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Jute sector now facing serious dilemma, says minister

Most Asian currencies gain over the week Pages 6,7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1121.34 (-0.8%)
Market capital Tk 7693.04 cr
Transactions in volume 540825
Transactions in value Tk 11.07 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 471.24 (-0.04%)
Market capital Tk 4294.02 cr
Transactions in volume 76390
Transactions in value Tk 1.16 cr

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



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NEWS BRIEFS

Jubo Dal leader killed in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 5: A local Jubo Dal leader was killed and two members of his family were injured in a bomb explosion at his residence in Chittagong thana of the city today.

Police said Muhammad Selim, general secretary of the local Zia Smriti Parishad, and his younger brother and sister received splinter injuries when a bomb exploded in their Waizarpura residence at about 2 pm, reports UNB.

Currency notes seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

The security personnel at Zia International Airport (ZIA) recovered currency notes, including Bangladesh Taka worth about Tk 19.45 lakh from a Dubai-bound passenger yesterday morning. The security operator, Shawkat Ali, during luggage scanning at the airport, noticed Tk notes in the luggage of the passenger. Shabu Chowdhury, at about 7:15 am, airport sources said.

Of the seized currencies, there were Bangladesh Taka notes worth Tk 17 lakh and Saudi Riyal, UAE Dirham and Qatari Riyal worth about Tk 2.45 lakh.

Task force on law & order

A task force on law and order has been constituted with Additional Home Secretary as its convenor, said an official handout last night. The task force aiming to improve law and order will receive public opinions and suggestions from 8 am to 6 pm over telephone and fax. The telephone numbers are 866832 and 866895 while the fax number is 864788, reports UNB.

JS briefly adjourned to avert pandemonium

Hasina-Khaleda hot debate

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday engaged in a hot unscheduled debate in the Jatiya Sangsad over the alleged autocratic practices by their predecessors in their respective parties while a remark by the latter generated uproar in the House.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury averted a pandemonium by abruptly adjourning the House for five minutes.

During the unscheduled debate, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, "Talks of democracy did not suit the members of BNP which was born illegally."

On the other hand, Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia said, "It was the BNP which

freed the people from the clutches of one-party BAKSAL rule by reintroducing multi-party democracy in the country."

Interrupted by the Treasury Bench members, visibly angry Begum Zia asked the ruling party members "not to behave like impudent."

The word "impudent" caused immediate uproar from the Treasury Bench members. The Chair, however, expunged the word from the proceedings of the House, requesting all concerned not to use such words for the sake of smooth functioning of the House.

Earlier, former finance minister Saifur Rahman, who was criticised by the Treasury bench members the day before for his previous comment that

he opposed the concept of a "non-party caretaker government," took the floor to clarify that he was not opposed to the view of the caretaker government as such. "What I oppose, and still oppose, is the concept of a government comprising unelected people."

Referring to the Treasury

bench claim that he (Saifur) should have resigned on moral

ground for opposing his party's view, Saifur said: "The BNP believes in pluralism which allows difference of opinions inside the party."

As soon as he finished,

State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khashru sought the floor. But the apparently unwilling Speaker told the House that Saifur had spoken on the

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ground of personal clarification. "Let me allow to proceed with the scheduled business of the House," the Chair said.

But on insistence of the Law Minister, the Speaker sought cooperation of the Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina saying: "I would seek suggestion of the Leader of the House on this issue. If she suggests me to give the floor to any member of the Treasury bench, only then I grant floor to him for a time fixed by her."

The Prime Minister advised the Chair in the negative. But before advising the Chair not to give the floor to anyone else, she herself made a speech accusing Saifur Rahman and the creator of his

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The by-elections to Bholai

88 file nominations for Sept 5 by-polls

By Staff Correspondent

Eighty-eight candidates yesterday filed nomination papers for the September 5 by-elections to 15 vacated seats of the Jatiya Sangsad in 11 districts, according to the Election Commission here.

The by-elections will take place in the following seats: Rangpur-2, Rangpur-5, Rangpur-6, Kurigram-3, Bogra-6, Bogra-7, Pirojpur-2, Bholai-1, Bagerhat-1, Khulna-1, Laxmipur-2, Sylhet-4, Chittagong-1, Chittagong-13, Sirajganj-1, Sharariatpur-1.

The seats were vacated by JP Chairperson H M Ershad, BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Industries and Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Irrigation and Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, BNP leader See Page 12 col 6



55th anniversary of death of Tagore today

By Staff Correspondent

The 55th anniversary of death of Poet Rabindranath Tagore will be observed today.

Different socio-cultural organisations have drawn up

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elaborate programmes on the occasion.

The Bangla Academy will hold a discussion at its premises at 11 am. Dr Biswajeet Ghosh will present a paper titled "Gadyashil Rabindranath" in the discussion which will be participated by, among others, Dr Masuduzzaman and Prof Shahin Akhtar. Prof Md Anisur Rahman will be in the chair. The discussion will be rounded off with a musical soiree, beginning at 5:30 pm.

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Demirel's visit postponed

By Staff Correspondent

The visit of Turkish President Suleyman Demirel to Bangladesh early next month has been postponed. It was learnt from diplomatic sources yesterday.

It was not immediately known what prompted the postponement of the visit, but informed sources said a new date was likely to be announced later.

According to sources, the Turkish President's scheduled visit to three South Asian countries, beginning on September 2, now stands postponed. Besides visiting Bangladesh between September 6 and 9, the Turkish president was to visit the Philippines and Malaysia.

JCD threatens fresh strike as DMC reopens

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Medical College (DMC) reopened yesterday after 25 days unscheduled closure but no classes were held as the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) enforced a day-long students' strike on the campus, according to the students well.

The JCD had earlier called the strike to press its six-point demand including withdrawal of the ban on students' politics in the college and announcement of the schedule for election of the DMC students' union (DMCSU) before re-opening.

According to sources, the

pro-liberation force came back to power after two decades to serve the people, not to grab or enjoy anything.

"We have to work for attaining the goal of the liberation war by making the people happy."

She alleged that during the last 21 years, the spirit of liberation war had been tar-

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Businessman shot, robbed of Tk 2 lakh in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 5: A businessman was shot and robbed of Tk 2 lakh by hijackers at Mazirghat in Doulabmooring thana today, reports UNB.

Police said the hijackers riding in an autorickshaw waylaid Ahmed Noor, 50, and snatched the money when he was returning from Mazirghat branch of Janata Bank at about 11 am. He was critically injured as the muggers shot him while leaving the spot.

On hearing hue and cry, local people rushed to the spot and caught three of the muggers - Mahfuz, taxi driver.

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Concern at BIRDEM incidents

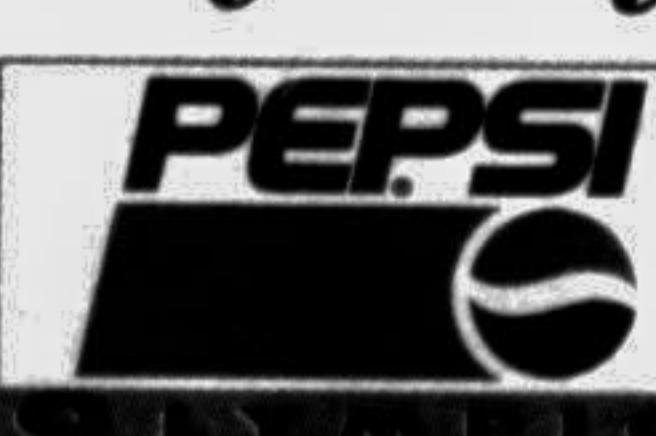
By Staff Correspondent

Thirty-two poets, writers, artists, intellectuals and university teachers in a joint statement yesterday expressed their concern over the recent incidents at the BIRDEM Hospital in Dhaka.

The hospital, established by the late national Professor Dr Md Ibrahim, is recognised as an ideal institution for treatment and research. It has also enhanced the country's image in the field of health care, they said in their statement.

They expressed their full confidence in the ability of the Bangladesh Diabetic Samity to run the hospital with its non-governmental structural system. They condemned any attempt to distort the hospital's image and appealed to all concerned to uphold the interest of the organisation.

See you in Sydney, in 2000



Final medals table

ATLANTA, Aug 5 (Reuter): Medals table after the 16th and final day of competition at the Atlanta Olympics on Sunday (tabulated under gold, silver, bronze):

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	44	32	25	101
Russia	26	21	16	63
Germany	20	18	27	65
China	16	22	12	50
France	15	7	15	37
Italy	13	10	12	35
Australia	9	9	23	41
Ukraine	9	2	12	23
South Korea	7	15	5	27
Hungary	7	4	10	21
Poland	5	5	5	17
Spain	5	6	6	17
Romania	4	7	9	20
Netherlands	4	5	10	19

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17-yr RI for 3 in Manikganj

From Our Correspondent

MANIKGANJ, Aug 5: The first day of the 13-day strike of the officers and employees of the university that began today, completely paralysed the administrative work on the campus.

Almost all offices at the administrative building and resident halls remained closed.

The Officers and Employees' Oikya Parishad (OEOP) called the strike to press home their 55-point demand which include increased accommodation facilities and a raise in salary. Talks between the university authorities and the OEOP to end the strike ended this evening without any decision.

Jamatul Ferdous, Sub-judge, 2nd court, Manikganj gave the sentence in a judgement delivered today.

The three persons have also been fined Tk 6000 each, in default to suffer another two years' rigorous imprisonment.

They are: Tozammel Hossain Toza, general secretary, JCD Manikganj District Unit; Kayum Hossain and F Hossain Babu.

Three others accused in the case were acquitted.

According to the prosecution, some 10 to 12 persons severely assaulted Rezaul Ahamed, Magistrate of Manikganj on March 15, 1992 following a dispute over the submission of tenders. They also tried to kidnap him.

Since its inception, the BRDB disbursed a credit of over Tk 1320 crore among 37 lakh members of primary societies and informal groups in 64 districts. The percentage of recovery of credit is 94 per cent, the press release claimed.

It is a return visit of the Indian foreign secretary who had come to Dhaka last year and not related to his visit in

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BRDB services pensionable

By Staff Correspondent

The government has made the services of officers and employees of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) pensionable, says a BRDB press release.