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DSE price index continues to rise

DSE MARKET

DSE price index	1193.62
Market capital Tk	8210.07 cr
Transactions in volume	616316
Transactions in value Tk	10.57 cr

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NEWS BRIEFS

PM exchanges views with journalists

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had an informal exchange of views with senior journalists from news agencies and national dailies at Ganobhaban yesterday. During the meeting, Hasina discussed various national issues, including political, economic and law and order situation in the country. State Minister of Information Prof Abu Sayeed was present on the occasion, reports UNB.

House adjourned till 10 am today

The House was adjourned till 10 am today. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury announced the adjournment at 11:10 pm yesterday, reports UNB.

Sudhin Das hospitalised

Sudhin Das, an eminent vocalist of Nazrul-Rabindra songs, was admitted to Suhrawardi Hospital following a heart attack on Monday. He is now undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit of the hospital. Attending physicians said the condition of Sudhin Das was improving, reports UNB.

Saudi envoy meets Speaker

Saudi Ambassador in Bangladesh Abdullah Omar Barry called on Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury at his office yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed the matters of mutual interests, said a PID handout, reports UNB.

158 arms seized in a week

Police recovered 158 unauthorised firearms and 387 ammunition from different parts of the country in seven days till Tuesday. The seized firearms were local and foreign made rifles, single and double barrel guns, revolvers, pistols, pipe-guns, shotguns and LGs, said a press release. During the period, police arrested 97 people from across the country on charge of possessing illegal firearms and explosives, reports UNB.

Rice price to remain high: IRBD

Agri sector growth declines in 5 years

By RM Titumir

The agriculture sector witnessed a negative growth of 1.29 per cent during the last five years (1990-91 to 1994-95) compared to a growth of 2.19 per cent during the last one decade (1984-85 to 1994-95), according to an independent review.

Rice production in 1994-95 declined by 1.21 million tonnes from that in the previous year, requiring foodgrains import of more than 2.5 million tonnes as against less than one million tonnes in 1993-94, the review estimated.

The Independent Review of Bangladesh's Development (IRBD), an early economic stock-taking by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), attributed this production fall to a decline in both Aman and Boro production due to severe drought during the Aman season and adverse impact on mi-

nor irrigation due to lower water levels, and crisis in fertiliser distribution during the Boro season.

Even if the rice production target of 17.97 million tonnes is realised in 1995-96, the production would hardly register any growth, requiring a similar level of foodgrains import totalling 2.46 million tonnes, the review pointed out.

Commenting on this trend, the two reviewers — Abu Abdullah, Director General of BIDS and Quazi Shahabuddin, Senior Research Fellow of BIDS — cautioned that high cereal prices are likely to continue adversely affecting the people until domestic foodgrain production improved significantly.

Elaborating, they said that although the government's present foodgrains stock of about one million tonnes might seem

adequate, the stocks held by farmers and traders were likely to be severely depleted by successive poor harvests.

They however, said that much would depend on the government's effort in making timely arrangements for import and distribution of foodgrains in the wake of declining food aid and uncertain prospects for foodgrains import by private traders.

A significant decline in the growth rate of HYV Boro production was mainly attributed by them to the deceleration in rice production, which stood at only 0.90 per cent during the last five years compared to 12.85 per cent during the decade commencing from 1984-85. The decline in growth in HYV Aman production also contributed to such a decline.

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'Helicopters', as they are called locally, are doing brisk business now in Bogra where a bus-minibus strike began on Tuesday. The three-wheelers, made with shallow tubewell machines, are popular in the district.
Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Khaleda tells Laxmipur rally Terrorism AL's only gift in 2 months

LAXMIPUR, Aug 28: BNP chairperson and leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia here today said the present government has done nothing for the welfare of the nation since taking over power, reports UNB.

"Terrorism is the ruling party's only gift to the nation during the last two months," she told an election rally in Laxmipur-2 constituency on the first day of her 4-day byelection tour in Laxmipur and Mirasari (Chittagong).

Former vice-president Barister Moudud Ahmed, who joined the BNP recently, is the party's nominee for this seat in the September 5 byelection.

During the day, the BNP chairperson addressed rallies at Bat-toli, Boshikpur, Shilbasha, Palerhat, Kazir Dighirpar, Mondaloti, Ganagabazar, Dalabazar and five other places.

Addressing the largely attended gatherings, Begum Zia said that revenge, anger and anti-people sentiment were upmost in the present government's thoughts and ideas.

"This is why it has created anarchy across the country particularly in the educational institutions," she alleged. Medical colleges have become their main target.

Begum Zia said the Awami League accepted terrorism as its party policy and unleashed violence throughout the country in a bid to suppress the opposition.

The government is gradually becoming alienated from the masses, she said adding, "if this situation continues, the ruling party will soon become totally isolated from the people."

The former prime minister said her cabinet, at its first meeting, had taken the decision to waive agricultural loans up to Tk 5,000 and land tax up to 25 hasas.

Whereas, she said the Awami League government's first cabinet meeting has decided to hang the portrait of a particular person in government offices.

Begum Zia said the ruling party, before the June 12 election, had decided to...

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Ershad meets JP runners-up in June 12 polls

Star Report

Jatiya Party (JP) chairman and former president HM Ershad, now attending the parliament session on parole, yesterday held a meeting with the party leaders who emerged runners-up in the June 12 general elections.

Senior party leaders who were defeated miserably were not invited to attend the meeting held at the Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party (JPPP) office at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, said JP sources.

Thirty-two of the total thirty-six JP runners-up inter last polls attended the meeting held from 3 pm to 4:30 pm during the break between the morning and evening sittings.

The sources said the JP chairman explained in the meeting why he decided to support Awami League in forming the government. He also gave instructions for reorganising the party and identifying the reasons for their failure in returning from their constituencies in the last election.

Some of the JP contestants blamed senior party leaders as well as some local leaders for non-cooperation during the election.

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A rubber-stamp divorce turns Her Royal Highness into Diana

LONDON, Aug 28: The calamitous marriage of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, launched amidst pomp and pageantry 15 years ago, ended today with a rubber-stamp divorce in the back office of a London court, reports Reuters.

The agreed divorce was granted within minutes of the court opening on the first day that Charles, as the applicant, could legally apply for it.

A clerk from Charles' lawyers delivered the application by hand to the court beside the River Thames, where it was checked by a court official and then stamped with the words 'decree absolute' at 10:27 am 1527 BST.

The royal family made no statement about the divorce, merely telephoning the news to a domestic news agency. The 'quickie' divorce was granted on the grounds of two years of separation.

Diana is reported to have accepted a 17-million-pound (26.5 million dollars) divorce settlement but she loses the title, 'Her Royal Highness.' She will

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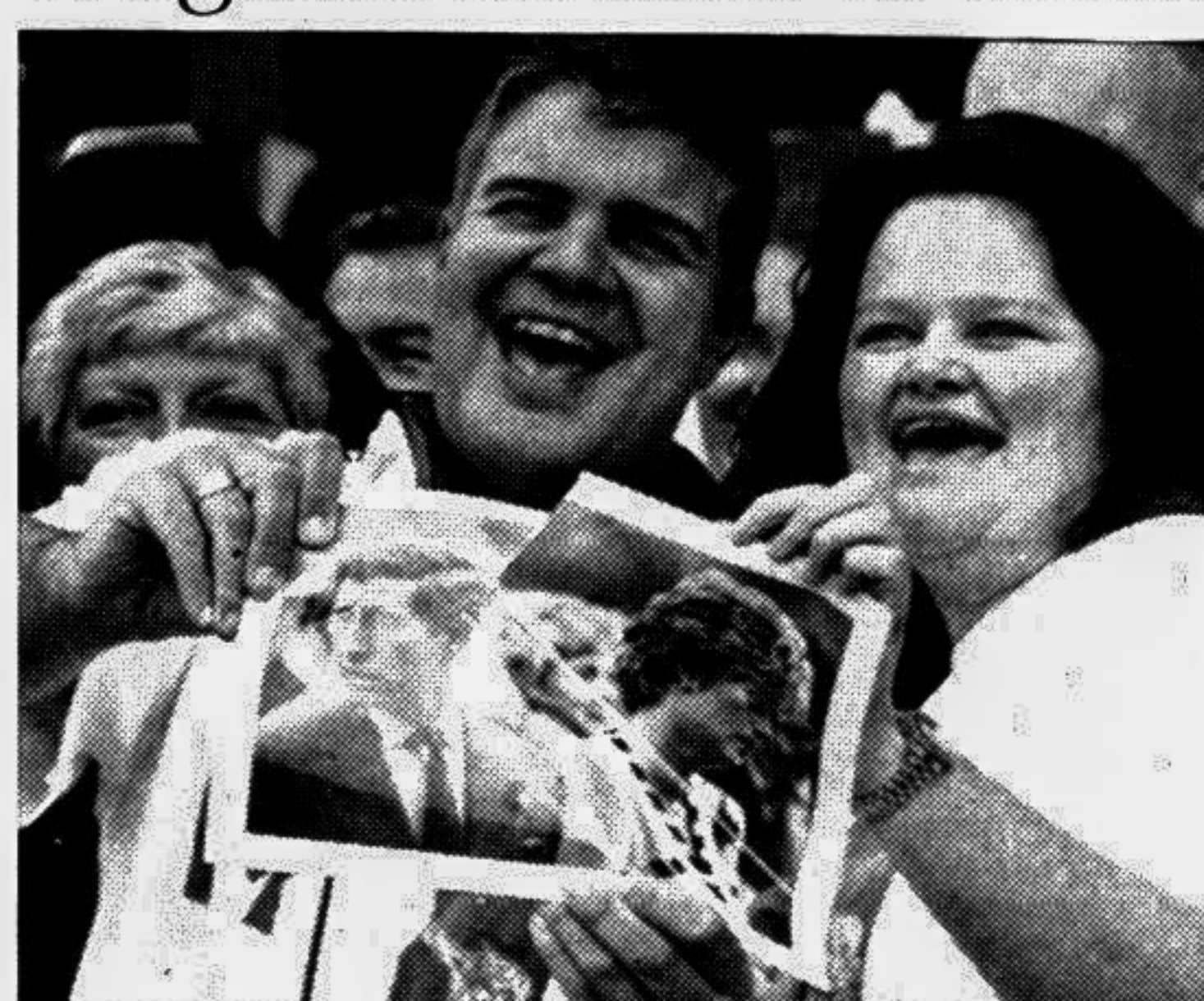
An appeal by father of a victim

By Reaz Ahmad, back from Bogra

Zahurul Haq, a pharmacist of Mohammad Ali Hospital at Bogra, who lost his school-going son in the recent police firing in the town, has demanded trial of the killers and appealed to politicians not to reap political dividends at the cost of innocent peoples' lives.

Rezaul Karim Ratan, 14, student of class ten at Bogra Pre-Cadet High School, died from bullet injuries during a clash between protesters and police at Chandibazar area in the town on August 24, following the August 22 incident in which a student of Azizul Haq Government University College died when run over by a bus near the college.

During this correspondent's recent visit to Chelapara residence of the victim at Bogra



In the true tradition of celebrating major Royal events, local Radio RAM FM disc jockeys Ian Skye (L) and Joanna Russell celebrate the divorce of the Prince and Princess of Wales by tearing a photograph of the couple at a street party held Tuesday in Derby.
— AFP/UNB photo

All-party meeting in Bogra today

By Staff Correspondent, on return from Bogra

The district administration of Bogra has convened a joint meeting of the representatives of transport owners and workers, students and political parties at 7 pm today.

Earlier, the combined movement council (CMC) of the owners and workers enforced a transport strike in Bogra from Tuesday evening. The strike also disrupted movement of transports between Dhaka and northern region.

A meeting between the striking transport owners and workers and the Deputy Commissioner ended inconclusively yesterday morning and the CMC issued an ultimatum from a press conference yesterday evening for accepting its demands within 24 hours, said sources in Bogra reached over

telephone last night. In another development, road communication between Dhaka and Tangail remained suspended for seven hours from 9 am yesterday following alleged beating of a student of Sadat University College, Korotia, by a transport worker.

President and Joint Secretary respectively of Bogra Minibus Owners' Association Khandaker Abdul Mannan and Wahid Murad said that representatives of all route committees in the northern districts held a meeting in Bogra yesterday and decided to go for a total transport strike in the region if the authorities did not accept their 4-point demand.

Their demands include withdrawal of cases against

PM tells officials at PATC

Admn will undergo massive reforms

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said radical reforms will be carried out in the administration to ensure welfare of the common people, reports UNB.

Officials of the republic will get promotion on the basis of their professional efficiency and merit, not on loyalty to the party in power," she said.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating the 18th foundation training course for government officers at the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) at Savar in the morning.

In the nation's development efforts, Hasina said, officials of the republic will have to play a neutral and progressive role.

She observed that the administration lost its effectiveness and links with the masses as it was imposed from the top during colonial time and was ravaged by different autocrats.

The Prime Minister said the immediate goal of her government was to improve law and order and build up a corruption-

free administration. This objective cannot be achieved without the cooperation of the officials, she said.

Hasina said administration reforms it should be taken to the doorsteps of commonmen.

She referred to relevant articles of the Constitution and said people are the source of all power of the republic and fundamental responsibility of the state is to free the farmers, workers and backward people from all exploitation.

To serve the people is the primary responsibility of the persons involved in the work of the republic," she said while quoting from the Constitution.

Hasina said development is valueless if its fruits do not reach the people. Development which makes the rich richer and the poor poorer cannot be called development, she said. "Our aim is to bring equal development for all classes of people of all areas."

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DCC by-polls in 3 wards: AL bags 2, BNP one

By Staff Correspondent

By-elections in three Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) wards were held yesterday with Awami League-backed candidates being elected from wards 41 and 62 and a BNP-backed candidate returning from ward 16, according to Election Commission (EC) sources.

The seats for ward no 41 (Agargaon) and ward no 62 (Lalbagh) fell vacant as the Commissioners, Md Shahabuddin and Haji Alim respectively were gunned down by unknown assailants in two separate incidents earlier. The Commissioner of ward no 16 (Cantonment), Md Yusuf, died earlier.

In ward 41, Rokeya Shahabuddin wife of the slain AL leader and Commissioner, Shahabuddin, won the by-election securing 7,217 votes in 12 polling centres. Her nearest rival, Md Harun-ur-Rashid got 2,786 votes. BNP-backed candidate Molahar Hossain got 765 votes.

The total number of votes in

See Page 12 Col 3

Vast areas in Rajshahi, C'nawabganj flooded

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 28: Vast areas in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts were flooded in the last few days following a sharp rise in the water levels Padma and Mohananda rivers.

More than 45 thousand people are marooned in these areas.

Twenty-seven unions of Chapainawabganj Sadar thana, Shibganj, Gomostapur and Bholahat thanas were inundated. According to official sources, standing crops in six thousand hectares of land, five thousand houses and 35 educational and religious institutions were completely or partially damaged.

Ten medical teams are working in Shibganj thana areas.

No relief materials have yet reached the flood victims, the local people alleged.

The on-rush of water from across the border flooded the

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Farooq placed on another 4 days' remand

Star Report

Col (ret'd) Farooq Rahman was placed on remand for another four days on the prayer of the Criminal Investigation Department yesterday, according to CID sources.

CID prayed to the CMM's Court for another nine-day remand to continue interrogation of Farooq, the sources said.

It could not be known whether Farooq was produced before the court on the expiry of a six-day remand yesterday.

Three retired army officers — Col Farooq Rahman, Col Shahriar Rashid Khan and Major Khairuzzaman — were picked up by police from different areas of the city on August 13. They were sent to Dhaka Central Jail on a 30-day detention under the Special Powers Act of 1974.

Two cases were lodged against Farooq with the Cantonment Thana — one under the Arms Act and the other under the Special Powers Act — on August 13. No cases were lodged against the two others.

Idea of consensus govt rejected BNP ready to discuss all national issues

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has expressed his party's readiness to sit with the government to reach consensus on national issues to achieve peace and economic progress, reports UNB.

"We don't believe in the concept of consensus government, but we are ready to have consensus on important national issues through discussion with the party in power," he said while participating in the budget discussion in Parliament last night.

Criticising the new slogan of the government of consensus, Bhuiyan asked, "What consensus? Is it the consensus for re-leasing Jatiya Party Chairman Ershad and appointing Anwar Hossain Manja and ASM Abdur Rab as ministers?"

He blamed the ruling Awami League for the current spell of terrorism in the outside campuses, the killing of BNP workers and the filing of false cases across the country.

A list of 20,000 BNP workers has been prepared in the name of recovering arms, he alleged. The BNP secretary general said his party stood for a terrorism-free society, which 'needs

honest will of the government." He alleged that as many as 45 BNP workers were killed and many injured by Awami League activists in last two months.

"If you sincerely want to free society from terrorism, we want to cooperate you. Let's sit with all political parties and discuss the issue in a parliamentary committee to make concerted effort to combat terrorism," Bhuiyan added.

Commenting on the new national budget, Bhuiyan said the budget speech of the finance minister was self-contradictory and confusing.

He said the finance minister wanted to protect the local industries but did not say how he would do it.

The BNP leader suggested reduction of import duty on industrial raw materials to protect the indigenous industries and raising the subsidy for the poor and middle class farmers. He said Tk 100 crore subsidy in the agriculture sector would not be enough for nearly four crore peasants.

Bhuiyan admitted that it was not possible for the BNP government to re-open many

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JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

Leader of the House Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sat on the Chief Whip's chair in the second row for several minutes and talked to State Minister for Law Abdul Matin Khasru in the House yesterday.

The unusual scene took place when the Law Minister stopped the PM, who was about to cross the space in between the Chair and the State Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan, speaking at that moment from behind.

It is a convention not to cross the space in between the Chair and the member who has the floor.

The Leader of the House took her won seat later.

The PM was seen surrounded by several Treasury bench lawmakers. Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah pulled back one of those who leaned over the PM with his back towards the Chair. Shortly afterwards, another ruling party MP acted the same way.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Choudhury requested Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury not to show him the red light when the

See Page 12 Col 1

Report on Law Commission Bill placed in JS

The special parliamentary committee placed its report on the Law Commission Bill in Parliament yesterday for its consideration, reports UNB.

The committee chairman, Advocate Mohammad Rahmat Ali, placed the report with certain amendments to the original Bill.

State Minister for Law Abdul Matin Khasru introduced the Bill in Parliament.

The Bill seeks to reform the age-old laws and prepare new laws suiting the needs of socio-economic developments.

Servant murdered in city

By DMC Correspondent

A teenaged house servant was murdered allegedly by his friend in an apartment in the city's Moghbazar area yesterday.

Shafiqul Islam, 16, son of late Siraj Miah of Barua, Pulpur under Mymensingh district, was found dead in the servant's room of a flat in the multi-storied Century Apartments early in the morning, police said suspecting he was strangled to death.

Shafiq has been working in the house of a businessman, SM Asab Hossain for about three years.

A member of the family rising for Fazr prayers found Shafiq unconscious and fearing

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