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DSE MARKET

| | |
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| DSE index | 1532.43 |
| Market capital Tk | 10721.38 cr |
| Transactions in volume | 585363 |
| 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 Khairul 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/Ag-Grade 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 Pindong village under Fatikchhari 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-Akhaura section yesterday. The GRP recovered the body of a 45-year-old man from near the Bhanugachhi 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. Hospital sources said the miscreants attacked the businessman Mohammad Rafiq when he was going to his shop 'Ekota Rice Agency' at Kishi 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'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was mainly on an economic mission to China, said her talks with the Chinese leadership were a great success, reports UNB.

Explaining salient features of her five-day state visit to China, the Prime Minister said the visit was aimed at forging closer economic cooperation with China to achieve economic self-reliance for the people of Bangladesh.

She was talking to newsmen at the International Conference Centre (ICC) yesterday afternoon. She returned home from China late Monday night.

The Prime Minister noted with satisfaction that she had greatly succeeded in harnessing the possibility of Chinese investment in Bangladesh for economic wellbeing of the country.

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 relations between the two countries," she said.

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. See Page 12 Col 4

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 Zia 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 there were allegedly rigged by the ruling Awami League.

The Habiganj-2 seat of the Jatiya Sangsad 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

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. According to the programme, party units will stage demonstrations against the government at divisional and district headquarters till September 30.

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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BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over a meeting of the party's standing committee at her Minto Road residence in the city yesterday. — 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 Halibarton, 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 Halibarton, which is now seeking permission to co-finance the 200 million dollar Sangu-1 well development scheme with a British company, Cairn Plc which struck the gas reservoir in the shallow waters of the Bay of Bengal near Chittagong in January last.

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

But before that, it will submit its appraisal and development plan in December for the Sangu-1 well, located at a point 35 kms off Chittagong. The Cairn plans to set up a processing plant at the gas field to filter the gas and construct a 50 km pipeline to connect the gas field with the Bakhrabad system.

Cairn will also simultaneously announce commercial extraction of gas from the Sangu-1 well and award a one million dollar bonus to the Petrobangla as per agreement with the government.

Following the discovery of gas reserve of over 1 trillion cubic feet in Sangu-1 well, the Brown and Roots expressed its keenness to invest in its development.

The Cairn agreed to give 25 per cent of the construction works in Sangu-1 to Brown and Roots.

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 added.

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 18, 1996 by the Sub-Judge's court on case filed by the new owners," of the rented piece of land.

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

on a rented piece of land as a class-1 station and the only fire service facility for the whole area of Old Dhaka. The facility has three fire fighting vehicles with a staff strength of 35.

The 22 katha plot of land where the fire service station is housed in Lalbagh was initially taken on rent from a private owner by the government in the pre-partition days and made a Depot for Air Raid Precaution, the officials said.

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

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.

Prior to the issuance of the court order for eviction, the fire service was given three months time 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, said the fire service officials.



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

PM's cheque & bouquet for cricketers

In 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 UNB.

"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. See Page 12 Col 3

Samad, Jyoti discuss water sharing issue

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad 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

and the visit is expected to take place at an early date.

Talking to the journalists following the meeting, Foreign Minister Azad said that 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 Tariq Karim, and Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India, Calcutta, Jahangir Saadat.

The Indian side included Buddhadev Bhattacharjee, Minister for Home (Police), Information and Culture, Ashim Dasgupta, Finance Minister of West Bengal, Salman Haider, Indian Foreign Secretary, An-

See Page 12 Col 7

Pedestrian killed as muggers, police trade fire in city

By Staff Correspondent

An unidentified pedestrian was shot dead and another person was injured in a gunfight between police and a gang of fleeing alleged muggers at the Outer Circular Road under Motijheel thana in the city yesterday afternoon, police and witnesses said.

The alleged muggers, numbering about eight, were fleeing after snatching Tk 6,000 from the Amrita Restaurant when local people and patrol police chased them.

The pedestrian, aged about 35, died on the spot while the other person, Shakhwat Hos-

sain Shamim, reportedly an employee of the Titas Gas, was bullet-hit when he was passing through the area in a rickshaw, police and witnesses said.

Police said two of the alleged muggers identified as Khaled Mahmud and Arifur Rahman Lincon were also bullet-hit in their legs during the exchange of fire.

Shamim and the two alleged muggers were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), police and hospital sources said. The alleged muggers were under police protection at the DMCH.

Besides firing shots, the alleged muggers also blasted cocktills creating panic in the area, police and witnesses said.

According to the sources, Khaled and Lincon had their lunch in the restaurant at about 3 pm. They tried to leave without paying the bill but the restaurant manager Salaudhin and other staff resisted them. An altercation ensued but the two managed to leave the restaurant after assaulting the cook, witnesses claimed.

Later, at about 5 pm, Khaled and Lincon came back with

See Page 12 Col 3

PM to address UNGA as special guest Oct 24

By M Anwarul Haq

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is due to address the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as a special guest on October 24 on the occasion of 51st founding anniversary of the world body, according to sources in the Prime Minister's office and the Foreign Ministry.

The Prime Minister is due to leave Dhaka on October 22 on a 7-day visit to the United States and the United Nations. She will return home on October 29.

Sheikh Hasina will also hold bilateral meetings with several world leaders who are expected to be in New York for the UN Day. At least a dozen heads of state and foreign ministers of around 50 countries are expected to be present during the October 24 anniversary occasion, the sources said.

Bangladesh mission in New York, in conjunction with the Foreign Ministry, is busy working out the Prime Minister's scheduled itinerary in the US for her forthcoming trip.

The Prime Minister will also be guest at several luncheons and dinners for the international dignitaries.

Sheikh Hasina will take the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with leaders of the SAARC countries and some other neighbouring countries who will be in New York then.

"The visit to New York, although coming a year after the grand 50th anniversary celebrations of the UN, will provide the Bangladesh Prime Minister the opportunity to meet several world leaders," said a high official.

"Her speech is expected to reach a world-wide audience of 185 countries whose top leaders or ambassadors or representatives would be present at the United Nations at that time," he added.

The Prime Minister is unlikely to have a pre-scheduled meeting with President Bill Clinton or his rival, president-

See Page 12 Col 1

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

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