

## Inside Today

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| DSE MARKET               |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| DSE price index          | 1196.35    |
| Market capital Tk        | 8228.83 cr |
| Transactions in volume   | 799661     |
| Transactions in value Tk | 13.37 cr   |

### Teens and Twenties

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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Biswas hosts dinner for SC judges

President Abdur Rahman Biswas hosted a dinner in honour of the judges of the Supreme Court Appellate Division and High Court Division at Bangabhaban last night. Chief Justice ATM Alizal, State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliament Affairs Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru, Attorney General Barister KS Nabi and President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan were also present, reports UNB.

#### DU exams postponed

All the examinations under course system of the Dhaka University scheduled to be held at the Arts Building and Curzon Hall have been postponed till September 5. Fresh schedule for the examinations will be announced later, said a DU press release yesterday, reports UNB.

#### JS session adjourned till 10 am tomorrow

Parliament was adjourned yesterday till 10 am tomorrow. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury adjourned the House at 10 pm with the winding up speech of the Finance Minister on the 1996-97 national budget, reports UNB.

## Cabinet okays draft private EPZ act '96

By Staff Correspondent

The cabinet yesterday approved the draft Private Export Processing Zone Act 1996, to enable private companies to set up special EPZs, according to official sources.

The cabinet approved the draft bill at a meeting held at the Prime Minister's office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The draft bill proposes to permit the sponsor company the authority and right to establish, develop, operate, manage and control the particular special EPZ.

The proposed bill will now be placed in parliament.

The draft bill also proposes to allow the sponsor company to have the 'perpetual succession and a common seal with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property both moveable

and immovable for and within the zone and shall enter into any contract or agreement, sue and be sued by its name," according to an official source.

The sponsors of the private EPZs would constitute a two tier set-up, one to be known as Board of Governors and the other as Executive Board. The Board of Governors would consist of the same persons who represent in the government owned EPZs. The Board of Directors of the sponsor company shall act as the Executive Board for the said private EPZs, the source said.

A private EPZ cell would be set up for assisting the Board of Governors for the purpose of supervision, control and monitoring the activities of the private EPZs.

The proposed bill is the out-

come of a summit meeting between the heads of governments of Bangladesh and South Korea in May 1995, wherein it was agreed to establish privately managed EPZ sponsored by Youngone Corporation of Korea, a Seoul-based company which has large investments in the government-owned EPZs.

The Korean investors had sought from the government the enactment of laws allowing private sector managed EPZs, allotment of khass land to investors, making utility services available in the Zones, improved access roads to the EPZs and efficient port facilities.

A consortium of Korean companies with Youngone as the sponsor has proposed investment of up to one billion US dollar over 10 years to establish

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## ARC for immediate functioning of office of ombudsman

By Staff Correspondent

The Administrative Reorganisation Committee has outlined a provisional structure for the office of ombudsman and recommended that it start functioning immediately as "the legal framework and political will are both in place."

The committee has among other suggestions, also recommended office assistance to all members of parliament and a small fund for investigation to be given to the elected representatives so that 'debates in parliament by the MPs are based on facts and findings.'

Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat yesterday, Nurunnabi Chowdhury, Chairman of the six-member Administrative Reorganisation Committee, presented the highlights of the recommendations and suggestions it made to the government in several volumes for rationalising and streamlining government organisations for enhanced efficiency and in the light of modern management needs.

Portions of the report obtained by The Daily Star from official sources were earlier published in its Wednesday's issue.

The report calls for slashing the number of ministries from 35 to 22 and reduction of the number of administrative organisations to 224 from 257.

which came under review of the committee.

Nurunnabi Chowdhury said that after an extensive study, the committee recommended 'abolition of seven organisations and reduction of 43 others through merger or re-organisation.'

The saving in terms of salaries and allowances due to the recommended administrative reorganisation has been estimated at Tk 174 crore a year. Actual saving, the Committee stated, would be twice as high as the estimated saving as it does not include accommodation and other fixed recurrent costs.

As a result of the reorganisation, 46,270 government officers and employees from Grade 1 to Grade IV out of a total of 5,99,430 will become redundant. The Committee chairman said these extra manpower could be termed surplus and they could be absorbed in 42,800 vacant posts that existed during the committee's tenure of office and also a result of embargo on government employment for over three years.

Responding to a question, Nurunnabi said measures for public accountability in all government run organisations needed to be increased and strengthened. Power for administrative decisions should be

decentralised and given to elected representatives of the areas concerned or local officials at the thana and district levels. Giving examples, he said, decisions for purchases and postings at government-run hospitals, schools and colleges should be taken at the lower level.

Considering the unbearable load for the Department of Health and the necessity for some measure of autonomy for higher educational institutions, and hospitals attached to these, the Committee has recommended a new Department of Medical education, he said.

In a major recommendation, the Committee has called for the integration of the five existing education boards and setting up of one secondary education board with regional offices to conduct examinations throughout the country.

The Committee observed "The ceaseless push for nationalisation of schools and colleges has apparently benefited only teachers at a huge cost to the public exchequer. The Department has failed to cope with the situation." It, therefore, recommended creation of a Department of Secondary Education for management of secondary schools only. A Department of College for management of College for manage-

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## JP leader shot dead during clash with JCD at Patiya

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 29: One person was shot dead and 10 others, including three constables, were injured in a clash between the activists of JCD and Jatiya Party at Patiya last night, police said.

The dead was identified as Mahbubur Rahman 35, a local leader of the Jatiya Party at Patiya unit.

According to police, the clash started at 10 pm when the supporters of the Jatiya Party, led by its leader Shamsul Alam Master, who is also the chairman of Patiya Municipality removed a barricade put up on the road by JCD in protest against the arrest of one of its activists.

During the clash, the local JP leader Mahbub was shot by his rivals, the SP of Chittagong Abdur Rauf told The Daily Star. Mahbub was declared dead when he was taken to the local

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## JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

Former Finance Minister and BNP lawmaker M Saifur Rahman received a thumping applause from the Treasury Bench members on several occasions during his constructive deliberation on the proposed national budget for fiscal 1996-97.

Contradicting the "vague and rhetorical comments" on the proposed budget by his own party lawmakers, Saifur Rahman categorically said, "I don't find anything wrong as far as the structure of the budget is concerned. I also differ with the BNP legislators who found lack of direction in the proposed budget."

Citing several quotations from the budget speech by the late Finance Minister in the Bangabandhu government,

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## Myanmar border force kills 3 Bangladeshis

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 29: Three people were killed and two others injured in last two days when a group of Myanmar border security force, Nasaka, allegedly opened fire on the villagers in Nkhongkhari thana of Bandarban district, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Nuruzzam, 40, and his brother Abdul Gafur, and Surat Alam 16.

Witnesses said the Nasaka members walked into Bangladesh territory through Bamhathchara frontier on Wednesday morning and fired shots at the villagers when they were cutting bamboos in the area, leaving Nuruzzam and Surat dead.

On hearing the incident, some relatives of the victims rushed to the spot today, but the Nasaka members again opened fire on the villagers leaving Gafur dead and Mansur seriously injured.

The injured were admitted to Dulaahata Memorial Hospital in Cox's Bazar district.

Meanwhile, police visited the spot, but details of the incident could not be known.

## Low-lying areas in 3 dists under Barisal flooded

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 29: The onrush of water has submerged the low-lying areas in Barisal, Patuakhali and Barguna districts.

In Bhola, a large portion of the embankment was washed away by flood waters rendering thousands of people homeless. These people have taken shelter on different embankment.

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## High count of bacteria in tap water in Mirpur

By Morshed Ali Khan

High count of bacterial presence was found in the tap water in three houses and a school at Pallabi extension in Mirpur, according to a test conducted by the Department of Environment (DOE) after it received complaints from the residents.

Chemists at the DOE warned that the count of the bacteria, Coliform, found in the water can cause deadly water-borne diseases and the water is not fit for human consumption.

There may be several causes of contamination said the DOE officials. It is possible that the water reservoirs in those houses had not been cleaned for a long time, said a chemist. "There is also possibility that the main WASA line itself contains the bacteria."

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## Kibria winds up discussion Budget in line with people's mandate for AL

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday said proper implementation of the programmes of the budget would create a momentum and sought support from all for giving the economy a nudge to make it vibrant and vigorous, reports UNB.

"The country is confronting some serious problems. Let's come forward and solve these problems...we are extending our hand, we seek your cooperation," he said, winding up general discussion on the budget for 1996-97 fiscal in Parliament last night.

In his 85-minute deliberation, the minister discussed in detail the budget he placed in the House a month back and replied to various questions raised by members from both Treasury and Opposition benches.

"The budget reflected our programmes for which the nation gave us mandate," he said, adding that the national will



S A M S Kibria

witness a revolution if a momentum in development is created through the implementation of the programmes laid down in the budget.

He said a change had taken place in the world economy as the economies are dismantling, and the budget was prepared in line with the changes with necessary direction towards poverty alleviation and self-reliance.

There is no revolutionary change in the budget compared to the previous one which was also based on the principles of the free market-economy concept, he said. "But there will definitely be a change if the budget is implemented."

In his lengthy deliberation with desk-thumping applause from the Treasury benches, the finance minister also criticised

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## Transport strike continues All-party meet in Bogra ends inconclusively

By Staff Correspondent

Transport strike in Bogra that began Tuesday evening continued as an all-party meeting convened by the district administration ended inconclusively, reports received in Dhaka last night said.

On the other hand, a day-long hartal was observed at Bogra yesterday at the call of a section of the All-Party Students' Union (APSU), the reports said.

The Combined Movement Council (CMC) of transport owners and workers, which had called the strike yesterday vowed to continue it because the all-party meeting could produce no result due to the absence of student leaders at the meeting, sources concerned in Bogra, reached over telephone, said.

The three-hour meeting was held at the DC's office from 1 pm. CMC leaders demanded of the district administration to withdraw the embargo on using the road in front of the Azizul Haq Government University College for uninterrupted movement of transports.

Students had earlier requested the DC not to allow traffic movement in front of the college for 40 days.

The hartal was enforced by a section of the APSU following withdrawal of support by the pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and left

leaning student bodies.

The BNP-backed Jatiyatadab Chhatra Dal (JCD) and pro-Jamaat' Islami Chhatra Shibir went for the hartal demanding arrest of those police personnel, responsible for the killing of students, withdrawal of cases against students and raising of the amount of compensation for the victims' families.

The students also brought out a procession in the afternoon and held a rally at Sathmatha in the town. At the meeting, student leaders threatened to make the district administration 'inactive' in case of its failure to accept their demands within 24 hours.

All shops, educational institutions, business houses remained closed and all sorts of vehicles stayed off the roads during the hartal period. No train could reach or leave Bogra station yesterday, organisers of the hartal claimed.

Meanwhile, the Principal and Vice Principal of the university college, who were present at the all-party meeting, would try to arrange a meeting with student leaders today, one source said.

The DC of Bogra could not be contacted over telephone last night despite repeated attempts.

## PM tells JSL meeting in city A party is out to discredit AL govt

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said a party is plotting to create law and order situation to discredit her two-month-old government, reports UNB.

"When we are trying to restore peace and stability, they are letting loose terrorism in educational institutions and different parts of the country," she said at a commemorative meeting at the Institution of Engineers in the afternoon.

"A certain party is trying to destabilise peace and stability by creating a situation as part of their deep-rooted conspiracy against the government and democracy."

Jatiya Sramik League, a front organisation of the ruling Awami League, arranged the meeting to mark August 15, the National Mourning Day.

Referring to the recent Bogra incident, Hasina said just after the incident, the government took steps to restore peace and an accord was signed by all parties for maintaining peace.

But, she alleged, after the ar-

ival of the Opposition Leader in the northern town, peace was disrupted. The peace meeting was attacked and BNP breached the peace accord, she told the meeting.

On that day, said the Prime Minister, the opposition party in Parliament also created a situation and walked out of the House, saying that 144 and curfew was imposed on Bogra.

"But neither 144 nor curfew was imposed. They said this inside the House just to create a situation to stage a walkout," Hasina said, alleging that all these are part of their conspiracy.

About September 5 byelection, Hasina said the BNP was also trying to create a situation to make a plea that the election would not be free and fair under this government.

She said sensing their possible defeat in some seats the BNP was trying to create the situation to blame the election process.

Referring to the results of

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## Fresh areas in Rajshahi, C'nawabganj flooded

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Aug 29: The overall flood situation in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts further deteriorated in the last 24 hours as the water levels of Padma and Mohananda rivers continued to rise.

Fresh areas have gone under water in the two districts. The Rajshahi Town Protection Dam is at stake at Dulongpur and in police lines areas. Matressings of the T-groan of the Dam have been eroded by strong currents.

Hundreds of houses and croplands have also been damaged.

Some areas of the city and Humantanagar, Tekpara, Chamariabari, Natunpara and Hotharpara villages of Char Asharidaha union under Godagari thana have been flooded. Twenty one villages of Godagari thana are now under flood waters.

Two minor children, Mohammad Israfil, 5, of Manik Chalk village and Golapi Khatun, 6, of Charkanapara village drowned yesterday.

In Chapainawabganj, some new areas in the sadar thana Gomostapur, Shibganj and Bholahat thanas have been inundated. Flood waters entered Nachol thana areas today. Road communication in Chapainawabganj sadar and Shibganj thanas has also been disrupted.

Six persons drowned in Chapainawabganj district during the last one week.

According to the Water Development Board, the Padma and the Mohananda were flowing 142 cm and 45 cm above the danger levels at Panka in Shibganj and at Chapainawabganj points respectively this evening.

## Kailashtila gas drilling work opens today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the drilling work of well no 4 at the Kailashtila Gas Field in Golapganj thana of Sylhet district at 4 pm today, reports UNB.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Lt Gen (retd) Noor Uddin Khan will accompany the Prime Minister, said a PID handout.

The drilling work was undertaken in 1993 under Kailashtila Oil Evaluation-Gas Development Project at a cost of Tk 24.56 crore and it was scheduled to be completed by June 1996.

But the work started in last financial year due to some reasons and is expected to be completed by the current fiscal at a revised cost of Tk 28 crore.

## Application for injunction on President's oath taking moved

The application for an order of mandatory injunction restraining former chief justice Shahabuddin Ahmed from taking oath as the President of Bangladesh was moved before Justice Abdur Rouf in his official chamber of the Appellate Division but no order was passed, reports BSS.

The petitioner's counsel informed the judge that they are awaiting to get the certified copy of the judgement passed by a writ bench of the High Court Division on August 19, 1996 rejecting their writ petition challenging the election of Shahabuddin Ahmed as president. After obtaining the same they would file an appeal.

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## Arrest warrant against 13 ex-army officials

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 29: A court here today issued arrest warrant against 13 ex-army officials linked with the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, reports UNB.

A first class magistrate, Paban Chowdhury, issued the warrant under section 295 (A) of the Bangladesh Penal Code upon a case filed by Adv. Mohammad Nurul Islam, General

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## Clinton's political consultant Dick Morris resigns

CHICAGO, Aug 29: President Clinton's top political consultant Dick Morris has resigned following reports that he was embroiled in a year-long affair with a 200-dollar-an-hour prostitute, campaign sources said Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The sources said White House spokesman Mike McCurry was expected to make an official announcement of Morris' resignation shortly.

## Appointments cancelled

By Staff Correspondent

The contract appointments of the Chairman of the Chittagong Development Authority, Lt Col (retd) Mohammad Ziauddin, BU, and the Director General of the Islamic Foundation Sved Ashraf Ali have been

cancelled, said a PID handout yesterday.

The services of the member (Joint Secretary) of Bangladesh Handloom Board, Hiralal Bala and the director (Joint Secretary) of BTMC Md Shamsul Islam have been placed at the disposal of the Commerce Ministry for appointment as Directors of TCB on deputation.