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DSE price index 1156.17 (+0.75%)
Market capital Tk 7932.05 cr
Transactions in volume 700969
Transactions in value Tk 14.07 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 467.94 (+1.63%)
Market capital Tk 4263.99 cr
Transactions in volume 54540
Transactions in value Tk 1.87 cr

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NEWS BRIEFS

PM starts southern dists tour today

By Staff Correspondent
Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to start a two-day tour of the five southern districts of the country today. According to a party press release during her visit to Khulna, Bagerhat, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur districts, the Prime Minister would also visit the flood affected areas of the region.

Minor boy killed

By DMC Correspondent
A minor boy was killed when a pile of bricks fell on him at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday. Shumon 3, was playing when the accident occurred at about 8 am. He died on the spot, sources said.

RU first yr honours class from Aug 3

From RU Correspondent
RAJSHAH, July 31: The first year Honours classes (Session-95-96) of Rajshahi University will begin on August 3, a varsity press release said.

Labourer killed in wall collapse

By DMCH Correspondent
A labourer was killed when an under-construction brick wall collapsed on him near Sadarghat in the old part of the city in the morning. The victim, Mohammad Zamil Hossain, 50, was fatally injured and died on the way to the DMCH hospital sources said.

AL, BNP exchange accusations

Pandemonium in JS averted

By Staff Correspondent

The general discussion on the supplementary budget for 1995-96 fiscal in Jatiya Sangsad yesterday turned into a competition of political oratory between the Awami League and BNP legislators, who severely criticised each others party for various past misdeeds — both political and economic.

The accusation and counter accusation eventually led the Sangsad almosts to a state of pandemonium that made Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury adjourn the sitting for "five minutes" to bring back order in the House.

But the session resumed 80 minutes after it was adjourned

at 8:30 pm. Meanwhile, the Speaker had a meeting with Chief Whip of the Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah and Chief Whip of the Opposition Khandaker Delwar Hossain at the former's chamber.

Before giving the floor to anyone after resumption of the session, the Speaker told the House that no member should make any statement in Parliament hurting the religious sentiment of any legislator. He also asked the members to behave according to the dictates of the Constitution and the JS Rules of Procedure. He also announced that he would expunge all the unpatri-

liamentary words used so far by MPs of both sides.

The House reached the state of pandemonium when Shamsuzzaman Dudu of the BNP, referring to a statement made by ruling Awami League MP Dharendra Debnath Shambhu, said "Only a Hindu could compare Bangabandhu with the holy Quran."

With the utterance of the word "Hindu", the Speaker asked the member to stop immediately. "Otherwise you would be ousted from the House," he said. The Speaker further said that he would not allow anyone to make any derogatory remark on any religious group.

See Page 12 Col 3

Tk 100cr agri subsidy a farce: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday termed the Tk 100 crore agricultural subsidy proposal in the budget a farce taking into account the ratio of the total amount and the number of farmers in the country.

JS to debate on fertiliser crisis during BNP rule

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of both ruling Awami League and opposition BNP, after a brief debate in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday agreed to have a discussion on fertiliser distribution during BNP rule.

The debate ensued as BNP deputy Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan refuted a statement by Industries and Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed on fertiliser distribution during BNP rule, immediately after the house resumed at 11:20 am with Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury in the chair. See Page 12 Col 8

In a press statement, the BNP leader pointed out that there were four crore farmers in the country for whom the amount of the proposed subsidy was insignificant.

Referring to the finance minister's proposal to provide subsidy for purchase of agricultural equipment, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan asked: "How many farmers in Bangladesh use machinery? The marginal and middle poor class of farmers do not buy machines."

He further added, "the farmers expected that inputs like fertilisers, seeds and insecticide will be subsidised."

He criticised the Finance Minister saying that the budget speech tried in vain to undermine the economic achievement of the BNP government by presenting false information.

Mannan Bhuiyan noted that the finance minister in his speech said that the per capita income of the country in 1994 was 220 US dollars, whereas, as per the Bangladesh Economic Review 1996 of the finance ministry, the per capita income was 180 US dollars. See Page 12 Col 8



KS Nabi new Attorney General

Senior lawyer of the Supreme Court Barrister Kazi Shahidun Nabi (KS Nabi) has been appointed Attorney General, an official announcement said yesterday, reports UNB.

The President gave the appointment until further order in exercise of the constitutional power bestowed upon him under Article 64, according to the announcement.

KS Nabi replaced M Nurul Islam who had earlier tendered his resignation after the last general elections that brought the Awami League to power. The government had accepted the resignation letter of Nurul Islam. His resignation took effect from June 23, 1996.



Water logging in a city road after yesterday's shower.

— Star photo

PM assures visiting delegation All bottlenecks to be removed for Japanese investment

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said measures had been taken to create congenial atmosphere for foreign investment in the country and hoped Japan would make substantial investment in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

"We have been trying to institutionalise democracy and efforts are being made to improve law and order to create investment-friendly atmosphere," she told a Japanese economic mission which called on the Prime Minister at her office yesterday morning.

She informed the six-member delegation that certain steps had been taken in this regard. "Positive steps have been taken to attract foreign investment."

Welcoming the Japanese high powered team, led by Ushio Unwotoko, Chairman of the Japan-Bangladesh Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation and Toyo Engineering Corporation, Hasina recalled with gratitude

Japanese role in reconstruction of the war-ravaged Bangladesh.

"Japan stood by during the Liberation War of our country," she said and hoped that the friendly country, Japan, would come forward to make larger investment in Bangladesh.

"We give special emphasis on Japanese investment here. All existing bottlenecks will be removed," she told the economic mission and hoped that they, on return, would identify the fields where Japan can invest.

Hasina further informed the mission that the Board of Investment (BOI) would frequently meet to create an atmosphere attractive to foreign investment.

Reciprocating, the mission leader said, "We are glad to observe the keenness of the government and business community" here and informed that fruitful discussions had taken place during meetings with the Foreign Minister, Finance Minister and President

of the FBCCI.

He further said the delegation members observed that the new administration provided in the budget sufficient incentive on foreign investment and improvement of infrastructure.

During a meeting with Finance Minister SAMS Kibria at his office, Uwatoko praised the government for taking steps for attracting foreign investors.

"This will pave the way for economic development of Bangladesh," he said.

The Finance Minister apprised the Japanese mission of the present government's steps for creating congenial and favourable atmosphere for foreign investors. Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed at a discussion yesterday told the delegation that the government will enact laws very soon to establish new Export Processing Zones (EPZs) under the private sector in Bangladesh so that investors. See Page 12 col 6

Taka devalued again

By Staff Correspondent
The Taka has been devalued against the US dollars again by 25 poisa, effective from today, said a Bangladesh Bank press release yesterday.

With the new round of devaluation, Bangladesh Bank's buying and selling rates to and from banks have been redixed at Tk 42.05 and Tk 42.25 respectively per US dollar.

This is the second time that the Taka has been devalued since the AL government came to power. The last devaluation was made on July 14 when the Taka was adjusted downward by 15 poisa against the dollar.

JMBA (Amendment) Bill '96 placed

A Bill seeking amendment to some articles of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority Ordinance 1985 was placed in Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain tabled the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (Amendment) Bill 1996 for smooth implementation of the bridge project and proper maintenance.

The bill articulates the power of the bridge authority for its proper construction, removes the possible legal hurdles on way to discharging the authority's duty and ensures steps for its proper maintenance and management.

Airport Rd most accident-prone in Metropolis

By Staff Correspondent

The Airport Road in the city is most accident-prone road in the metropolis, according to a computerised data analysis made by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

The DMP introduced computerised data management system for monitoring road accidents in the city roads a year ago. DMP Commissioner Mohammad Salam said at a press briefing at the DMP headquarters here yesterday. The press briefing was also attended by senior officials of the DMP.

Presenting an overall picture of the city traffic situation, Salam hoped that the new

ALPP meets on budget discussion

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) yesterday discussed in brief the ways and means to make the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad (JS) an effective one, sources in the party said.

In an hour-long meeting, held at the cabinet room of the Sangsad Bhaban, the ALPP also discussed the strategies regarding AL's participation in the discussion in the House on the proposed budget for fiscal 1996-97 and the supplementary budget for 1995-96 financial year.

Chaired by Prime Minister and ALPP leader Sheikh Hasina, the meeting

By-elections: AL interviews candidates Aug 3

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League Parliamentary Board (ALPB) will take interview on August 3 of the candidates, who have sought AL tickets for the September 5 by-election.

Seventy candidates submitted their applications yesterday seeking nomination for election to the 16 Jatiya Sangsad seats. The candidates have been asked to appear before the 11-member ALPB headed by party chief Sheikh Hasina at the AL central office at 9 am on Saturday.

On Tuesday, some 77 aspirants collected application forms from the party office at Bangabandhu Avenue.

Of the 16 JS seats, where by-election is due, AL won 5 BNP 6 and Jatiya Party 5 in the June 12 elections.

Bubka pulls out of Games



UNIQUE UNION: Russian gold medalist Alexei Nemov shares a light moment with tiny American star Dominique Moceanu during a gymnastic gala at the Georgia Dome on July 30.

— AFP/UNB photo



Atlanta 1996

ATLANTA, July 31: The Olympic pole vault was hit by a double sensation here today as world champion Sergei Bubka withdrew from the competition while arch-rival Okkert Brits crashed out after no-heighting, reports AFP.

The South African had just failed his third attempt at 5.60m and was still holding his head in his hands in despair when it was announced that Bubka, who won his fifth world title in a row in Gothenburg last year, had quit the qualifying round without taking a vault.

Meanwhile, tearful Sonia O'Sullivan, billed before the Olympics as a sure bet for two golds, crashed out of the Games empty-handed here today, trailing home a distant 10 in her opening 1,500m heat.

The Irish world 5,000m champion, who had failed to finish the final of that race on Sunday after struggling with a stomach problem, fell right off the pace in the final lap of the second heat.

See Page 12 col 6

Slip of tongue

By Reaz Ahmad

Slip of the tongue by some lawmakers created some lighter moments in the Jatiya Sangsad during the busy business hours yesterday.

While replying to a call attention notice from woman MP Prof Panna Kaiser, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria mistakenly pronounced her name as 'Kanna Kaiser'. He, however, corrected the name instantly but this evoked laughter in the House during the afternoon session.

Taking part in the discussion on the supplementary budget a BNP deputy, Shah Md Abul Hussain, did another mistake that earned him a "table thumping" appreciation from AL lawmakers. He wanted to mention the "famine" of 1973-74 but, mistakenly mentioned the period as 1993-94. Hussain, however corrected himself.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury very wittily asked BNP lawmaker MK Anwar to "match" the time of his wrist watch with that of the Speaker whenever he enters the House. A humorous Chowdhury told this to Anwar when the latter drew his attention to the allocation of time for MPs, whose call attention notices (CANS) cannot be entertained by the Chair. Anwar had claimed that the Speaker allocated three minutes less than the stipulated 30-minute time.

The lawmakers enjoyed some lighter moments when the Speaker said laughingly that he would consider employing a "handwriting expert" and "keeping record of specimen signatures of the MPs" provided all endorsed his "noble" idea.

See Page 12 Col 7

Export of rural non-farm items Experts suggest import duty compensation

By Staff Correspondent

Former Finance and Planning Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud suggested that import duty compensation at a flat rate would boost export of non-farm products from rural areas.

"By providing this compensation, the environment can be created for the potential exporters and growth can be stimulated through non-farm activities," he said while making the wrap up presentation at a day-long national workshop on "Stimulating Growth through Rural Non-farm Activities in Bangladesh: Review of the Experience and Search for a Policy Agenda," at city hotel yesterday.

Mother, son murdered

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 31: A housewife and her minor son were murdered at village Dublagari under Palashbari thana yesterday.

According to police Lutfa Begum, 20, wife of Amirul Islam, a rickshawman puller, and their three year old son Sahajatan, were found dead inside their house in the afternoon.

Witnesses said, the neighbours broke open the house and found the blood stained bodies of the mother and her son.

Her husband, Amirul reportedly left the house with his van early in the morning.

Sarah Balabagan freed

DUBAI, July 31: Teenage Filipina maid Sarah Balabagan, whose conviction for murder in the United Arab Emirates sparked international outrage, was freed from jail today and is on her way home, a Philippines embassy official said, reports Reuter.

Balabagan was released because of her good behaviour in prison in the Oasis town of Al-Ain where she was serving a one-year sentence, a statement in Manila said.

Balabagan, now 17, was sentenced last October to the jail term, 100 lashes and then deportation for stabbing to death her 70-year-old Gulf Arab employer, Almas Mohammad Al-Balushi.



Atlanta 1996 OFFICIAL SOFT DRINK 1996 OLYMPIC GAMES

LATEST FROM ATLANTA

Johnson enters round-II

Olympic 400 metres champion Michael Johnson cruised through the opening round of the 200 metres yesterday, clocking an effortless 22.55 seconds to win his heat. The 28-year-old American, attempting to become the first man to complete the 200-

400 Olympic double, ran a fast curve in his now familiar 'golden shoes' to open a four-metre lead over the field. He then slowed to ease home by half a metre from Erik Wymersch of Belgium, second in 20.68. It was Johnson's first 200 on the track since the final of the US Olympic trials five weeks ago when he clocked 19.66 to break Pietro Mennea's 17-year-old world record. The second round was staged yesterday evening. The semifinals and finals will take place today.