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Bullish trend at Dhaka, Ctg stock markets

Star Report The average turnover was 5,12335 in volume and Tk 10.37 crore in value.

The All Share Price Index at Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) marked a rise of 11.75 points over the previous week's closing-day record of 466.45 points.

Although bearish trend prevailed at the DSE floor in the first three days of the week when prices of most of the issues decline pulling the all share price index down to 1123.43 points...

The market capitalisation of the CSE also increased by Tk 107 crore reaching Tk 4357.46 crore.

British minister From page 1

Director General of the European desk in the Foreign Ministry Nazim U Chowdhury and outgoing British High Commissioner Peter J Fowler...

He said firm and decisive actions are required to be taken to ensure quicker reforms and economic strides.

The British Under-Secretary of State said he had personally seen the procedure of work of the British immigration and consular officials...

In reply to a question, he said, there is no immediate plan to open visa or consular office in Sylhet from where many people immigrate to Britain.

He told another questioner that the current percentage of visa rejections from Bangladesh stood at around 39 per cent.

Referring to the cost of visa processing, which had been reported to be high, Dr Fox said, it is not possible to reduce the fees as it is a worldwide scheme.

About his meetings with several ministers during the visit, he said he was satisfied at the discussions and was 'impressed about their general understanding of our problems.'

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DOWN TO EARTH City's Environmental Conundrum

By A S M Nurunnabi

It has become a matter of serious concern that the overall environmental scenario in Dhaka city has been assuming ominous implications.

Want of desirable assistance from the members of the law enforcing agency is also said to take away the cutting edge from their efficiency.

The state of traffic congestion in Dhaka city has reached such a stage that it has been lately observed at an international seminar that within a few years Dhaka could be far too disorderly for traffic management.

Lately we had a welcome piece of news that the government has decided to recast the transport system of the city in the light of the needs of people.

The government has reportedly initiated a 121.7 million US dollar Dhaka Urban Transport Project to improve the city's communication network.

The project is due to be launched with funding from the World Bank. It is early now to form definite ideas of the proposed improvements until the details of the project preparation studies expected to be completed in three phases in 1997 are known.

At the moment, we are interested in the short-term objectives of the project which seek to streamline the mass transport facilities with particular emphasis on increasing the number of private sector buses.

The phenomenon, as observed by the World Bank and which has been assuming staggering proportions, is that the rickshaw-plagued traffic is a major factor discouraging private bus operators to invest in premium services on city routes.

Low or no profit in a dictated tariff environment has been identified as another major factor behind the absence of quality bus transport in Dhaka city.

Though, perhaps on these accounts the government lately relaxed control on tariff structure for buses offering premium services, paving the way for the announcement that luxury buses would soon be introduced on selected city routes...

the city commuters are becoming increasingly impatient over delay in the introduction of such luxury buses because the rickshaw transport system of the city has been fast going downhill.

mess in which the high proliferation of rickshaws plays the leading part is the virtual glut of newly-introduced re-conditioned passenger cars on city streets increasingly restricting the available road space.

New dealers in re-conditioned cars are found to open up shops in increasing numbers in important city localities. The stock position of most of these car dealers is generally observed to be so much voluminous that it seems to burst at the seams...

sometimes causing the stock to overflow on to the adjacent road pavements. According to observers, the alarming growth of the traffic inconvenience and the inability of the authorities to do anything noteworthy in alleviating it have the potential to be agents of total chaos in public life.

It is common experience that the city's garbage disposal system is highly defective and subject to callous indifference and neglect. Not to speak of the less important side-streets, lanes and by-lanes, even more select areas of the city are found to be victims of irregular garbage clearance.

Last year, The Daily Star launched the 'Save Dhaka' campaign with a subsequent 'Round-table Conference' at which representatives of city service organisations took part.

The fruits of deliberation at that conference appeared to produce little impact in improving the quality of civic life.

The Dhaka City Corporation has lately introduced jumbosized garbage containers at many street corners which are hauled away later by special type of vehicles later when filled up.

This special type of contraptions appears to prove more as inconvenient obstruction limiting road space and a source of greater agent of environmental pollution, because the garbage piles are strewn all around outside the confines of the garbage containers and are irregularly cleared away.

The schedules for night-time garbage collection, said to be in operation from August 1 last, is reported to be functioning improperly. Even during day-time, garbage trucks are often seen to pass through busy traffic routes at peak hours.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing high officials of Rajshahi division at the Uttara Ganabhaban in Natore yesterday.

Emergency declared: Army called out

Heavy rains cripple Lahore: 25 killed

LAHORE, Aug 23: A state of emergency declared today in the Punjab capital of Lahore and the army called out as heavy rains caused widespread devastation, killing at least 20 people...

Doctors at the city's general hospital said patients had been shifted to the first and second floors as its ground level was submerged.

A senior police official said many roads had been inundated, hampering the movement of police vehicles.

Telephone and electricity services were disrupted in several areas, and the city's pager service was also out of order.

The Jamuna Char Integrated Development Project (JCDDP) and a Jamalpur-based NGO Unayan Sangha were jointly given the people's participation component.

The first phase, covering the sample areas, was completed during April-June. Information centres under the guidance of local NGOs were opened in five strategic spots in the project area to disseminate project-related information for about seven months.

JCDP officials said they were amazed to see the depth of popular knowledge at the grassroots level when they gave their views on such a complex project involving engineering designs and other issues.

WARPO officials also said that people would be involved during the operation and maintenance of different project components when they were implemented.

The second phase of people's participation which involves 298 mouzas is about to begin. They said that the first phase covered 25 sample mouzas extensively, with a rapid anthropological appraisal for each mouza before holding two successive meetings in each of those. Finally, the meetings were also held at the union level.

VC's deadline From page 1 last night, Prof Imajuddin, however, evaded a direct reply when asked whether he would resign today if he did not get any response from the government and said "let the time expire and see what happens."

Meanwhile, the situation on the campus remained tense yesterday though there was no fresh clash.

The classes at the university are scheduled to resume today. The university authorities had earlier suspended classes following clashes between JCD and police on Wednesday.

der Rauzan thana on July 7 and demanded a ransom of Taka three lakh. Police searched for Bhola for about a week.

The terrorists released the victim when police, finding no other means, rounded up the father of the alleged ring leader of abductors.

Many villagers in Rauzan, Hathazari and Fatikchhari areas have reportedly left their village homes and are staying in rented houses in Chittagong city to escape the wrath of toll collectors and dacoits, sources also informed.

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Violence on DU campus

From page 1 authorities 'failed' to maintain neutrality and the hall administrations 'succumbed' to the pressure of the student wings of political parties in the last few years.

"We are passing through an uncertain situation on the campus," the DUTA leader said while talking to The Daily Star last night.

A section of teachers and students of the DU also alleged that the 'capture' of halls might have some links with the election of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU), pending for long.

The pro-BNP Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) swept the last DUCSU elections held in 1990. At that time, JCD was dominant in most of the residential halls.

Attempts by the university authorities to hold DUCSU polls in the last five-year failed, due to violent activities of the two major student organisations in this connection, sources concerned pointed out.

During the BNP rule for the last five years, JCD maintained control over eight halls out of eleven for male students. The Awami League-backed Chhatra League (BCL) controlled only Jagannath Hall and the rest.

WB suggestions

From page 1 Bangladesh for back-sliding in broadening the coverage of VAT in 1996 financial year. On the contrary, it pointed out, the government generated new VAT exemptions to some agricultural inputs with the fiscal year 1996 budget based on an argument that this would help competitiveness of the concerned activities and tax revenue losses would be negligible.

The bank said such back-sliding jeopardised the achievement of wider VAT coverage, weakened VAT's incentive neutrality and invited growing pressure from vested interests on the integrity of the tax, encouraging more requests for exemption.

It also criticised the government for leaving out locally produced textile outside VAT net. The government was justifying the VAT exemption for textiles arguing that not much is lost since many domestic textile mills are incurring losses anyway, but the bank argued this rationale could result in plethora of exemptions.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90, Kakrai, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net



BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan addressing a public meeting in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday protesting alleged 'repression' on BNP workers.

Yasmeen From page 1

The Mohila Parishad and some other socio-cultural organisations in Dinajpur have also taken up a four-day programme including meetings, rallies, photo exhibition and cultural functions to observe the day.

The incident drew international attention. Delegates at the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September, 1995, expressed outrage at the incident. A special protest demonstration was organised by the South Asian Women's Groups on Violence Against Women at the NGO Forum site in the conference.

After investigation into the incident, the CID charged six policemen under the Women and Child Repression Act of 1995 in May last. Later, the accused persons filed a criminal revision case with the High Court praying for transfer of the case to Bogra, according to reports.

The people of Dinajpur, the Nari Samaj and other local women's groups are protesting the probable transfer of the case from Dinajpur District and Sessions Judge Court to a special tribunal in Bogra. They are also demanding that trial of the case be held in Dinajpur.

The Nari Samaj at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the city last week protested the probable transfer of the case and said that justice would not be done in the trial if the case is transferred. "This will only serve the interest of the accused persons", a Nari Samaj leader had said.

Earlier, in June, lawyers and leaders of different socio-cultural and political parties in Dinajpur formed a legal aid committee for the case and protested its probable transfer.

Snowstorm kills 40 Hindu pilgrims in Kashmir

JAMMU, India, Aug 23: Forty Hindu pilgrims were dead and thousands were in danger as monsoon rains and a freak snowstorm swept across the Himalayas during their annual pilgrimage to a mountain temple, authorities said Friday, reports AP.

An estimated 80,000 people were in the mountains when the storm struck, sending rain onto slippery lower slopes and six inches of snow into colder higher elevations.

Eight people died today alone, and heavy snow was still falling, authorities said. The state of Jammu-Kashmir government tried to send helicopters to rescue pilgrims who were very cold or sick from the exertion, but bad weather prevented any flights. Press Trust of India news agency said.

Authorities on Friday called off the annual pilgrimage to the ancient Amarnath caves to pray at the temple of Lord Shiva, asking that 10,000 Hindu worshippers not to leave

Titas Gas From page 1

where he died at about 1:20 pm yesterday, police added. The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

The body of Mostafiz was handed over to his family yesterday afternoon after autopsy at the DMCH, police said, adding the body was sent to Chudanga for burial.

Ctg: Terrorism From page 1

der Rauzan thana on July 7 and demanded a ransom of Taka three lakh. Police searched for Bhola for about a week.

The terrorists released the victim when police, finding no other means, rounded up the father of the alleged ring leader of abductors.

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