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TODAY

Though over half of Bangladesh's population is in the under 15 age group, the children of the country have been outside of any development context for long. Why so? Read the **Star Weekend Magazine's** cover story this week *Who Cares?* And, besides regular columns and features read the story how a girl child is treated differently from a male child in families in *Discrimination Begins at Home.*

Inside Today

Article

Railway: Skating on Thin Ice, How Long?
by Chandra Shekhar Das
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International

Indian president dismisses Gujarat state govt
Turkey endorses KDP leader's de facto control of N Iraq
Page 5

Business

Productive activities of women should be related to economy, Finance Minister tells workshop

DSE index continues to leap
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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	1562.66
Market capital Tk	10933.26 cr
Transactions in volume	822802
Transactions in value Tk	15.19 cr

Teens and Twenties

Abuse: It is your turn to straighten; Get a life; and A mirror reflecting time
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Rising Stars

Bangladesh made the 'Sheiks dig their own grave'; Hope; and The great dinosaur egg hunt
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NEWS BRIEFS

FM leaves for NY tomorrow night
By Staff Correspondent
Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad is scheduled to leave Dhaka tomorrow night for New York to attend the 51st session of the United Nations General Assembly. He is expected to stay there for around three weeks.

Electoral enquiry committee formed
The Election Commission has constituted a two-member electoral enquiry committee to probe irregularities and violation of election code of conduct, if any, ahead of the October 15 by-election in Habiganj-2 constituency. The committee comprising Habiganj District Sub Judge Mohammad Faizur Rahman and Senior Assistant Judge Mohammad Mohiuddin Khan will enquire into any pre-election irregularity and send recommendation to the EC for necessary action, reports UNB.

EC hears Moudud's petitions
By Staff Correspondent
The petitions filed by Moudud Ahmed, a BNP candidate for Laxmipur-2 constituency challenging the results of September 5 by-elections were heard yesterday in the office of the Election Commissioner Mustaq Ahmed Chowdhury, according to press release.
The order of this hearing would be passed next week, the press release added.

Mayor proposes task force to tackle situation Water-logging disrupts traffic paralysing city life

By Staff Correspondent

Water-logging in different areas of the metropolis due to heavy rainfall in the last three days was causing sufferings to a wide section of city dwellers. Stagnant rain water made traffic movement too difficult and people got stranded at so many city points, inundated by the water.

The worst affected areas include Motijheel, Purana Paltan, Naya Paltan, Kakrail, Shantinagar, Malibagh, Rajarbagh, Topkhana and Moghbazar, besides the low-lying peripheral areas.

Water remained stagnant in the Secretariat premises and in front of the Jatiya Press Club. After a prolonged hot-spell, a welcome shower Tuesday afternoon came as a relief to the city dwellers. But intermittent rains over the following days and poor drainage system in this city of around nine million, reversed the situation.

A scheduled programme of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the FBCCI yesterday was delayed by over six hours due to water-logging in Motijheel area.

The Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) borrowed 19 pumps from the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO) on Tuesday and set those in peripheral areas to pump out the stagnant water through different outlets, WASA officials said.

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mohammad Hanif after visiting some water-logged areas yesterday, urged the authorities concerned to set up a high-powered task force immediately to put an end to such a situation.

In a statement yesterday the Mayor said that despite repeated requests, "WASA has not yet taken any effective steps to remove water-logging."

When contacted, WASA officials said things would be all right by last night as stagnant water was being pumped out. But that would not happen if there was fresh rainfall in the early hours of today, they added.

According to sources, a high-level meeting on Wednesday chaired by Minister of State for LGRD and Cooperatives Sayed See Page 12 Col 3



Inside the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday. — Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq

Jail Killing Case
Farooq on fresh remand, Shahriar in CID custody
Star Report

Col (ret'd) Farooq Rahman was placed under a fresh 5-day CID remand yesterday by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) court for interrogation in connection with the November 3, 1975 jail killing case, according to official sources.

Col (ret'd) Shahriar Rashid Khan, placed on remand for seven days on September 10 for interrogation in the same case, was taken to the CID custody yesterday, the officials added.

Major (ret'd) Khairuzzaman, the other former army officer placed on remand for seven days by the court, was yet to be shifted to the CID custody for interrogation, said officials.

Students attack ex-minister's house at Jamalpur

JAMALPUR Sept 19 The residence of former Deputy Minister for Health Serajul Haq came under attack allegedly by the activists of ruling party's student front in the town this evening, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the attack was made following a chase and counter chase between the supporters of the Bangladesh Chhatra League and BNP's student organisation Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

They said the chasing took place when some JCD leaders and workers came out of the residence and allegedly attacked a victory procession of BCL when it was passing the road in front of Haq's house.

Chhatra League brought out the procession to rejoice in their victory in the students union election of the Jamalpur Government Ashke Mahmud College held on Wednesday.

The processionists stoned and stormed into the house and damaged its furniture. They also allegedly attacked and ransacked the residences of JCD leader Farook Hossain, Anisur Rahman Biplob, Shafiqul Islam and Solaiman.

They also swooped on a nursery owned by JCD leader Biplob and damaged different kinds of saplings worth about Tk 50,000.

In a press conference at local press club, BNP claimed that the processionists of the Chhatra League swooped on the residence of Serajul Haq without any provocation.

The BNP leaders condemned the attack and demanded punishment of those responsible.

Meanwhile, Awami League leader and local MP Rezaul Karim Hira in a press conference said seven Chhatra League See Page 12 Col 4

FBCCI reception in city PM assures all steps for a 'sound business practice'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would take all steps to achieve a 7 per cent GDP growth and urged the private sector to act as the real engine of growth with sound business practices, reports UNB.

Speaking at a reception accorded to her by the FBCCI, she pledged that the government would provide the enabling environment to the private sector for raising the investment growth rate to 25 per cent and attain an export growth of at least 20 per cent.

"You gentlemen of the private sector must perform. You must find avenues and options and produce and export. You must find the investors," she told hundreds of businessmen who came from across the country to attend the function.

Hasina assured the business community that the government would bring life to the financial sector, remove impediments to export growth, facilitate industrial restructuring, streamline and simplify bonded warehouse and duty drawback, support product development and promotion and would deliver every concession and incentive.

On the other hand, she said, the government expects sound business practice and efficiency from the private sector. "We expect competitive prices, we expect to see an end to the default culture, we expect fair play in both exports and joint venture."

The Prime Minister identified slow privatisation, losses in the state-owned enterprises and high default rates as the factors slowing down the growth and taking toll on the economy.

Apart from maintaining a "conservative macroeconomic policy" to ensure rapid economic growth, the government is concentrating on some sectors like banking, foreign investment, capital market and changing the industrial structure in the coming months, she said indicating a comprehensive reform drive in the offing.

Noting that the future economic viability of the banks seems limited, the Prime Minister said their personnel, in many cases, were inadequately trained and the tendency of bank default was still widespread.

Distinguishing between two types of defaulters, she said strong actions against the 'ha-

ADB resumes aid to power sector

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has decided to withdraw its suspension of financial support to power sector of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

ADB has been withholding its financial support to power sector since 1989.

The decision of ADB in this respect was conveyed to Commerce and Industry Minister Tofael Ahmed by John D Taylor, director, ADB, when he met the former at his office yesterday.

Taylor, who led an ADB team, told the Commerce and Industry Minister that Bangladesh government's commitment for reforms, particularly in the fields of trade, investment and privatisation, was highly appreciated by the donors at the last consortium meeting in Paris.

Welcoming the attitudinal change of the ADB towards socio-economic progress of Bangladesh, the Commerce Minister said, reform programmes in all sectors were underway for upholding the interest of the nation and improving the economy of the country.

Referring to privatisation programme taken by the government, the minister said the government would definitely go with privatisation programme, but at the same time it would ensure the legitimate demand of both the workers and the entrepreneurs.

To accelerate the privatisation and investment programme, the government has revitalised the Privatisation Board and the Board of Investment. The laws which were barrier to investment had been amended, he added.

The minister said the implementation of the reform See Page 12 Col 3

PM apprises President of outcome of China visit

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of the outcome of her five-day official visit to China and Hong Kong, reports BSS.

While welcoming the Prime Minister, President Biswas was noted with great satisfaction that he believed her visit was very successful.

The Prime Minister terming her visit as a "total success" told the President that she had meaningful and fruitful talks with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng. "Our talks were held in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere," she said.

The Prime Minister informed the President that four agreements including a 30 million yuan grant and a 100 million yuan soft loan which were signed during the visit would help develop country's economic activities.

Polytech students clash with locals at Tejgaon: 5 hurt
By DMC Correspondent

At least five persons were injured in a clash reportedly between a group of students of Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute and local people in the city yesterday.

One of the injured identified as Nurul Amin, 25, a rickshaw-puller, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet injuries. According to hospital sources, his condition was critical.

Several gunshots were fired and cocktails exploded during the two-hour long clash that began at about 5:30 pm around the Polytechnic Institute, the local people said.

The reason behind the clash could not be known immediately. However, hospital sources said, a group of young men, reportedly the students of the polytechnic institute did not pay bills after having food in a nearby restaurant. The young men at one stage alleged See Page 12 col 5

Over 400 sent back from UAE
Star Report

More than 400 Bangladeshis were sent back to Dhaka from United Arab Emirates (UAE) in five separate flights of two airlines yesterday, official sources said.

An immigration official at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) talking to The Daily Star said, "From 10 am till 11 pm, Bangladeshi citizens numbering over four hundred landed at the ZIA today with out-passes or travel documents from the Bangladesh Embassy there."

See Page 12 Col 8

Dy Governor of BB made OSD
Star Report

Mahbubur Rahman Khan, deputy governor of the Bangladesh Bank, was made officer on special duty (OSD) today, according to central bank sources.

The reason for the sudden change could not be known immediately.

Khan, a prominent banker, had been looking after monetary policy of the central bank as deputy governor-1.

Some departments under him had been withdrawn the day before yesterday. He was made OSD in the banking division of the central bank yesterday.

'FM's talks with Basu productive'
Experts discuss water issue this month
By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh and India are likely to meet at the expert level in New Delhi at the end of this month to discuss the water-sharing issue with the aim of working out details of a water accord.

The date for the meeting will be intimated to Dhaka by Delhi shortly, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Shafi Sami said while talking to The Daily Star from the chancery over telephone yesterday.

Sami who was in the Bangladesh team led by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at the talks with West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu in Calcutta on Tuesday, said that the discussions relating to water-sharing were very productive.

When informed that Basu had told some Indian newsmen about West Bengal's need for water and reportedly said that he could not concur on the quantum required by Bangladesh, the high commissioner replied, "They have their needs, we have our needs. And our foreign minister has conveyed our concern on the issue which has received his (Basu's) sympathetic attention."

Samad had a nearly two-hour talks with Basu at the latter's office.

The Bangladesh side at the meeting included Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Additional Foreign Secretary Ahmed Tariq Karim and Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Calcutta Jahangir Sadat.

The Indian side included External Affairs Secretary Salman Haider and some West Bengal ministers.

The Daily Star learnt yesterday See Page 12 col 5

Another bldg collapses in old city
By Staff Correspondent

A two-storey abandoned building at Hrishikesh Das Lane in Ekrampur area under Sutrapur thana in the city collapsed yesterday afternoon.

An unidentified pedestrian was injured when the old building collapsed at about 4:45 pm.

The injured was taken to a local clinic, police and Fire Service sources said.

It was the second incident of building collapse in four days in the city. Five construction workers were killed on the spot and another injured when a seven storey under-construction building collapsed at Lake Circus in Kalabagan under Dhanmoudi thana in the early hours of Monday.

The dilapidated house which collapsed yesterday was See Page 12 Col 7

Deadlock at CU continues
From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 19: Deadlock continued at Chittagong University for the second day today as the ruling party's student front, Bangladesh Chhatra League, continued an indefinite strike protesting Tuesday's campus violence.

The Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University Dr RI Chowdhury told The Daily Star that classes were not held but administrative functions were done partially.

The VC said negotiations were on for reconciliation between the feuding factions — BCL and Islami Chhatra Shibir — in order to restore normal life on the campus.

Police paid the situation on the campus remained volatile as the supporters of the two rival groups took positions in separate places.

See Page 12 col 5

Executives of British, US oil companies arrive today

A team of officials from the British oil company, Cairn Plc, led by its Managing Director Bill Gammel is scheduled to arrive in the city today in connection with the company's next phase of exploration work in the Bay of Bengal and Chittagong Hill Tracts, a well-placed source in Petrobangla said.

The team is expected to meet the Prime Minister to present an operational plan to bring natural gas from the Shangu-1 well to Chittagong by the first quarter of 1998.

Cairn is already working in the shallow waters of the Bay of Bengal, 35km off Chittagong, where they struck gas in Shangu-1 well in last January as well as in Chittagong Hill Tracts. The new phase includes drilling of two appraisal wells and two fresh exploration wells.

Bill Gammel will be accompanied by Cairn's executives including Hamish Croshaw, Mike Watts and Malcolm Phoms.

By Sharier Khan

Their visit coincides with the visit of former US defence secretary and chief of US oil company Hallbarton, Dick Cheney today. Hallbarton's sister concern Brown and Roots has proposed the government to invest 100 million US dollars in Shangu well as part of an agreement with Cairn.

Cairn is likely to build an off-shore platform in the Bay, a gas processing plant and a 50 km pipeline connecting the Shangu with the Bakhrabad

Gas System at Chittagong city gate at a cost of 200 million US dollars, according to sources in Petrobangla.

Cairn has also conducted a seismic survey of 1200 km in the shallow waters of Sandwip and Hatia Channel and in Rajan and Jaldip in search of more hydrocarbon reservoirs.

Cairn is also planning a joint venture with Midland Power of UK in setting up a 150 mw gas-based power plant.

According to Midland's pro-

posal, the power plant can be set up within six months of the final agreement and the plant would be upgradable to produce 300 mw in the future.

The Power Cell of the Energy Ministry has assured Midland and three other companies that by the end of September, all their documents would be cleared.

Meanwhile, Vice President of Exxon Exploration, Esao In of USA, J R Hall, is also expected to attend the function.

See Page 12 Col 8

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