recently with Dhaka city corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif to discuss how best to coordinate implementation of the project, he said. According to a 1989 survey by Centre for Urban Studies, there were 2,156 slums in Dhaka city. As no other survey has been done since then, it has been roughly estimated that the number has risen to about 3,000 today. A statistical See Page 12 col 6

**LATEST FROM ATLANTA**  
 A roof for \$ 55,000 a night  
 Can't find a hotel for the Games and think that 55,000 dollars a night (750,000 dollars for the two weeks) is a fair price for somewhere to stay? Then there's just the place for you at Alpharetta, just outside Atlanta. Dean Gardens has a house, heliport, five-hole golf course, four servants and 50,000 tulips (sadly, not in bloom at this time of year). It's not been booked up yet, but the owner is hoping for a homeless Arab Prince.

**WATCH OUT!**  
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