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**TODAY**  
Read the Star Weekend Magazine's Cover Story, this week, on the leather industry of the country—its prospects and problems. And, besides the regular columns and features, read the 2nd instalment of the serial on Grameen Bank's success story *Fulzan's First Loan*.

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**DSE MARKET**

DSE price index	1527.50
Market capital Tk	10687.23 cr
Transactions in volume	580913
Transactions in value Tk	11.22 cr

**CSE MARKET**

CSE price index	590.91
Market capital Tk	599.83 cr
Transactions in volume	124745
Transactions in value Tk	2.84 cr

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Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng accompanies Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as she reviews the guard of honour during the welcoming ceremony in Beijing's Tiananmen Square yesterday. —AFP/UNB photo

## Dhaka seeks help to develop agro-based industry, technology

# Beijing to strengthen ties, extend all cooperation

BEIJING, Sept 12: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's four-day official visit to China began here today amidst the assurance of further consolidating the existing friendly relations between the two countries in the years to come, reports BSS.

The Chinese Prime Minister, Li Peng, assured that his government would extend all possible cooperation towards the present government of Bangladesh headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

This sentiment was expressed during the official talks held between the two prime ministers accompanied by ministers and senior officials of the two governments at the Eastern Hall of the Great Hall of the People here this afternoon.

Initiating the talks the Chinese Prime Minister cordially welcomed the Bangladeshi Prime Minister and her entourage members to his country and said, "as Awami League is in power, we are ready to strengthen our cooperation with the present government of Bangladesh to the mutual benefit of both the governments and the peoples."

Li Peng said Bangladesh-China were already enjoying very friendly relations and

added that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to China would further help consolidate it for the benefit of the two sides. "We want to continue it," he said with assertion.

The Chinese Premier also referred to Bangladesh Awami League's victory during the June 12 elections and said, "We are glad over the victory of Awami League in that election and the party's assumption to power."

Li Peng also said that Awami League and the Communist Party of China strongly fostered a good relation when Awami League was in the Opposition.

Reciprocating the feelings of Li Peng, Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina described the Bangladesh-China relations as historic and recalled with respect and pride the visits of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in China in 1952 and '57.

Sheikh Hasina also referred to the visit of late Chinese premier Zhou Enlai to the then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) when late Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy was the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was a member of his cabinet.

She also referred to her visit to China as the Leader of the Opposition in 1993 and recalled that she had welcomed late Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai in Dhaka with a bouquet.

Sheikh Hasina, thanking premier Li Peng, expressed the hope that the existing relations would grow further to the mutual benefits of the two countries.

She referred to her party's relentless struggle for the last 21 years and said it had finally come to power through a free and fair elections which was observed by over 200 foreign observers.

"We have formed the government on the basis of consensus and for that reason we have elected Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, a non-party and neutral person, as the president of Bangladesh," she said.

Bangladesh delegation present on the occasion were Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Agriculture and Food Minister Motia Chowdhury, Abdul Rouf MP, Sayeda Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Foreign Secretary, Farooq Sobhan, Bangladesh Ambassador to China Mustafizur Rahman, Defence Secretary Quazi Manzur-e-Mowla, Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir, Power and Energy Secretary Dr M A Samad, Board of Investment executive chairman Dr Tawfiq Elahi



Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury administering oath to MPs elected in the September 5 by-elections at his Jatiya Sangsad chamber yesterday. —Star photo

## Two trade teams to visit in October

# More companies may invest soon, hopes British trade promoter

The UK Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) first export promoter for the Bangladesh market, David J Burton, yesterday hoped that more British investment would be made here in the near future.

"There will be an increasing amount of British investment here now that the new government has settled down. I am optimistic that the situation will improve further and more companies will be following into the market," said Burton, at a press conference here. He left Dhaka yesterday after a 7-day visit.

He informed the press that as a follow-up of his visit, two business teams from Leeds and Bradford Chamber of Commerce will be coming here in October this year.

Burton had visited a number of British companies operating in Bangladesh, met local businessmen and also the officials of BOI, ministry of shipping, EPZ and Chittagong Port Authority (CPA).

He said the primary objective of his visit was to observe the investment situation in Bangladesh and to gain knowledge and information about market and development of different sectors so that he can advise British companies wanting to do business in Bangladesh.

He mentioned that a British company, Wilsons, is now at the initial stage of setting up a plant at Chittagong EPZ for manufacturing oil and gas pipelines to support another British oil exploration company, Cairn, and also other companies that are forthcoming.

On his return to UK, Burton said he would contact major UK computer companies for supplying equipment to the CPA.

He observed that the trade balance between the two countries is in favour of Bangladesh and that he will try to redress the balance in favour of UK.

UK's import from Bangladesh increased by 28 per cent over the last one year while its export fell by 28 per cent.

## 13 MPs-elect take oath

Thirteen members of parliament elected in the September 5 by-election took oath at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury separately administered the oath of office to eight MPs from ruling Awami League, three from Opposition BNP and two from JP.

The MPs who took oath are: Dr Mohammad Selim (Sirajganj-1), Sheikh Helal Uddin (Bagerhat-1), Master Mujibur Rahman (Shariatpur-1), Imran Ahmed (Sylhet 4), Harunur Rashid (Laxmipur 2), Engineer Mosharrar Hossain (Chittagong-1), Anisul Haq Chowdhury (Rangpur 2) and HN Ashikur Rahman (Rangpur 5) of Awami League; Mohammad Zahurul Islam (Bogra-6), Helaluzzaman Talukdar (Lalmonirhat 7) and Moinat Begum (Chittagong 13) of BNP and Mozammel Hossain (Rangpur 3) and Tasmina Hossain (Pirojpur 2) of Jatiya Party.

## Four ministers visit Langadu

# 'Govt firm to restore CHT peace thru' political dialogue'

LANGADU, Sept 12: A ministerial team today visited Langadu in Baghaichhari thana under Rangamati district and assured the people that the government is determined to restore peace in the region through political dialogue.

Twenty-eight woodcutters, out of 33 kidnapped by Shantibahinimen on Monday, were shot dead & their bodies were recovered from a forest at Langadu yesterday morning.

Appreciating that there was no 'reprisal', the ministers observed that the killing of the woodcutters could be an attempt by vested quarters to destabilise the existing truce between the government and the Shantibahini.

The ministers who visited the area to get a first hand impression of the situation in the region are: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Home Minister Maj (rt'd) Rafiqul Islam and State Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan.

Addressing a mourning rally at Langadu, the ministers pointed out that the Prime Minister would have been visiting the area if she was not scheduled to visit China.

Communal harmony shall be maintained at any cost," Abdur Razzak told the rally attended by a cross section of people who came to attend the janaza of the 28 woodcutters. All of them were buried near

## Spl JS team to visit Langadu by Sunday

The seven-member special committee, headed by Chief Whip of Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Abul Hasnat Abdullah to probe the massacre of 28 woodcutters at Langadu in Rangamati, would visit the area by Sunday, committee sources said.

The committee, comprising MPs from the ruling Awami

Party, will be accompanied by a team of journalists. The committee will be headed by Chief Whip of Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Abul Hasnat Abdullah to probe the massacre of 28 woodcutters at Langadu in Rangamati, would visit the area by Sunday, committee sources said.

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## Iraq fires missiles at western air patrols

KUWAIT, Sept 12: Iraq and the United States were on a collision course today, with US warplanes moving within striking distance and Baghdad saying it had fired three more missiles at Western air patrols, reports Reuter.

Undeterred by US threats of a "disproportionate" response, Iraq said it had fired for a second straight day on the western aircraft that have enforced a "no-fly zone" for Iraqi aircraft in the north and south of Iraq since the 1991 Gulf War.

"Iraq will continue defending its national air space," Iraqi Information Minister Abd-Al-Ghani Abd-Al-Ghafur said before the latest missile firings. "Iraqis and the Iraqi armed forces will meet any aggression."

But the United States said after Iraq fired on US F-16s over northern Iraq on Wednesday that it was readying F-117A

## Salman's body to be exhumed for fresh autopsy

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) yesterday forwarded a petition moved by the Detective Branch (DB) for conducting a second autopsy of the film star Salman Shah.

The CMM forwarded the petition to the district magistrate of Sylhet, where Salman was

## NGOs involved in post-flood agri rehabilitation

The Agriculture Ministry has involved the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in post-flood agricultural rehabilitation.

The ministry has formed 17 task forces to make an on the spot assessment of the damage caused by floods in 17 greater

## Jail killing of Nov 3, 1975

# Farooq placed on CID remand for 7 days

Col (rt'd) Farooqur Rahman was arrested from a Bangkok market for shop lifting on July 12 and has been put in a deportation cell.

CID is now investigating the case filed with Lalbagh thana 21 years ago following the killing of four national leaders in Dhaka Central Jail.

The three former army officers were picked up by police on August 13. They were sent to Dhaka Central Jail on a 30-day detention order under the Special Powers Act of 1974.

The detention period ended yesterday. Of the three, the detention of Khairuzzaman was extended by 90 days while Farooq had been on remand for the last 20 days, placed by the court four times separately.

Police said earlier Farooq was arrested from a Bangkok market for shop lifting on July 12 and has been put in a deportation cell.

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## ACC Trophy Bangladesh, PNG first semi today

Bangladesh will take on Papua New Guinea in the first semi-final of the Pepsi ACC cricket tournament at the Killat Club ground in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia today.

The match kicks-off at 7.30 am (BST). Star Sports, the Hong Kong-based cable net-work, will cover the match live while Bangladesh Betar, 'Kha' will broadcast the running commentary from Kuala Lumpur.

A pre-tournament favourites in the 12-nation meet, Bangladesh emerged Group A champions with five wins from as many first round engagements. This will be the second meeting between Bangladesh and the Pacific Ocean islanders. Bangladesh will seek to avenge their earlier defeat in the 1982 ICC Trophy.

Bangladesh, who have been in fine fettle so far in the meet, a qualifying tourney to pick the only non-Test playing nation for the forthcoming Asia Cup to be held in Sri Lanka next year, will be led by skipper Akram Khan.

## Yasmin Murder Case shifted to Rangpur Judge Court

RANGPUR, Sept 12: The sensational Yasmin murder case has been shifted to the Rangpur Judge Court from Dinajpur.

All nine accused in the case have been asked to appear before the Rangpur District and Sessions Judge Court on September 20.

The accused are: Mainul Haque, ex-ASI of Kotwali Thana, Dinajpur; Abdus Sattar, ex-constable of Dinajpur police lines; Sree Armita Lal Barman, ex-driver constable, police lines, Dinajpur; Abdul Motaleb, ex-SP, Dinajpur; Mahtab Hossain, ex-SI O/C Kotwali thana, Dinajpur; Swapan Kumar Chakravarty, ex-SI, Kotwali thana, Dinajpur; Matkur Rahman, ex-SI O/C watch DSB, Dinajpur; Md Jahangir Alam, ex-ASI, Kotwali thana, Dinajpur and Dr Md Mohsin, medical officer, Child Diseases Department, General Hospital, Dinajpur.

## Sept 5 bypolls Moudud alleges false voting, terrorism

Moudud Ahmed, the BNP candidate for Laxmipur 2 constituency in the September 5 by-election, yesterday alleged that the ruling party had broken all past records of rigging and terrorism during the voting, reports UNB.

"Now there is no doubt that no election can be held in a free and fair manner under the present government," he told a press conference at BNP central office.

He alleged that the voters, particularly women, were intimidated by ruling party "terrorists" in his constituency.

The ruling party activists created panic by exploding crackers the day before the election, captured the polling centres by 9 am on the polling day and completed the "false voting" by 10 am, he alleged.

He said participation of voters was thin in the by-election. Only 5 per cent of the total voters was women in this election whereas it was more than 30 per cent in the June 12 election.

In this respect, he referred to a report of BBC, quoted from a report of FEWA, and showed some photographs of voterless polling centres published in national dailies. He also produced

## 16 promoted as Joint Secy

Sixteen Deputy Secretary-level officials have been promoted to Joint Secretary, an official announcement said last night, reports UNB.

They have been made Officers on Special Duty (OSD) at the Ministry of Establishment until further order, said the announcement.

The promotions are: Director of Disaster Management Bureau Djendra Nath Bepari, Additional Commissioner of Chittagong Division Mohammad Yakub Ali, Additional Commissioner of Dhaka Division Mohammad Abdus Sattar, Director of the Bureau of Anti Corruption M Abdur Rashid Khan, Deputy Secretaries of Finance Department Mohammad Nurul Amin Patwari and Mohammad Emdad Hossain, Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Mohammad Jalal Uddin, Director of BFDC Mohammad Zahuruddin Bhuiyan, Waki, Administrator Mohammad Asadul Haq, Deputy Secretary of the Parliament Secre-