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The Daily Star

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DSE MARKET
DSE price index 1532.45
Market capital Tk 10721.88 cr
Transactions in volume 505363
Transactions in value Tk 12.26 cr

NEWS BRIEFS

Performance of pvt banks reviewed

The performance of the private banks was reviewed at a meeting held yesterday with Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria in the chair. Secretary, Banking Division and Chairman of different private banks were present at the meeting, reports BSS.

Anam new envoy to Belgium

The government has decided to appoint ASM Khaireul Anam, a secretary in the Foreign Ministry, the Bangladesh Ambassador to Belgium.

Anam earlier served as Ambassador to United Arab Emirates, the former German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and Poland. A career diplomat, Anam was promoted to the rank of full secretary/Additional Ambassador in November 1995, reports UNB.

Young man shot
dead in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Sept 17: Some unidentified gunmen shot dead a young man at South Paindang village under Fatiullah thana here this afternoon. The victim was identified as Nazrul Islam, 26, a supporter of Islami Chhatra Shibir. He was returning home from Bibirhat when the gunmen attacked him at about 1 pm, police said. None has been arrested in this connection.

3 bodies recovered in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Sept 17: The bodies of three unidentified persons were recovered from the rail track on the Sylhet-Akaura section yesterday. The GRP recovered the body of a 45-year-old man from near the Bhumanagach station, the body of 16-year-old boy from near Srimangal station and the body of a woman from near a railway bridge. The boy's throat was tied with a cloth while the two other victims were run over by trains, police said.

Businessman
robbed

A businessman was robbed off about Tk 58,000 at Tajmahal Road in city's Mohammadpur area yesterday. Hotel sources said the miscreants attacked the businessman Mohammad Rafiq when he was going to his shop "Ekota Rice Agency" at Krishi Market and snatched the money at about 8:30 pm. They also stabbed Rafiq as he tried to resist them. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, reports UNB.

Visit successful, says PM

Investors in China, HK made positive response'

She referred to her meetings with investors in China and Hong Kong and said she received positive response from the international entrepreneurs for investment in Bangladesh.

"We thoroughly discussed with China different aspects of trade and commerce as well as efforts to improve the economic self-reliance for the people of Bangladesh."

Four agreements were signed with China during her visit. The agreements envisage 30 million Yuan Chinese grants and 100 million Yuan soft loan for Bangladesh, promotion and protection of each other's investments and avoidance of double taxation.

She hoped that these agreements would yield positive results for the country.

Referring to the current imbalance in bilateral trade, the

Prime Minister said she had insisted on increasing Chinese import from Bangladesh.

Asked if any agreement was signed with China for cooperation in the defence sector, she said, "No. She, however, stated that she had discussed defence matters with the Chinese leaders.

The Defence Secretary who was present at the press conference said that the defence cooperation had been existing between Dhaka and Beijing for a long time. Both sides discussed about strengthening of this cooperation.

Turning to regional problems, Hasina said she had discussed with the Chinese leadership ways and means of resolving those problems through discussions.

Poverty is the common problem.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeting the national cricket team for winning the ACC trophy when the team called on her at her office yesterday. — Star photo

BNP to boycott Habiganj-2 bypolls, stage agitations

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has decided to boycott the by-election in Habiganj-2 constituency, scheduled for October 15. However, the party will not make any attempt to resist the by-polls.

The BNP has also decided to "fight the government's recently brought allegations of corruption against its leaders both legally and politically."

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the party's Standing Committee held last night with party chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda in the chair at her Minto Road official residence. The meeting followed expiry of a seven-day ultimatum of the party for resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

The BNP also reiterated its

demand for re-election in Laxmipur-2 and Chittagong-1 constituencies on the ground that the by-elections were allegedly rigged by the ruling Awami League.

The Habiganj-2 seat of the Jatiya Sangsads fell vacant following the death of the AL MP.

With none of its demand met, the BNP's Standing Committee, the highest policy making body of the party, yesterday observed that the forthcoming by-polls in the Habiganj-2 constituency would not be free and fair.

"How can we participate in the by-election when the Election Commission is incapable of ensuring people's franchise? What is the use of taking part in the polls when we are sure that its result is already prepared?" Khandaker Delwar Hossain, a

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standing body member and Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament, asked when requested last night to explain reasons for the boycott.

The meeting also chalked out a package of agitation programmes to protest against the alleged repression on BNP leaders and activists by the ruling party and police.

With none of its demand met, the BNP's Standing Committee, the highest policy making body of the party, yesterday observed that the forthcoming by-polls in the Habiganj-2 constituency would not be free and fair.

The meeting also discussed the issue of charges of corruption brought against some BNP leaders by the Anti-Corruption Bureau. Another standing committee member who attended the meeting told this correspondent over telephone

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— Star photo

Top US oil co chief arrives Friday to talk investment

By Sharier Khan

Dick Cheney, former US defence secretary and chief of the oil giant Halibuton, is due to arrive in Dhaka on Friday next to discuss investment of 100 million US dollars for development of the Sangu-1 well in the Bay of Bengal, official sources said yesterday.

Cheney is likely to meet the Prime Minister on behalf of the Brown and Roots, a sister organisation of Halibuton, which is now seeking permission to finance the 200 million dollar bonus to the Petrobangla development scheme with a British company, Cairn Plc which

announced commercial extraction of gas from the Sangu-1 well and award a one million dollar bonus to the Petrobangla as agreement with the government.

The sources said that the Cairn has plans to extract and supply gas to the Bakhraband Gas Pipeline at Chittagong City gate by the second quarter of 1998.

Sources said, the Brown and

Roots submitted an application for approval of the government to conduct the 25 per cent work and a proposal for a Gas Purchase Sales Agreement (GPSA) a couple of weeks ago.

Such an approval requires minute review before clearance by the ministries of Energy and Law and the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the sources said. But representatives of the Brown and Roots are requesting for the approval before the arrival of Dick Cheney.

The sources noted that the visit of the former US defence secretary clearly indicated the "over enthusiasm" of Brown and Roots in getting an early approval.

But other official sources pointed out that the GPSA could not be approved before clearance of the appraisal plan for the Sangu-1 well.

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Eviction notice served on Lalbagh fire station

By Mizan Ali

The fire service station at Lalbagh has been served with an eviction order by the Sub-Judge's court, Dhaka, according to official sources.

Talking to The Daily Star, Director Development of the Fire Service Anwar Hossain said, "the eviction order was issued on August 19, 1996 by the Sub-Judge's court on case filed by the new owners." of the rented price of land.

Officials of the fire service said that since 1947 the Lalbagh fire service station was set up

and established their entitlement. Later, they filed an eviction case in which the court ordered the police to evict the fire service from the land.

The fire service failed to acquire the land within the stipulated period provided by the court due to the lengthy process involved in such acquisition, they added.

Prior to the issuance of the court order for eviction, the fire service was given three months to acquire the same land, which was later extended by another four months. The court, after expiry of the stipulated time for acquisition of the land, rejected further prayer for extension of time and ordered eviction.

Following a change in the ownership of the land, the new owners filed a title suit in 1993.

Following a change in the ownership of the land, the new owners filed a title suit in 1993.

land.

Besides, an appeal filed by the fire service prayer with the High Court is awaiting hearing, he added.

Following partition in 1947 the ownership of the land also changed. The fire service officials said that they had been dealing with the same owner since 1947 till 1993.

Ownership of the land was changed when the owners granted power of attorney in favour of two persons in 1993, the officials said.

Corrupt persons have to stand trial : Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the corrupt would have to stand trial, they will have to face the consequences as per the existing law of the land, reports UNB.

"Everybody is equal in the eyes of law and the law will take its own course," she said responding to a question about the cases filed against three former ministers and relatives of the former prime minister.

The prime minister was talking to newsmen at the International Conference Centre in the afternoon on the outcome of her five-day official visit to China, which concluded on Monday.

The government cannot interfere in the legal process, she said replying to the question about the corruption cases against three ministers of the previous BNP government and some relatives of former prime minister and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption has filed the cases and de-

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Habiganj-2 by-polls All nominations found valid

Nomination papers of all the six candidates for the October 15 by-election in Habiganj-2 constituency were found valid after scrutiny yesterday, reports UNB.

The scrutiny was held at the office of the concerned Returning Officer, said a press release of the Election Commission.

The candidates are: Krishak Mohammad Sadek, Zakaria Khan Chowdhury, Tofazzal Hossain Chowdhury, Mohammad Abid Ali Chowdhury, Sirajul Hossain Khan and Suranjit Sengupta.

The last date for withdrawal of candidature is September 23.

Bldg collapse

Owner asked to clear debris in 24 hours

Star Report

The RAJUK has served a notice yesterday on the owner of the seven-storied building at Lake Circus in Kalabagan which collapsed Monday, to remove the structure within the next 24 hours, according to official sources.

Besides, the authorities were also planning to take action against the officials concerned for negligence in discharging their duties, the sources said.

The seven-storied under-construction building at Lake Circus in Kalabagan under Dhanmondi thana collapsed in the early hours of Monday leaving five persons dead and another injured.

The owner of the collapsed building, Shabbir Ahmed, a contractor, could not be traced till last night, police said. A case has been filed in this connection with Dhanmondi thana and the incident was being investigated, they added.

Mayor of the Dhaka City

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Samad, Jyoti discuss water sharing issue

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad and West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu yesterday expressed optimism about the early resolution of issue of sharing the Ganges water, reports BSS.

The optimism was expressed in Calcutta when the visiting foreign minister called on the West Bengal Chief Minister, according to a message received in the city last night.

The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and the two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest — the Ganges water sharing issue in particular.

Abdus Samad Azad conveyed to Jyoti Basu the greeting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, which was warmly reciprocated by Basu.

The foreign minister extended an invitation to the Chief Minister of West Bengal to visit Bangladesh. Jyoti Basu warmly accepted the invitation

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An exuberance of joy Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday congratulated the national cricket team which clinched the ACC trophy in a resounding victory in Kuala Lumpur last Sunday, reports BSS.

"I am overjoyed with the success ... I can't express my happiness in words," the Prime Minister told the triumphant players who beat world-cupper UAE, at a reception accorded to them at her office yesterday evening.

Giving a cheque for Tk 100,000 and a bouquet to each player and the manager of the team, Sheikh Hasina said her government would do everything possible for the development of sports in the country.

Hasina called upon the players and BCCB officials to take all measures to keep up the trend through achieving greater success in the next International Cricket Conference (ICC) trophy, also in Malaysia.

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Foreign Minister Abdus Samad and West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu yesterday expressed optimism about the early resolution of issue of sharing the Ganges water, reports BSS.

Talking to the journalists following the meeting, Foreign Minister Azad said his discussions with Jyoti Basu were very fruitful.

Chief Minister of West Bengal hosted a lunch in honour of the Foreign Minister at the local Taj Bengal Hotel.

The Bangladesh side at the meeting included Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India CM Shafi Sami, Additional Foreign Secretary, Ahmed Tarqi Karim, and Deputy High Commissioner