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DSE price index	1109.16 (+0.85%)
Market capital Tk	7609.46 cr
Transactions in volume	454676
Transactions in value Tk	7.70 cr

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Dhaka EPZ to be expanded Another EPZ will be set up in Gazipur

The government has decided to set up a new export processing zone (EPZ) by acquiring 500 acres of land in Gazipur near Dhaka to meet the increased demand for setting up export-oriented industries by investors from both home and abroad, reports BSS.

The decision was taken in principle at the 10th meeting of the Governing Board of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) at the Prime Minister's Office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

In the proposed EPZ area, 200 acres of land will be primarily developed as infrastructure for establishing new industries. The total cost for development of 200 acres of land

and acquiring 500 acres has been fixed at Taka 70 crore. Besides, decision was taken to acquire 214.34 acres of land to expand the existing Dhaka EPZ and the BEPZA has been directed to send a project profile in this regard to the Planning Commission for the consideration of the ECNEC.

The total cost of expansion of Dhaka EPZ will be Taka 60 crore including Taka 34.24 crore for land acquisition, Taka 24.30 crore for development of physical infrastructure as well as roads, bridges, culverts, electricity, gas, water supply and telephone facilities and Taka 1.45 crore for electric materials. The construction work of the project is to begin in July this year and expected to end in June 1999.

The meeting expressed the hope that foreign investors would be more interested in establishing industries in this country if adequate facilities were ensured through expansion of the existing Dhaka EPZ and establishment of the new one in Gazipur.

Members of the governing board Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nooruddin Khan, Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rob, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, industries

See Page 12 Col 7

JS to discuss President's address Treasury Bench refuses to move motion of thanks

A discussion on the presidential address at the inaugural session of the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad will take place in the House, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said last night following a lengthy legal and political debate.

The mechanism for the discussion would be decided at a meeting of the JS Business Advisory Committee soon, the Speaker told the House.

"It is my constitutional obligation to allow the members of parliament to discuss the presidential speech, but I cannot compel any member to move a vote of thanks on the speech," Chowdhury said, adding, "I will work out the mechanism for the discussion at a meeting of the JS Business

Advisory Committee."

The Chair gave this ruling after a lengthy debate in the House following BNP legislator K M Obaidur Rahman's contention about the "ruling party's failure to move a motion on vote of thanks on the presidential speech" delivered in the House by Abdur Rahman Biswas on July 14 last.

Concluding the debate, Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said she had no objection to a discussion on the presidential speech. She, however, observed that it was impossible for her party to move the motion on the vote of thanks.

Quoting the relevant article of the Constitution, Sheikh Hasina said: "The President is

bound to address the Sangsad in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, but he refused to read out the speech prepared by the government."

"The President has made his own speech, instead of making a policy statement of the government. We, therefore, disown the speech," she said.

The Prime Minister further said, "It is the constitutional obligation of the House to discuss the speech, but there is no compulsion that the ruling party has to move the motion. If the Opposition moves the motion, we can discuss the speech."

Rising on a point of order, BNP member Obaidur Rahman

See Page 12 Col 4

JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

A friendly atmosphere prevailed in the House yesterday as a good number of lawmakers from the Treasury and the Opposition benches were found gossiping among themselves during an interval.

During the 15-minute break from 6 pm, BNP legislators including Salahuddin Kader Choudhury, Maj (ret'd) Akhteruzzaman, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Joyal Abedin Faruk, AYM Khalilur Rahman and Shamsul Islam Khan were seen 'crossing the floor' to talk to several ministers and other Treasury benchers for quite some time.

The legislators, forgetting their political rivalry, shook hands, laughed and even embraced each other resulting in a very friendly atmosphere in the House.

With the announcement of the Speaker's arrival, the BNP

See Page 12 Col 4

MCCI team meets Prime Minister Govt urged to withdraw subsidy from non-profiting sectors

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday called upon the government to withdraw subsidy from the non-profiting sectors of the government and fix some priority sectors like infrastructure, power generation and telecommunications for speedy growth of the national economy, report agencies.

The call came when an 18-member delegation of MCCI led by its president Samson H Chowdhury called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office here yesterday.

Sheikh Hasina assured the delegation that her government would take all necessary measures for speedy industrialisation and flourishing of trade and commerce in the country.

Obstacles to industrialisation will be removed, she told the delegation.

Referring to opening of two more telephone exchanges in the capital, the Prime Minister said telecommunication system in Dhaka, Chittagong and Narayanganj would be improved within next three months.

The extension work of Chittagong seaport is progressing fast and steps will be taken soon to increase power generation in the country, she added.

She lamented that in the last five years there was no investment in power sector and nothing was done to increase generation of electricity.

Hasina informed the business leaders that in line with the trend of the past caretaker government she was meeting with her ministers everyday to take stock of the development and progress of the country.

The MCCI delegations expressed concern over the law and order situation and other problems, and put forward various suggestions to the Prime Minister to gear up economic activities.

The business leaders suggested formation of group committees of various ministries for better coordination which, they said, would increase both local and foreign investment.

They identified labour unrest and low productivity of workers in industries and irregularities in banking sector as major obstacles to investment in Bangladesh.

The MCCI delegation recommended that subsidy to different sectors be brought down and subsidy be given for phosphate and sulphate fertiliser.

See Page 12 Col 8

Privilege body 'Inclusion of Leader of Opposition is a convention'

By Staff Correspondent

Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah has said 'inclusion of Leader of the Opposition' Begum Khaleida Zia in the Privilege Committee was in accordance with the convention.

"It would be unconventional had she not been taken in the committee," he said clarifying an issue raised in the House on Wednesday. BNP lawmakers had protested that Begum Zia was not consulted before the constitution of the committee.

Talking to newsmen yesterday at the Sangsad Bhaban office of Suranjit Sengupta, Parliamentary Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister, the Chief Whip said, "due to delay caused in constituting the standing committee, we repeatedly requested for names from BNP. They (BNP) have already let us know some names

See Page 12 Col 2



Ireland's golden girl Michelle Smith shows her gold medal after winning the women's 200m medley with a time of 2 minutes 13.93 seconds in Atlanta on July 24. — AFP/UNB photo

Ugly row over Smith's golds

ATLANTA, July 25: Triple gold medallist Michelle Smith, centre of an ugly swimming row between Ireland and the US over doping, was cleared today when the first round of drug tests from the Atlanta Olympics were announced, reports Reuter.

But Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco and Italian high-jumper Antonella Bevilacqua were likely to be banned from the Games after positive drug tests, athletics officials said.

The International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) was expected to decide at a meeting of its council that Capobianco and Bevilacqua had broken the sport's rules on doping. They both had positive doping tests last May.

Smith, who has faced tough questioning after dramatically

improving from the Barcelona Olympics where she finished nowhere, insisted after her 200 metres individual medley: "no, I have never used performance-enhancing drugs."

"If the International Olympic Committee medical commission has nothing to report, it means there is no dope case," said IOC spokeswoman Michele Verdier.

"We are not responding to rumours. We are just responding to fact, to proven fact," she told reporters.

In a message to Smith, Irish president Mary Robinson said:

See Page 12 Col 8

American Janet Evans implied there was concern that Smith's remarkable performances may not have all been due to natural talent. Irish team officials said they were led up with "a vicious campaign of innuendo."

But the first round of doping test results from the Centenary Games did not include her name.

"The International Olympic Committee medical commission has nothing to report, it means there is no dope case," said IOC spokeswoman Michele Verdier.

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In a message to Smith, Irish president Mary Robinson said:

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Blue Panel sweeps DU Syndicate, Academic Council polls

Pro-Awami League Blue panel has swept the teachers' representative election to Dhaka University Syndicate, Academic Council and Finance Committee bagging 12 posts out of 13, reports UNB.

The rest one went to pro-BNP White panel from Associate Professor category to represent the Academic Council.

Dhaka University Treasurer M Shamsul Haq yesterday conducted the election at TSC on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, said a press release.

All the six posts to represent the Syndicate from different categories were captured

See Page 12 Col 3

Tk 2.78cr foreign currency notes in Biman crew bag

Foreign currency notes worth about Tk 2.78 crore were recovered from the bag of a Bangladesh Biman crew at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) late Wednesday night.

The notes including US dollar, USD travellers cheques (TC), Pound Sterling, Saudi Riyal, Deutsch Mark and UAE Dirham were found during the scanning of bags of crews of Biman flight BG-007 at the first floor of the departure lounge of the ZIA at 11:30 pm Wednesday, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB).

However, the bag was not claimed by either any Biman

crew or passenger of the flight, CAAB and Customs sources said. The flight was scheduled to take off for London via Dubai at 12:15 am.

The recovered notes included 3.03 lakh US dollar, 19.95 thousand USD in TCS, 12.55 thousand Pound Sterling, 11.21 lakh Saudi Riyal, 4.32 thousand Deutsch Mark and 33.3 UAE Dirham, the CAAB sources added.

A CAAB press release last night said that on suspicion the bag was scanned twice while the security operator on duty at the post informed the matter to the shift security of-

See Page 12 Col 3

PM may visit China in mid-Sept

From M Anwarul Haq

BEIJING, July 25: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to pay a state visit to China sometime in mid-September this year, highly-placed official sources said here today.

Discussions on the details of Sheikh Hasina's visit were held during the two-day bilateral consultations between the governments of Bangladesh and China on Tuesday, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan headed their respective delegations at the consultative meetings here.

The exact date of the Bangladesh Prime Minister's visit would be decided after mutual consultations, the sources said.

The PM's visit to China is expected to be the first state

See Page 12 Col 7

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

যোগাযোগ মন্ত্রণালয়
সড়ক ও রেলপথ বিভাগ

নং সওরে/বিচারিটিএ/৩এম-৪/১৬-১৫৯ তারিখঃ ২৫-৭-৯৬ ইং

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয় : মোটর ভেহিক্যালস অর্ডিন্যান্স, ১৯৮৩ সংশোধন

বর্তমানে প্রচলিত মোটর ভেহিক্যালস অর্ডিন্যান্স, ১৯৮৩ সমন্বয়যোগ্য ও আধুনিকীকরণের লক্ষ্যে উক্ত অর্ডিন্যান্স রিভিউ করে প্রয়োজনীয় সুপারিশ প্রদানের নিমিত্তে সরকার, যুগ্ম-সচিব (রেল), সড়ক ও রেলপথ বিভাগ-এর নেতৃত্বে একটি কমিটি গঠন করেছেন। এ কমিটি ইতোমধ্যে কাজ শুরু করেছেন। মোটর ভেহিক্যালস অর্ডিন্যান্স, ১৯৮৩ তে প্রধানতঃ (১) বাংলাদেশ রোড ট্রান্সপোর্ট অথরিটির গঠন, দায়-দায়িত্ব, ইত্যাদি (২) মোটর ভেহিক্স লাইসেন্স (চালকের দক্ষতা, লাইসেন্স ইস্যু/নবায়ন, ইত্যাদি) (৩) বাস কন্ডাক্টর লাইসেন্স (ইস্যু/নবায়ন, ইত্যাদি) (৪) মোটরবাস (রেজিস্ট্রেশন, ফিটনেস সার্টিফিকেট ইস্যু/নবায়ন, ইত্যাদি) (৫) পরিবহণ যানের পারমিট (কেট পারমিট ইস্যু/নবায়ন, ইত্যাদি) (৬) মোটরবাস নির্মাণ ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ (৭) ট্রাফিক নিয়ন্ত্রণ (পার্কিং, গতিসীমা, ট্রাফিক সাইনস-সিগন্যালস, রাস্তার প্রতিবন্ধকতা, ওভার সোভি: ইত্যাদি) (৮) দেশে সামরিকভাবে মোটরবাসের আশ্রয় ও নির্মাণ (৯) মোটরবাসের বাস সড়ক দুর্ঘটনার আহত-নিহতদের ক্ষতিপূরণ (১০) অপরাজ (জরিমানা, কারাদণ্ড), ইত্যাদি বিষয়ের আইন সুল্লিবেশিত রয়েছে।

উক্ত বিষয়সমূহের অথবা মোটরবাস সংক্রান্ত অন্য কোন বিষয়ে আইন প্রণয়নে পরামর্শ/সুপারিশ (যদি থাকে) ৩১-৭-৯৬ তারিখের মধ্যে কমিটির সভাপতি অথবা সদস্য-সচিবের নিম্নে প্রদত্ত ঠিকানায় প্রেরণ করার জন্য আগ্রহী ব্যক্তিগণ/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মেজর আব্দুল আলম হুইরা (অবঃ)
পরিচালক (ইঞ্জি)
৬
সদয়-সচিব
মোটর ভেহিক্যালস অর্ডিন্যান্স, ১৯৮৩ রিভিউ কমিটি
পূর্বাত গারোপাট রোড, এলএসসি
জেলাঃ ঢাকা-১২৩৫
ফোন : ৩৫৪৪৪৪

আতাউর রহমান
যুগ্ম-সচিব
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অতিরিক্ত
মোটর ভেহিক্যালস অর্ডিন্যান্স, ১৯৮৩ রিভিউ কমিটি
সড়ক ও রেলপথ বিভাগ
কক্ষ নং-১১০, ভবন-৭
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা
ফোন : ১৬৪৪০০

ডিজিটাল-১৬৪৫১-২৫/৭
১৬-১৬৫

Embankments along Meghna under threat

Flood situation in the country's upstream northern region improved further yesterday with fall of water levels in the major rivers but deteriorated in the downstream districts, reports BSS.

The Flood Warning Centre yesterday warned that embankments and other flood control structures along the Meghna are in 'threat' and urged the concerned officials to remain alert to avoid casualties or damage.

According to a Flood Warning Centre bulletin in the city as the water level is receding in the rivers Jamuna and Brahmaputra, flood situation in Bogra, Greater Pabna, Jamalpur and Tangail will continue to improve.

But the situation would continue to worsen in Manikgonj, Dhaka and Munshiganj districts in the next two days,

while more areas in and around Dhaka and Narayanganj would be inundated.

As the flood water is coming downwards the flood situation in greater Faridpur, Narayanganj and Kishoreganj would also deteriorate the next two days, it said.

Meanwhile, erosion by river Jamuna in Jamalpur and Sirajganj took an alarming turn.

The erosion by the river devoured 11 villages in Islampur thana in Jamalpur in the last two days.

According to unofficial sources, some 25,000 people have been rendered homeless in the villages - Shildaha, Shilertur, Charbarun, Goslerduba, Manjabaru, Pakumari, Nandanapara, Kodalar Dhoajorjeb, Kathma and Sirajganj. Officials said the water

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The election of teachers' representatives to the Syndicate, Academic Council and the Finance Committee of the Dhaka University was held at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of the varsity yesterday.

Tutsi-led army takes over in Burundi

BUJUMBURA, Burundi, July 25: Several Burundian politicians took shelter in the German ambassador's residence Thursday after an apparent coup by the Tutsi-led army forced the country's Hutu president to flee his palace, reports AP.

President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya remained at the residence of US ambassador Morris Hughes Thursday, an embassy spokesman said. An aide to the president vowed Ntibantunganya would not resign.

The streets of the capital were calm, with the main market open and busy and

people going about their business.

"The most important thing right now is to make sure the population in Burundi will not start killing each other," Mames Bansubiko, a close adviser to Ntibantunganya, said Wednesday.

Ntibantunganya (pronounced En-tee-bahn-ton-gan-yah) sought refuge with the US ambassador late Tuesday after Tutsi paratroopers surrounded government buildings in the capital, Bujumbura.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Foreign Min-

See Page 12 Col 1

'Bribery hits US efforts to widen market'

WASHINGTON, July 25: US Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor said yesterday that bribery and corruption are undermining efforts to open markets to more US goods and vowed to tackle the problem, reports Reuter.

"Business leaders I have met around the country have told me, almost without exception, that the number one issue they are concerned with in international trade is corruption," Kantor said in a speech prepared for delivery to the Detroit Economic Club. A copy of the speech was made available in Washington.

"Where corruption and

bribery occur, they are serious impediments to political and economic development," Kantor added. "They distort trade and investment. They waste resources. They subvert fair trade."

He spoke of European firms that used bribes to cut US firms out of a 2 million US dollars telecommunications deal in Asia and a 4-million dollars telecommunications contract in Latin America. He did not name firms or officials.

A European firm also beat a US competitor out of a 3 billion dollar car deal in the Middle East by paying off officials, Kantor said.

LATEST FROM ATLANTA

Strippers disappointed

Exotic dancers in Atlanta's strip clubs had hoped a horde of Olympic dollars would be stuffed into their G-strings. But like many other high hopes of a cash-in of Olympian proportions, those who work in the Cheetah Lounge have been disappointed. "Dead, dead, dead," said stripper Allison Dietrich, 22, who came here from Tampa, Florida, to work during the Summer Games. "I'm used to 1,000 dollar a night. The most I made in one night is 400 dollar. If business doesn't pick up, I'm going home."

The Cheetah, located a short walk from downtown Atlanta, had even printed up printed fliers with the house rules in German, French, Spanish and Japanese. But instead of crowds, employees have sometimes outnumbered patrons since the Games started.

Atlanta 1996
OFFICIAL SOFT DRINK
1996 OLYMPIC GAMES