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Inside Today

Article

Anatomy of Bank Loan Default: It Takes Two to Tango
by K Z Islam
Page 4

Focus

Law and Our Rights

Today's Focus Page contains articles on the laws that restrict freedom of speech and expression
Page 5

International

Israel may pull out of Lebanon if Hezbollah men give up arms!

Jakarta imposes travel ban on speakers of free speech forum
Page 8

Business

Liberal policy measures in proposed budget to help flourish capital markets, opine stock-brokers, traders

US, Japan reach accord on semiconductors
Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET

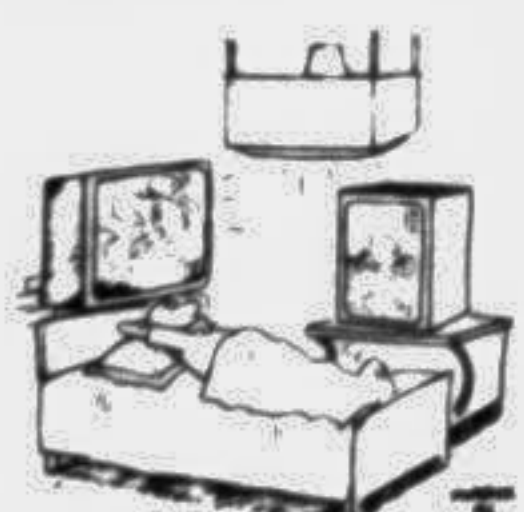
DSE price index: 1136.73 (+0.77%)
Market capital Tk: 7798.59 cr
Transactions in volume: 684721
Transactions in value Tk: 13.83 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index: 475.75 (+1.30%)
Market capital Tk: 4335.09 cr
Transactions in volume: 57955
Transactions in value Tk: 83.98 cr

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Addicted to Idiot-box
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Old man chopped to death in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Aug 3: An old man was chopped to death by miscreants at his Noapara village home in Shailakupa thana of the district early today. Police said some eight miscreants attacked Ali Ahmed, 70, at midnight while he was sleeping at the verandah of his house and chopped him to death. Police recovered the body this morning and sent it to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, reports UNB.

Fake HSC examinee arrested in city

A special squad of detective police yesterday arrested a fake HSC examinee from the Mohammadpur Central College centre, in the city. Jane Alam, 28, was appearing in the ongoing HSC examination under Dhaka Board on behalf of one Abdur Rahman, an examinee from Mirpur Bangla College. On interrogation, Alam confessed to police that he is a third year student of Political Science Department at Jagannath University, said a DMP press release, reports UNB.

2 children drown

COMILLA, Aug 3: Two children, Monir Hossain, 4, and Saleha, 5, drowned in a pond at Captain Bazar in Comilla town today. Earlier, the victims were seen playing near the pond, close to their home eyewitnesses said. The bodies were recovered after two hours.

11 schoolgirls killed in Iran

TEHRAN, Aug 3: Eleven high schoolgirls were killed and 59 others seriously injured when two buses collided head-on in eastern Iran, the news agency IRNA reported today, says AFP.

Kibria, Saifur debate over state of economy Supplementary budget passed in Parliament

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad (JS) yesterday, unanimously passed the Tk 2,965 crore 10 lakh and 63 thousand supplementary budget for fiscal 1995-1996, following a lively debate between Finance Minister S A M S Kibria and his predecessor M Saifur Rahman over the present state of the national economy.

Of the supplementary grants, Tk 2,715 crore 17 lakh and 19 thousand are on revenue heads and the rest on development accounts.

Kibria introduced the Consolidated Fund (Supplementary Grants and Appropriation) Bill, 1996, in the House after a three-day general discussions on the supplementary budget. Opposition BNP members moved some 62 cut motions, but Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury used his discretionary power to guillotine those to save time.

Earlier, Kibria and Saifur, who was finance minister in the Khaleda Zia administration engaged in a debate over the national economy. Both of them, however, agreed that a consensus between the Treasury and the Opposition benches on various national issues was imperative for socio-political and economic advancement.

Contesting Kibria's contention that the government of Sheikh Hasina has inherited a "fragile economy," Saifur argued that the government of Khaleda Zia had given a sound footing to the economy.

In his concluding speech, Kibria, however, defended his earlier remark saying: "I still maintain that we have inherited a fragile economy."

Both of them put forward statistics to substantiate their respective views.

The foreign exchange reserve, which was 750 million dollars when the BNP took over five years back, was over 2 billion dollars when it left in March this year, said Saifur.

The former finance minister said the investment-GDP ratio, the tax-GDP ratio and the national savings increased in last five years, giving the national economy a strong footing reducing dependency on foreign aid.

He mentioned the liberalisation programmes and said the stockmarket had grown tremendously in last five years. The market capitalisation which was only 25 million dollars in 1990, has now reached 7,798.59 crore, he said.

Speaking about the power sector, the Prime Minister said her government was actively considering for increasing the power generation in the interest of the national economy. The last government did not try to increase even one megawatt of power in the country, she said.

Sheikh Hasina referred to her recent meeting with labour leaders and said her government was working on reducing system loss in the power sector.

Chief of the World Bank Resident Mission in Bangladesh Pierre Landell Mills, ERD Secretary Dr Mashiur Rahman and Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir were also present on the occasion.

Sheikh Hasina said, education is necessary as well as reduction of population growth is vital for ridding the nation of the clutches of poverty.

She also referred to the World Bank assisted Food for Work programme in Bangladesh and stressed the need for its expansion in the greater interest of the people.

The Prime Minister also referred to several problems identified by Ms Miko Nishimizu in various sectors in Bangladesh and said her government was taking steps to remove bottlenecks for their solution.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria introduced the Consolidated Fund (Grant in Advance and Appropriation) Bill, 1996, seeking approval of the House.

See Page 12 Col 7

Barisal, Aug 3: The road communication between Barisal and other districts and places, including Dhaka, was disrupted today following clashes between rival groups of transport workers that left some 20 people injured.

The disruption in road communication came following a series of clashes between the Barisal District Road Transport Workers Union and the Barisal District Auto-rickshaw and Tempo Drivers Union.

According to hospital sources, some 20 persons were injured, 2 of them seriously, during the clashes. Majbar Rahman Sarwar, a former MP, and president of the Barisal district road transport workers union was among the injured. The other injured were Hira, 20, Biplob, 22, Ibrahim, 24, Altaf, 40, and Chottu 18 — were admitted to the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

At least 5 buses and 3 auto-rickshaws and tempoes were damaged. The office of the Barisal district auto-rickshaw and auto tempo drivers union was ransacked. A case was filed with Kotwali police in this connection.

See Page 12 Col 4

See Page 12 Col 4

See Page 12 Col 4

See Page 12 Col 4

See Page 12 Col 4



Flood situation is still unchanged in low-lying areas of the city. The photo was taken from Mugdapara area yesterday. — Star photo

Flood engulfs fresh areas in greater Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 3: The overall flood situation in Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirojpur and Barguna districts further deteriorated during the last 24 hours.

In Hizla, Mehendiganj, Agailkhara, Gournadi and Babuganj thanas of Barisal, more than five thousand acres of cropland have gone under water with nearly three hundred families homeless. New areas in these thanas are still being inundated everyday.

According to official sources, nearly 40 thousand people in Barisal district were affected by floods during the last 4 days.

Relief goods have been distributed in the affected areas. In Patuakhali, the flood situation in Baulal, Sadar and Mirjaganj thana areas remained unchanged. The people of 14 unions are badly affected. Nearly one hundred families have been marooned there. According to the local people, no relief goods have reached the area.

Several hundred acres of cropland and more than 3 hundred houses have been submerged in Nazirpur, Swarupkathi, Mathbaria and Sadar thanas of Pirojpur district. A large portion of an embankment at Telikhali has been washed away. The local people say, no relief has reached the affected areas.

In Bhola district, the worst affected areas are sadar and Daulatkhan thanas. Nearly 12 thousand people of these areas have been affected. The DC of Bhola has visited the affected areas.

In Barguna district, the worst affected areas are the town area and six unions of Patharghata thana. Sher-e-Bangla Road, Bangabandhu Road and Bazar Road have been inundated by about 2 feet of water.

In Jhalakathi sadar thana, the flood situation is improving with the recession of water from the affected areas.

UNB adds: The flood situation in and around Dhaka and Narayanganj is likely to improve further in the next 24 hours while the situation in Moulvibazar and Munsiganj will also improve further, the Flood Information Centre bulletin said in its next 24 hours' warning.

In the Brahmaputra basin, the Turag recorded further fall by 4 cm each at Mirpur and Tongi and the river was flowing only 1 cm above its danger mark at Mirpur during the last 24 hours.

The rivers including the Brahmaputra, the Teesta, the Jamuna and the Hooghly are likely to improve further, the Flood Information Centre bulletin said in its next 24 hours' warning.

See Page 12 Col 3

See Page 12 Col 3

See Page 12 Col 3

See Page 12 Col 3

See Page 12 Col 3

Trader beaten to death in N'Ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 3: A trader was beaten to death allegedly by some of his business rivals at Ramnagar under Bandar thana here this morning.

According to police and hospital sources, Hossain Miah, 60, had an altercation with some of his fellow traders and at one stage, one of them hit his head with a hammer. Hossain died while being taken to the Narayanganj Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Hossain dealt in cut piece garment fabrics in Ramnagar area. Three persons including a woman were arrested after the killing. They are Abdul Malek, Panaulah and Ayesha Begum.

A case was lodged with Bandar thana in this connection.

See Page 12 Col 3

See Page 12 Col 3

See Page 12 Col 3

See Page 12 Col 3

Housewife succumbs to bullet injuries

By DMC Correspondent

A housewife, who was allegedly shot by her brother-in-law in their house at Gandaria in the city on July 23, died at the Suhrawardy Hospital yesterday.

Mother of a minor girl, Tahmina Akhter Poppy, 29, who sustained fatal bullet injuries in her chest and hand was first admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Later, she was shifted to the Suhrawardy Hospital.

Tahmina, wife of one Kazi Abdul Jalil Titu of Satish Sarker Road in Gandaria under Sutrapur thana, was shot by her brother-in-law, Ekram Hossain, at about 7:30 on July 23 following a family feud, hospital sources said quoting relatives.

Meanwhile, Ekram has gone into hiding after the incident, police said. A case under Section 326 and 307 was lodged. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. Police said they were investigating the matter.

See Page 12 Col 3

See Page 12 Col 3

See Page 12 Col 3

See Page 12 Col 3

Enver Pasha's remains flown to Turkey

By Staff Correspondent

ISTANBUL, Aug 3: The remains of Turkish national hero Enver Pasha were flown to Istanbul from Tajikistan today. 74 years after he was killed there in a last stand against Bolshevik troops.

The plane arrived with his body at around 1 pm (1000 GMT) at the military terminal — a spokesman at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport told Reuters.

He said a small military ceremony was held for the arrival ahead of an official burial ceremony to be attended by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel on Sunday, the anniversary of Enver's death.

Enver Pasha died aged 41 in a hail of machine gun bullets as he led Muslim guerrillas against Soviet forces in Central Asia. He was buried by a local mullah in an unmarked grave.

Enver, known by the title "Pasha" or general, was one of the ruling triumvirate — known as the Young Turks because of their new political ideas — which took the Ottoman empire into World War One on the side of Germany in 1914.

Siraj Miah's family seeks justice, compensation

By Staff Correspondent

Relatives of Syed Siraj Miah, a Bangladesh-born British citizen, who was allegedly beaten to death at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) in May last, have urged the government to ensure proper investigation into the incident and demand compensation.

Syed Samsia Begum, widow of Siraj, addressing a crowded press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday also urged the government to take steps to stop recurrence of such incidents. "I have come all the way from Sunderland, to seek justice," she said. The name of the victim was earlier published as Suruj Miah. The name was corrected as Siraj Miah by his widow. An observer group from Britain including Barrister Emily Thornberry now visiting Bangladesh in connection with the incident was also present at the press conference.

Emily Thornberry, who represents the family of Siraj, in the case, told newsmen that she has already met high officials in Britain and Bangladesh. All of them have assured that justice would be done," she said.

The wife of Siraj is convinced that her husband was murdered by the customs officials," Emily asserted.

See Page 12 Col 3

Lewis' quest for 10th gold hangs in the balance

ATLANTA, Aug 3: While America waited today to see if Carl Lewis would once again defy all odds and go for a record 10th gold medal, Germany took four Olympic titles before midday to leap into third place in the medals table, reports Reuter.

Away from the penultimate day of competition, Atlanta was burying the woman killed in a bomb attack one week ago which will scar the memory of these Games.

Fresh violence erupts in West Bank town

TULKAREM, West Bank, Aug 3: Palestinian security forces used live ammunition and tear gas to disperse stone-throwing demonstrators a day after violent clashes left one resident dead and a dozen injured, witnesses said today, reports AP.

Canoeist makes a profit

Victor Partnoi of Romania didn't win a medal Saturday in the 1,000-meter canoe finals, but he will be going home with a profit. Partnoi, who finished sixth in the final, set up a cardboard box behind the spectator stands and sold his own Olympic souvenirs. He brought hand-carved miniature kayaks and canoes complete with paddles and the block canoeists use to rest their knees while racing. Through a translator, Partnoi estimated he has sold US dollars 1,000 worth of the boats. Each boat, carved from mahogany, took him about three days to complete.