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DSE MARKET	
DSE price index	1390.85
Market capital Tk	9628.54 cr
Transactions in volume	796006.80
Transactions in value Tk	19.53 cr

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Dhaka Day by Day



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NEWS BRIEFS

Gujral meets Khaleda today

The visiting Indian External Affairs Minister, I K Gujral, will make a courtesy call on the BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in parliament, Begum Khaleda Zia, at her residence in the city today, a BNP press release said last night. Senior BNP leaders will remain present during the meeting, the press release added, reports BSS.

Card phone booth installed at Mirpur

A card phone booth was installed at the bus stand of Mirpur No 11 in the city yesterday. The number of card phone booths in the country now stands at 1178. Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim inaugurated the booth by talking to local MP Kamal Ahmed Majumder, reports BSS.

2 Indian MPs meet CPB leaders

Indian parliament members Geetha Mukherjee (CPI) and Chitta Basu (Forward Block), who are in the city with the visiting Indian delegation, called on leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday. CPB leaders Shahidullah Chowdhury, Mujahedul Islam Selim, Jasimuddin Mandal, Muniruzzaman, Shah Alam and Manzurul Ahsan Khan received the visitors at the CPB office. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on matters of common interest between Bangladesh and India, reports BSS.

Phensidyl seized, one arrested

Police seized 122 bottles of banned phensidyl syrup and arrested one person from Goolandara area under the city's Kotwali thana yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, Detective Branch police arrested one Sultan Hossain and recovered the phensidyl from his possession at about 2 pm. Another squad of detective police arrested one Mohammad Jashimuddin on charges of terrorism from Suhrawardi Hospital area yesterday, reports UNB.

Water accord before lean period: Gujral

By Staff Correspondent

Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral said yesterday his country has agreed in principle to reach an accord with Bangladesh for settling the water-sharing issue before the onset of the next lean season.

"The water-sharing issue has been discussed to the satisfaction of Bangladesh. I am accepting in principle Bangladesh's position on the matter," he said. Gujral was talking to news-men after he emerged from Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad from a 90-minute talks between the two sides. Officials of both the countries were also present.

Asked whether there were discussions on the quantum of

water Bangladesh could get following an accord, the Indian minister replied, "details would be worked out at the level of experts."

Pressed by news-men, he said, "We have agreed on broad principles for settling the issue. You can ask your Foreign Minister."

Abdus Samad Azad said, "Highest priority has been given to resolving the water problem and it would be worked out before the onset of the coming lean season."

Gujral immediately concurred, "I fully endorse his views."

Asked how would they decide on the quantum of water, Gujral

replied, "Mechanism will be set in motion to work out the details."

Continuing he said, "There is a different mood. Political will is backing both sides in resolving outstanding problems between the two countries."

Earlier, the Indian Minister described the talks, "as very friendly, very warm and very productive."

The two sides discussed "all issues" including water-sharing, trade, Chakma refugees, land boundary, security and visa," he said.

Gujral said "no" when asked if the question of transit was discussed.

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'Delhi to remove all non-tariff barriers on Dhaka's goods'

Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral yesterday said all non-tariff restrictions on exports from Bangladesh will be withdrawn and 50 per cent tariff on 13 broad categories of products will be reduced, reports UNB.

The details will be worked out at an official and professional level meeting in New Delhi this month, he said during a meeting with Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed at the latter's Secretariat office here in the afternoon.

Gujral also assured that 100 crore Indian rupees' suppliers credit would be provided for promoting industrial investment in Bangladesh, which will include, among others, the BMRE of Chittagong Steel Mills.

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EC office gherao Tuesday AL govt emerges as vote dacoit: BNP

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will gherao the Election Commission office on Tuesday to press for resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and repolling in Laxmipur-2 and Chittagong-1 constituencies, reports UNB.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan announced the programme at a big protest rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. City BNP organised the rally to protest alleged rigging and terrorism during the September 5 by-election.

"The government emerged as an autocrat, vote dacoit and monarch ruler within only two months of its takeover," Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof

Badruddoza Chowdhury told the rally.

He charged the Awami League government with unleashing terrorist activities, killings and repression on the people throughout the country.

Mannan Bhuiyan alleged that the ruling party had won most of the seats in the by-election through vote-dacoity and terrorism in a pre-planned manner.

He urged the CEC to resign immediately for 'failure to conduct free and fair by-elections'.

"We didn't want to take to the streets. The government has compelled us to do so," he said adding that his party would not

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Rice procurement drive extended due to price fall

Star Report

The government has decided to extend the current rice procurement drive and increase the procurement target from three lakh metric tons to four lakh tons.

The government is also planning to start a new rice procurement drive from this month to give price support to the farmers who had been witnessing stagnation in grain prices, according to an authoritative source.

These initiatives came as there has been a reported 'crash' in rice prices across the country, sources said.

"This is not the procurement season, but we have decided to buy grains to give price support to the farmers," said Food and Agriculture Minister Matia

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BNP city body dissolved: Khoka new convenor

A convening committee of the City BNP was formed yesterday with Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP as convenor, reports UNB.

Salahuddin Ahmed, Maj (Rtd) Kamrul Islam, Maj (Rtd) Abdul Mannan and Ekhas Uddin Mohtasham were made joint convenors of the committee.

A party press release said the city BNP committee was dissolved as its tenure had expired earlier. Its president Mir Shawkat Ali was made a member of the convening committee.

Other members of the committee are: Mirza Abbas, Barister Abul Hasnat, L. Salam, Saidur Rahman Sayeed, Kazi Abul Bashir, A. Wadud Master, Mejbah Uddin Sabu, Ehsanul Haq Setu, Shamsul Huda, Chowdhury, M. Alam, Tarikulah Sikdar, Fazlur Rahman, Abu Naser Chowdhury, Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan, M. A. Malek.

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BCL, Shibir clash in Cox's Bazar: 1 killed

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 7: An activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir was killed and eight others were injured in a gunfight with alleged Chhatra League workers today at the Farid Ahmed College at Edigha, about 35 kms off the town.

Joylul Abedin, who was hit with a bullet, died on way to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Witnesses said that Chhatra League activists had cut off one of the wrists of the victim when he fell on the ground after being injured.

Witnesses said the two rival groups were scheduled to sit today for a resolution of an earlier dispute. But, instead, they started a gunfight at around 11:30 am. At one stage, the Chhatra League activists also alleged of disconnecting the telephone line of the Principal of the college and locked his room. A tensed situation is prevailing.

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Iraq fires missiles against US warplanes

BAGHDAD, Sept 7: Iraq said today it fired surface-to-air missiles against US warplanes policing the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq but added that no planes were shot down, reports Reuters.

"The air defence men have confronted the hostile (American) aircraft by firing surface-to-air missiles," state television said quoting a defence ministry spokesman. It did not say when the incident took place.

Meanwhile, the United States said today it could not confirm that Iraq had fired surface-to-air missiles against US warplanes policing no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq.

Body to probe kidnapping of Kalpana Chakma

The government has formed a three-member inquiry committee to investigate the kidnapping of Kalpana Chakma, reports BSS.

The committee is headed by retired judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, Justice Md Abdul Jalil. Two other members are Md Sakhat Hossain, Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong, and Prof Anupam Sen of Department of Social Science of Chittagong University, said an official handout yesterday.

The earlier notification of August 14 of the Home Ministry regarding the formation of an inquiry committee stands cancelled, the handout added.

The committee will examine the matters relating to the kidnapping of Kalpana Chakma and identify those responsible for it. It would also make recommendations for necessary legal actions against the responsible persons.

The committee is to submit its report within 30 days to the Home Ministry.



Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and his Indian counterpart I K Gujral at the formal talks yesterday. —Star photo

Govt team to visit India, Nepal to study power purchase prospects

By Inam Ahmed and Sharier Khan

The government is likely to send an expert team to Nepal and India very soon to review the possibility and potential of buying cheaper power for local consumption, said an authoritative source.

The Energy Ministry is toying with the idea of purchasing power from Meghalaya of India and Nepal against the backdrop of an apprehended severe power shortage that would peak in the next season.

The new approach to ease the power crisis on the basis of regional co-operation has been inspired by the successful regional power distribution system in Europe and in the ASEAN countries.

However, a well placed source said that this is only a tentative alternative among many others including power

generation in the private sector, rehabilitation of old power plants and implementation of load management system that the government is to explore to meet the country's growing demand.

The Ministry might actively consider purchasing power from the neighbouring countries after the team submits its report.

The sources said that Nepal generates some 25000 MW electricity from its hydro power plants which is in excess of the local demand. Meghalaya also generates surplus electricity.

The lowest price of power in Bangladesh is 4.23 US cents per kilowatt hour. It is only 1.85 cents per kilowatt hour in Kathmandu and 2.59 cents in eastern India.

"But we will have to see

whether purchasing power from India or Nepal would be viable since some investment would be required to build power line and other installations to make connection between the buyer and the seller," said one well placed source.

It was earlier predicted that the country would face 450 MW power shortage in peak hours next year. Different plants in Bangladesh have the total installed capacity of around 2800 MW power, but as some of these plants have become totally or partially obsolete, these plants hardly generate 1800 MW power against a peak demand of 2000 MW.

In order to rehabilitate some of the partially obsolete plants the government has chalked out an US 200 million dollar project.

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Sri Lanka win Singer World Series

Sports Reporter

A cool, composed Aravinda de Silva with an unbeaten 75 propelled world champions Sri Lanka to another height in one-day cricket as the islanders lifted the Singer World Series trophy, defeating Australia by 50-runs in the final of the four-nation meet at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, according to Star Sports monitored here yesterday.

In a renewed rivalry of the two countries since their clash in the World Cup finals early this year, Aravinda de Silva, the master stroke player and inspiration of his side's World Cup victory, played yet another gem of an innings to guide Sri Lanka to huge 234/3 in a rain-reduced 35-over-a-side match. In reply, Australia, facing an uphill task of scoring more than 6.5 runs per over, were bundled out for 184 with 12 balls to spare. (Detail on page 11)

Police seeks early autopsy report of Salman Shah

By Staff Correspondent

Police yesterday requested the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) authorities to send the autopsy report of film star Salman Shah as early as possible, according to a senior police official.

Chowdhury Md Shariar alias Imon, better known as Salman Shah, reportedly committed suicide in his 10th floor flat at Eskaton Plaza under Ramna thana in the city Friday noon.

Police sources said last night that they needed to investigate the incident to confirm whether it was a case of suicide or not.

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DSE index jumps by 62 points

By Rafiq Hasan

Share trading at the Dhaka Stock Exchange DSE, having a bull run for several weeks, surged further yesterday and set new records in its all major market indicators.

The DSE All Share Price Index gained 63.03 points yesterday. The market capital of the bourse also rose by Tk 429.46 crore.

The DSE All Share Price Index which had crossed the 1200 mark at the beginning of this month, jumped to 1390.84 points yesterday marking a record rise of more than 172 points in only six days' brisk trading.

Share trading was closed on Wednesday and Friday due to government holidays.

The market capitalisation of the bourse rose by more than Tk 1000 crore since the beginning of this month. It reached Tk

9628.54 crore yesterday from Tk 8652.83 crore earlier.

As many as 7 lakh 96 thousand shares and debentures worth more than Tk 19.53 crore exchanged hands yesterday. The rate of turnover in value was more than Tk 17 crore in the previous week.

Out of 123 issues traded prices of 83 gained, 36 suffered losses while 4 issues remained unchanged.

A stable political situation in the country, enthusiasm among the investors, high demand for shares compared to the supply and influx of new capital were the main causes behind the surge in the share market, according to the market operators and experts.

The market will boom further in future if political stability persists, said Imtiaz Hossain.

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Flood situation in 3 districts improves

By Staff Correspondent

There has been a slight improvement in the flood situation in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Kushtia districts. Our Rajshahi Correspondent reports: The overall flood situation in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts has slightly improved as flood waters started to recede from the flood-affected areas followed by sharp falls in the water levels of the Padma and Mohananda rivers.

The water level of the Padma fell by seven centimeters and twelve centimeters at Rajshahi and Panka respectively while the water level of the Mohananda fell by six centimeters

at Chapainawabganj point.

Meanwhile, the sufferings of the flood affected people have increased due to shortage of food, drinking water and medicines. Diarrhoea broke out in the flood affected areas, and five persons died in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj in the last two days. More than 300 people were attacked of diarrhoea.

Our Kushtia Correspondent adds: The overall flood situation in the district has improved slightly with the recession of water for the affected areas.

The river Ganges was flowing

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DU classes resume tomorrow

By DU Correspondent

Normal administrative activities in the Dhaka University started yesterday after an 18-day unscheduled closure.

The classes at the University will resume tomorrow. All academic and administrative activities remained suspended following a series of clashes between the pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) over gaining control of the residential halls.

The JCD had withdrawn its indefinite strike on the campus under a peace agreement signed last Friday. The student fronts, while signing the agreement, promised to help the authorities in maintaining congenial academic atmosphere in the university.

The university authorities

started implementing the agreement by opening the main gate of the Mohsin Hall. The gate was closed when the BCL took control of the hall in the middle of last month and opened a new gate in the southern side of the hall. The authorities, however, closed the new gate yesterday.

The rehabilitation process, according to the agreement, will start from 9 am today and continue till 1 pm. All students of the residential halls have been requested to vacate the dormitories by 8:30 am. The students will be allowed to enter the dormitories again after their identity cards are verified by the hall authorities.

The Acting Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof Shahiduddin Ahmed and the Proctor, See Page 12 Col 7



A gate of Mohsin Hall, Dhaka University, is being sealed yesterday in presence of Vice Chancellor Prof Shahid Uddin Ahmed after the BCL-JCD understanding to restore normalcy on the campus. —Star photo