

## Inside Today

### Article

**Flood: Action Plan Needed**  
by Amjad Hossain Khan  
Page 4

### Focus

**Bangladesh politics: The changed scenario; The opportunity cost view of crimes**  
Page 5

## International

**Peace process on track in Chechnya: Lebed**

**Plavsic calls for creation of single Serb state**  
Page 8

## Business

**Govt to set up soil research and test centre in each district**

**DSE index experiences fall**  
Pages 6, 7

## DSE MARKET

DSE price index	1188.72
Market capital Tk.	8176.35
Transactions in volume	557132
Transactions in value Tk.	11.10 cr

## Metropolitan

**Dhaka Day by Day**



**Child Beating at School**  
Page 3

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Indian envoy meets Speaker

Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Dev Mukharji called on Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday. They exchanged views on the system and functioning of the parliamentary standing committees of the two countries, reports BSS.

### Medicine seized at ZIA

The customs authorities at the Zia International Airport yesterday seized foreign medicines worth Tk 3.76 lakh from two unclaimed luggages in a home coming flight of Biman. The contraband medicines (tablets) are: Buscopin - 34,200 pcs, Mefen - 26,000 pcs, Motil - 13,440 pcs and Desferel - 166 pieces, reports UNB.

### Zakirul Islam PS to Khaleda

A senior assistant secretary of Economic Relations Division, Zakirul Islam has been appointed as the private secretary to Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, party sources said yesterday, reports BSS.

### Ershad joins budget discussion today

Leader of the Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party Hussain Muhammad Ershad, will participate in the general discussion on the current budget in the Jatiya Sangsad today. Jatiya Party Whip Advocate Fazle Rabbi said yesterday. Former President Ershad, who has been elected to parliament from jail from Rangpur is attending the budget session on parole, reports BSS.

### Two crushed under wheels of train

CHITTAGONG, Aug 26: Two people, including a minor boy, were crushed under the wheels of a speeding train at Sitakundu Railway Station today. Witnesses said Miru Rahman, 18, and his four-year-old nephew, Shohag, met the tragic end of their lives while crossing the rail track, reports UNB.

## Khaleda tells Bogra rally BNP may boycott JS sittings under partisan Speaker

From Reaz Ahmad

BOGRA, Aug 26: Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia threatened today that her party may boycott the sittings of the House chaired by the 'partisan' Speaker.

"BNP lawmakers are contemplating boycotting JS sittings to be chaired by Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and will attend only those the Deputy Speaker will chair," she said. The ruling Awami League is making the parliament ineffective, Begum Zia alleged.

The former prime minister was addressing a citizens' rally this noon at the Bogra Circuit House auditorium. Leaders of local professional groups gath-

ered at the rally to voice their protest against the incidents of killing here over the last five days.

She left for the capital at 2:30 pm. Earlier, Begum Zia arrived at Bogra yesterday afternoon on the last leg of her by-election campaign tour of northern districts. In view of the killing of students at Bogra, she left the town without holding a scheduled election projection meeting here this afternoon.

With Bogra district BNP president Advocate Mahbubur Rahman in the chair, the citizens' rally was addressed by a number of representatives of various sections of people including lawyers, traders, doc-

tors and journalists.

The BNP chief said that when her party was in power, 70 per cent time of the JS sessions was allocated for the then Opposition. But, she alleged, "this Speaker is not at all giving us floor to speak on various issues including the law and order situation at Bogra and at the Dhaka University".

In her 50-minute speech, Begum Zia said, "As the budget session is now continuing and we are at least being able to speak during our turns for discussion on the proposed budget, we are offending. But, after this session, if the Speaker continues to show his partisan attitude, we will boycott the sittings

See Page 12 Col 1

## Mourning day observed at Bogra

From Staff Correspondent

BOGRA, Aug 26: Normally returned in this trouble-torn northern town today after, two days' halt on Saturday and Sunday.

The All Party Students' Unity (APSU) had called the hartals for the two consecutive days to protest killing of at least four students in police firing during police-people clashes in the town since August 22. A police constable was also killed in the violent incidents that ensued after a degree student of Azizul Huq Government College was run over by a bus near the college on Thursday last.

Vehicles have come out on the streets in large numbers but there are no traffic police. Traffic jams were seen at some intersections in the town.

As the situation continued to remain tense and anti-police sentiment was very high, no

See Page 12 Col 4

## A party resorting to terrorism to disrupt peace: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday blamed a party for resorting to terrorism with a design to create trouble when the entire nation is fighting for restoring peace and stability in the country, reports UNB.

"It is not desirable that a party continues its terrorist acts to destabilise social peace," she said calling upon all to work for ensuring peace and stability which is a prerequisite to economic growth.

In a meeting with the representatives of the Institute of Diploma Engineers at the International Conference Centre, Hasina, in a veiled foray on her political opponents, hoped that the party would shun conspiracy against the government and the countrymen.

They should refrain from hatching conspiracy as the gen-

eral people are being subject to sufferings for that," she said citing the recent incidents in Bogra, where several people have been killed in student-police clashes.

The Prime Minister said it is unfortunate that they had masterminded a sad incident even after immediate action taken out of the sense of responsibility and sincerity of the government.

"While all parties signed a peace accord in Bogra, they violated that peace deal and enforced hartal after the Leader of the Opposition reached there," said Hasina.

These activities will not bring peace and welfare to the people and the country, she said, adding that her government is determined to establish a terrorism-and-poverty-free Bangladesh.

The objective of the government is ensuring the economic freedom of the people, Hasina said calling upon the Diploma Engineers to cooperate with her government for reaching its goal.

"You will have to contribute for the economic advancement of the country by innovating new technology," said the Prime Minister, hoping that they would play a vital role rendering service to the people.

About the problems of the Diploma Engineers, she said a committee was going to be formed for administrative reforms which will consider their administrative problems.

Referring to the other demands of the DEs, the Prime Minister said the government would try to consider other problems of the institution.

See Page 12 Col 3

## Have You Seen This, Mr Mayor?



The above scene in Gulistan area in the heart of the city is a familiar scene, and has been so for months. Mr Mayor, you must have seen numerous times, and yet have done very little, knowing fully well that traffic jams like the one above, have made city life unbearable. While we understand that managing traffic is not under your control, yet it is to you that people do, and will turn for solutions because you are the top elected representative of Dhakaites.

— Star photo

## Bull run in DSE likely to continue

By Inam Ahmed and Rafiq Hassan

The bull run for more than a month now in the country's major bourse, Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), is likely to continue as the market is still investible and the economy strong enough to sustain it, sources concerned said.

The DSE All Share Price Index took a sharp upward turn immediately after the June 12 parliamentary elections ending a prolonged political impasse and is still striding in vigorous shedding off its lackluster mood during the first quarter of this year when the index ranged between 761 and 796 points, they pointed out.

It crossed the 1000-point mark in the second week of July and set yet another record on Sunday reaching 1193 points.

Talking to The Daily Star, Alamgir Kabir, Member of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), said the Price Earning Ratio (PER) of the DSE listed stocks, which now stands at 11, is still low in the region and leaves scope for further investment.

In comparison, the PER of Bombay bourse is now 22 and that of Karachi is 17.

PER is measured by the price of a share of stock divided by earning per share.

Market operators view that a portion of investments in Dhaka bourse is not based on 'thorough analytical approach', but on speculations. They, however, still maintain that a section of the high going companies has potentialities to grow.

But a major factor for the push in the market is the increasingly bigger flow of funds mainly through individual investors, some sources pointed out.

Kabir said more funds are on the way as foreign investors who had shied away from the market after the imposition of lock-in period in February, 1995, are now showing interest.

Since the imposition of lock-in, no foreign institutional investors had invested in Initial Primary Offerings (IPO). Only Prime Textiles and Monno Fabrics had tasted foreign fund placement for which foreign investors had committed before the lock-in decision.

From July 1995 to May 1996, there had been a negative balance of inflow and outflow amounting to Tk 117 crore, SEC officials pointed out.

Kabir said the market will show a more theoretical approach as steps are being taken

See Page 12 Col 8

## Budget discussion continues

## Top priority to poverty alleviation: AL NGOs running rural economy: BNP

Opposition MPs found fault with the current budget as it lacks future direction while the ruling party members hailed it as people-oriented, as general discussion on it continued yesterday, reports UNB.

Taking the floor first in the morning session, Awami League MP Bir Bahadur said presentation of such a people-oriented budget in a short time by the new government is a historical event in the country.

The ruling party lawmaker from Bandarban suggested that a parliamentary committee be formed to take effort for the solution of the staggering problems in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Speaking next, Habibur Rahman Swapnil of Opposition BNP (Sirajganj) feared that the budget would be a case of failure as it does not deal with the prevailing problems of the important agriculture sector.

He said Awami League, which once criticised the value

added tax (VAT) system, extended the VAT net which will not be good for the nation.

Shah Alam Advocate (Awami League-Brahmanbaria) concentrated his deliberation on criticising the BNP rule. He showered flowery praises on the

present budget, saying it is the first people-oriented budget in post 75 era.

Shamsuzzaman Dudu, a BNP lawmaker from Chuadanga, said the Awami League talked about agricultural subsidy before election, but in reality it allocated only Tk 100 crore for the subsidy.

Castingigate the Awami League rule during 1972-75 period, he said the government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had killed 30,000 opposition activists during its rule across the country.

Emdadul Haq Bhuiyan (Awami League Narayanganj) termed unfortunate the remarks and behaviour shown by some opposition MPs on different occasion in the House.

They should think whether the country could achieve independence if Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was not born," he said.

Speaking first in the after-

See Page 12 Col 7

## JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

Education Minister ASHK Sadeque, while making a statement in the Jatiya Sangsad on the recent incidents at Dhaka University, ridiculed the outgoing Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, for his comment to the press: "I don't want to see bloodshed in my old age."

Citing a series of terrorist activities that took place at the DU during Prof Emazuddin's tenure, the minister said, "If he (the VC) is unwilling to see bloodshed in old age, then the question remains whether he liked it in his young age."

The Education Minister mentioned several 'terrorist acts' including the one that occurred only 10 days ago and said the VC played inactive role during those incidents. "Perhaps, the VC was then not old and he could see the blood shed on the campus," the minister remarked.

Opposition BNP lawmakers were shouting at the minister

See Page 12 Col 4

## JCD-BCL clash on 15 campuses in 2 months

Star Report

Clashes between activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at different educational institutions during the last two months led to the death of one student and injury to over 200 others and closure of at least three institutions for indefinite period.

The BNP-backed JCD and the Awami League backed BCL clashed in at least 15 educational institutions including the Dhaka University and the Dhaka Medical College (DMC) during the period. Academic programmes in some of the institutions were suspended following the clashes, according to reports.

Authorities of some of these institutions, when contacted, told The Daily Star yesterday that clashes between the two organisations were for gaining control over the institutions concerned.

The clashes took place amid an arms recovery drive by the government after its around

pledge to root out terrorism from the society, the educational institutions in particular.

Mohammad Shilpi, a student of Mohanganj Degree College in Netrokona died in a clash between JCD and BCL on August 13. The college has also closed since die after the clash.

The DMC was closed since die on July 10 following a clash between JCD and BCL. After reopening, the college was again closed since die for the second time on August 14.

The Chittagong Medical College was closed since die on June 30. It reopened after 10 days. The Barisal Medical College was closed for seven days on August 17.

Classes at the Dhaka University was suspended till August 29 following clashes between the JCD and BCL on August 22 for gaining control over residential halls. JCD has also enforced an indefinite strike at the DU.

## 2 shot dead in Cox's bazar gunbattle

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 26: Two people, including a dacoit, were killed in a gunbattle between dacoits and NGO workers near Mohekhali Channel in Cox's Bazar today, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Saiful Islam Chowdhury, 35, an NGO worker, and Noor Mohammad, 25, the alleged dacoit. Police said the gunfight erupted when a launch carrying some NGO workers, including several Japanese, came across a gang of dacoit near Mohekhali Channel at about noon.

Earlier, in the morning, the same gang of the dacoits looted goods worth about 3 lakh from the passengers of two launches — ML Badshah and ML Amanat — at the channel.

Two cases were filed with local police.

## Three cos to get licence for cellular phones

The government will give licences for cellular mobile telephones to three joint-venture private companies in a bid to improve the standard of telecommunication services in the country, reports UNB.

The three companies are Seba Telecom, IM International and Grameen Phone Consortium, said an official handout yesterday.

The decision was taken by the government to remove monopoly by creating a competitive market to expand the telecommunication sector and thus improve the quality of service and reduce the service cost.

See Page 12 Col 1

## Bill to be placed in JS for upgrading Sylhet town: Zillur

LGROD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that a Bill would be placed before the House for upgrading Sylhet town into a city corporation, reports BSS.

Replying to a call attention notice from Dewan Farid Gazdar (AL-Habiganj), the minister said the government was actively considering the establishment of the divisional headquarters in Sylhet.

The minister said the government was taking up steps for ensuring full-fledged functioning of Sylhet as a division.

Replying to another call at-

See Page 12 Col 3

## Ex-ROK president Chun to die



Two former South Korean presidents Chun Doo-Hwan (R) and Roh Tae-Woo (L) in Seoul court yesterday.

SEOUL, Aug 26: Former South Korean president Chun Doo-Hwan was sentenced to death here today for masterminding a military mutiny and an insurrection linked to the infamous Kwangju massacre, reports AFP.

The court also handed down a sentence of 22 years and six months in a jail for Roh Tae-Woo, 64, Chun's successor, for his key role in the mutiny and corruption.

It said the two former heads of state had also been found guilty of taking bribes of more than 600 million dollars between them while in office between 1980 and 1993.

The two gray-haired former heads of state, sitting side by side in blue prison garb, received the sentences without expression as relatives of the Kwangju victims screamed "Chun, bastard!" and "bring back my son."

There is speculation that incumbent President Kim Young-Sam may commute the death sentence.

The accused, Chun, committed very serious crime, in which he mobilised military troops, disrupted the chain of command and destroyed the constitutional order," chief judge Kim Young-il of the Seoul district

court said.

Chun, 65, was also found guilty of "amassing illegal wealth to the tune of millions of dollars" by milking businesses. "Although, while in office, he contributed to stabilising the economy and leaving a precedent of peaceful transfer of power, these deeds cannot offset his crimes," the judge said.

The slow-paced coup was capped by an insurrection in the following year that led to the massacre of more than 200 pro-democracy protesters in the southern city of Kwangju.

But the court cleared Chun and four others of the charge of "manslaughter" in directly ordering the bloodbath, citing lack of evidence.

The court fined Chun 222.3 billion won (279 million US dollars) and Roh 283.8 billion won (349 million US dollars), representing bribes received while in office. Chun from 1980 to 1988 and Roh from 1988 to 1993.

Of the 14 co-defendants, four were handed 10 years in prison for playing key roles in the mutiny, four others got eight-year prison terms, three received seven-year terms and two were handed four-year terms. One was acquitted.

See Page 12 Col 8

## Kuwait to fund Rupsha bridge: FM

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said that his visit to Kuwait and Iran was 'fruitful' and rewarding, reports UNB.

"Both countries are eager to further expand economic cooperation with Bangladesh," he told newsmen at the Zia International Airport on his return from a week-long trip to the two Muslim countries.

The Foreign Minister also called his visit as timely and significant after the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government came to power.

Azad said that during his meetings with the government leaders of Kuwait and Iran, they have tried to identify more areas of bilateral cooperation.

He said Kuwait has agreed to give more funds for joint ventures and various developmental projects in Bangladesh, particularly for the construction of the Rupsha Bridge in Khulna.

Kuwait is interested to import more manpower from Bangladesh, the Foreign Minister said, adding that at present some 1,28,000 Bangladeshis are working in the gulf state.

He added that the Kuwaiti

government is also happy with the performance of the Bangladeshi soldiers working there under the UN peace-keeping forces.

During his visit to Iran, Azad and his counterpart Dr Ali Akbar Velayati signed an MOU for further consolidating bilateral relations and economic cooperation.

The Iranian government, he said, has agreed to expedite the process of setting up an oil refinery in Chittagong and explore the possibility of a cement plant in Bangladesh.

The Foreign Minister said that he had discussed with the Iranian leaders the possibility of cooperation between SAARC and ECO.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan and Iranian Ambassador in Dhaka Mahmud Bayat were present at the airport to greet the Foreign Minister.

BSS adds. Answering a question he said that Iran had agreed to Bangladesh's proposal for using the Bandar Abbas Port.