

## Inside Today

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### DSE MARKET

DSE price index	1608.98
Market capital Tk	11257.33 cr
Transactions in volume	739539
Transactions in value Tk	18.65 cr

## Supplement

Today's 16-page issue  
of The Daily Star contains  
a 4-page supplement on  
the National Day of  
Saudi Arabia on Pages  
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## Metropolitan

### Dhaka Day by Day



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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Seized gold handed over to BB

Customs officials handed over the smuggled gold seized Saturday at Zia International Airport to Bangladesh Bank yesterday, official sources said. They found the gold weighing about 3.67 maunds and worth about Tk 7.05 crore in packets of electric goods despatched from Singapore to an untraced business firm in the city. A customs inspector filed a case with Cantonment police yesterday, reports UNB.

### Woman mugger arrested

A woman was arrested for snatching a gold chain from a man in Gulistan area of the city on Saturday night. Patrol police chased and caught Taslima when she was running away with the chain she had snatched from one Imran near Gulistan tempo stand. She is a new member of a muggers' group, said a DMP press release, reports UNB.

### Hartal observed at Nabiganj

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Sept 22: A day long hartal was observed at the Nabiganj thana headquarters in Habiganj district today demanding the release of the district JCD president and central vice-president Islam Tarafdar Tanu, and the district secretary Kamaluddin Selim. The thana JCD which called the strike also protested the price hike of essentials and frequent load shedding. Almost all shops at the thana headquarters remained closed and no vehicle plied during the dawn-to-dusk hartal.

The JCD also held a rally at the Natunbazar point in the afternoon.

## Lead pollution in city air highest in world

By Morshed Ali Khan

Concentration of lead in the capital's air during the low-rain period has been found to be one of the highest in the world, according to a 17-month analysis carried out by five scientists of the Chemistry Division at the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC).

During the months of November, December and January, the low rain fall season, the quantity of lead found in Dhaka's air was 463 nanogram (billionth of a gram) per cubic meter of air. Second in the list is Mexico City with a concentration of 383 while Bombay comes third with a count of 360 nanogram during the month of March. The analysis report says.

Lead is emitted in the atmosphere by automobiles using leaded fuel. In Bangladesh, unlike many countries of the world, all vehicular fuels are leaded. BAEC scientists warned that the upper respiratory tract of humans cannot block these fine particles and thus they are deposited in the lungs and even-

tually enter the blood stream. Lead intake can severely effect intelligence level of children and cause respiratory problems. Between February and May, the medium rainfall period, the concentration of lead in the air falls to 253 nanogram per cubic meter of air in the city. The particulate masses are the lowest at 160 nanogram between June to August, when the rainfall is at its highest.

The BAEC Scientists, however, have good news for the people of rural Bangladesh where automobiles do not ply. They collected samples from a rural site over a period of six months and found that the air was 'quite good' there with almost no trace of lead in it.

The report points out that in Sydney the concentration of lead in the air is 333 nanogram per cubic metre. In Santiago the concentration is 230, in Los Angeles 70, while in Kyoto the presence of lead in the air is at 40, the lowest. The report did not, however, mention the sea-

son in which the concentration was determined. Talking to The Daily Star, M Khaliquzzaman, Chief Scientific Officer of the BAEC and one of the five scientists to carry out the analysis, said that many countries of the world have shifted to unleaded petrol and have reduced the lead pollution significantly. Los Angeles and Kyoto were among those cities, he said.

"In our country, imported crude oil is refined with Petrothyllead at the Eastern Refinery in Chittagong — the only one of its kind — and then leaded petrol is distributed across the land," Khaliquzzaman said.

It was suggested by other scientists that the Eastern Refinery could be equipped with machinery to produce unleaded petrol instead of leaded petrol. It was learnt from other sources that the World Bank was helping some countries with financial support to go for the conversion to unleaded petrol.

## Black laws in cultural arena to go: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would take steps to reform related laws to help flourish the nation's cultural heritage and restoration of the spirit and values of independence, report agencies.

"We hope that we'll be able to bring changes in the laws which are hindering development of our heritage," she said referring to the demand of cultural activists for repealing the black laws in cultural arena.

Talking to a 24-member delegation of the Sammilita Sangskritik Jote at the International Conference Centre (ICC) yesterday morning, Hasina said the Law Commission had been formed for updating the (time-worn) laws.

Jote President Ramendu Majumder while submitting a 13-point charter of demands appealed to the Prime Minister to take positive and realistic measures for establishing a non-communal state-system attuned to the ideals and spirit of the War of Liberation.

Majumder listed the demands which included ensuring autonomy of Radio and TV, annulment of all black laws such as Theatre Control Act 1876 and Film Society Act 1983, construction of National Drama Centre and Film Institute complex. Besides, the Jote demanded representation of

cultural organisations and personalities in various organisations like Bangla Academy, Shilpakala Academy, National Museum, National Book Centre, National Archives, UNESCO National Commission and Shishu Academy.

While demanding construction of "smritishawdha" in memory of the martyrs of the War of Liberation in various spots across the country including Rayerbazar the Jote leaders demanded trial of the war criminals. They demanded trial of the killers of the Father of the Nation and the four national leaders.

Jote leaders Golam Qudus, Asaduzzaman Noor, Laila Hasan, Mamunur Rashid, Gohar Rabbani, Lutfur Rahman, Khaleel Khan and Kamal Pasha Chowdhury also referred to various problems relating to the cultural arena of the country.

The Prime Minister said that the workers of different cultural organisations could make invaluable contributions in giving democracy an institutional shape. She lauded the role of the cultural activities in the last movement for restoration of democracy.

She said that she had been active since 1980 for establishing democracy and against the political culture to grab power through coup and killing. "We

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## Anticipatory bail Hearing of prayers of Tareq, 4 others resume today

By SC Correspondent

Hearings on the separate petitions for anticipatory bail of Tareq Rahman and his business partner Syed Iskander Mirza and two former state ministers will resume today.

The submissions on behalf of the petitions were concluded yesterday and Attorney General KS Nabi will make submission on behalf of the government today.

Barrister KS Nabi gave assurance to the court not to arrest the petitioners by this time. MA Mannan, former state minister for religious affairs, and Lutfur Rahman Khan, former state minister for relief, yesterday separately prayed for anticipatory bail in separate anti-corruption cases on surrender before the vacation bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice Md Abdul Karim and Justice Kazi AT Monwaruddin.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption on September 16 filed a case with Joydebpur thana under Section 409 of the Penal Code read with section 5 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act against MA Mannan.

It was alleged in the FIR that Mannan allocated 200 metric tons of wheat worth about Tk 15 50,000, but no work was

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## 5-hour police raid on CU halls 'flops'

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 22: Over 600 police personnel led by the SP of Chittagong and accompanied by seven magistrates including an ADM, conducted a 5-hour "combing" operation in six dormitories of Chittagong University from 6 am today to recover illegal arms and nab outsiders.

Police could not nab any outsider but recovered a light gun and a pipe gun from inside

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an underconstruction building adjacent to a hall, police said.

A senior police officer was in the operation said that the raids "almost flopped" as the information was leaked out to the armed cadres somehow.

"That is why we the police want to maintain a low-key about our achievements in today's raids," the police officer said preferring anonymity.

Other sources on the campus also said that the outsiders and armed cadres escaped after they gathered prior information about the pre-dawn raid.

Police said the halls were ringed at 5 am and raids started at 6 am. All the hall rooms were thoroughly searched and iden-

## DU VC panel Blue Panel nominates candidates

By DU Correspondent

The pro-Awami League Blue Panel yesterday nominated three candidates for election of the VC panel for Dhaka University, scheduled to be held on September 25.

The nominees are: Prof Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury of the department of Pharmacy, Prof Shahadat Ali of Zoology and Prof ATM Ziaulruq Haque of

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lock at CU, the VC said that efforts were on to end the crisis.

Today's raids followed Tuesday's clash at CU between supporters of the ruling party's student front, Bangladesh Chhatra League (GCL) and Jamaat-e-Islami's student front Chhatra Shibir.

Since then, a tense situation prevailed on the campus and most of the general students vacated the halls fearing a fresh outbreak of violence, campus sources said.

The BCL protesting Tuesday's violence continued to lay a siege to the entrance of the university and continued demonstrations there.

Supporters of Chhatra Shibir also took position inside the university gate and took control of halls, campus sources said.

A large number of police remained deployed there to prevent any fresh outbreak of violence on the campus.

Meanwhile, election of the CU Senate for selecting teachers' representatives which was scheduled to be held on September 29 has been postponed due to the tense situation on the campus.

## Biman's crash programme for returnees

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Biman has taken up a crash-programme in co-ordinating the return of some 30,000 Bangladeshis who are facing deportation from the UAE.

The Managing Director of Biman, talking to The Daily Star yesterday said, he was confident that Biman would be in a position to act as both "transporter and facilitator" in ferrying back some 27,000 Bangladeshis, now scurrying to return to Dhaka.

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Prompted by the insistence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we had high level policy meetings today (Sunday) and decided to seek out co-operation of both scheduled and non-scheduled airlines to carry back the stranded Bangladeshis within the September 30 deadline," he said.

The Biman MD said his officials talked with several carriers yesterday to involve them in bringing back the Bangladeshis from UAE. The airlines or tour operators who have shown their interest in providing chartered flights from Abu Dhabi to Dhaka include the Jordanian Airlines, the Saudia, the Middle-Eastern Airlines

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## Taka devalued by 15 paisa

By Staff Correspondent

The Taka has been devalued by 15 paisa against the US dollar with effect from today, said a Bangladesh Bank press release yesterday.

Bangladesh Bank's buying rate for one dollar now stands at Tk 42.35 as against Tk 42.20 while the selling rate is now Tk 42.55 instead of the earlier Tk 42.40.

This is for the second time Bangladesh Bank has devalued Taka against dollar this month. Since the Awami League government came to power, Bangladesh Bank devalued Taka three times.

According to banking sources, since the beginning of this year, Taka has been devalued by 4.20 per cent so far against dollar due to various reasons.

The recent decision regarding the devaluation of Taka has been prompted by drastic devaluation of the Rupee against the dollar in Pakistan.

Pakistan devalued its currency by 1.5 per cent earlier this month. Therefore, it was necessary for the Government of Bangladesh to balance trading between the neighbouring countries by devaluation of the Taka, the sources added.

## Mugging alleged Arrested Jubo League leader released

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 22: Three alleged muggers, which includes a Jubo League leader, were caught by people and handed over to the police last night when they attempted to forcibly take away some 269 rolls of fabrics from a factory in Ukilpara.

Police, however, released the three muggers under pressure from an influential politician of the town, police sources said requesting anonymity.

According to witnesses and police sources, a gang of seven to eight youths in a microbus waylaid workers of Maruf Overseas and Hossier Pvt Ltd while they were unloading 269

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## '94-96 political cases to be withdrawn

The government has decided to consider withdrawal of cases filed for political reasons during the democratic movement from July 1, 1994 to March 30, 1996, reports UNB.

It will also consider remission of prison sentences of those who fell victims to harassment during the period, said an official handout in the city last night.

Political leaders and workers, students and others implicated in such cases have been asked to apply to the district magistrates concerned by October 31 for withdrawal of cases and remission of sentences.

## Kushtia JCD worker beaten to death

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Sept 22: An activist of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Daulatpur thana unit, was beaten to death allegedly by a group of unidentified men at the Taragonia Dak Bangladesh this afternoon.

The victim, Zahid, of Farakpur village was caught by the group, taken to the Taragonia Dak Bangladesh and asked to surrender the illegal arms, he allegedly possessed.

According to reports, Zahid was tortured and breathed his last.

## JCD won't go for fresh agitation at DU

By DU Correspondent

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the opposition BNP, yesterday decided not to go for fresh agitation programmes as declared by it earlier if their demands were not met immediately.

The JCD had earlier threatened to call an indefinite strike if their workers who, they claimed, were ousted from AF Rahman and Mohsin halls after the peace accord among the student bodies was signed, were

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## Khaleda tells Krishak Dal leaders Rural people migrating to cities for jobs

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called for resolving the problems of farmers and flourishing the rural economy instead of confining endeavours to urban economy, reports UNB.

She was addressing a meeting with Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal leaders at the Minto Road residence of the Leader of the Opposition in the evening.

Begum Zia called upon the Krishak Dal leaders to stand beside the farmers at the time of their need and organise them to strengthen the base of nationalist forces.

The Leader of the Opposition also advised her partymen to find out the problems of the farmers and the agriculture sector and help them resolve those.

She said the farmers are now facing various problems due to lack of proper initiatives by the government. They are not getting seed, saplings and fertiliser

in time, she alleged.

Begum Zia accused the government of failing to resolve the farmers' problems. "The rural people are not getting jobs. They are migrating to urban areas to find employment."

She said due to lack of adequate loans, farmers are being compelled to go to the money lenders who exploit them by charging interest at high rate.

The Leader of the Opposition alleged that activists of a particular party were trying to capture the shrimp gherms in the southern districts. The farmers are also being harassed in the name of land survey, she added.

"Farmers are the builders of the country's economy," Begum Zia said adding that "they are always ready for nation-building activities."

The former prime minister said her government had implemented massive pro-

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## 7 killed, 58 injured in road accidents

At least seven people were killed and 58 others injured in separate road accidents across the country yesterday, report agencies.

Three people were killed and 41 others wounded, five seriously, when a night coach skidded off the Bogra-Nagarbari highway in Ullapara thana of Sirajganj early yesterday.

Police and hospital sources said the Debiganj-bound bus of Sakal Sandhya Paribahan which was coming from Dhaka fell into a deep ditch at Naba gram at about 1.30 am.

Abu, 35, of Gaibandha district and a four-year-old boy died on the spot while Abul Hossain, 60, of Laxmipur succumbed to his injuries at Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Seriously injured five passengers — Abu Taher, Bellal and Guljar of Gaibandha and Abul Hashem and Solaiman of

Laxmipur — were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

Thirty-five others were admitted to Purnimaganj Health Complex in Ullapara thana.

The driver of the coach fled the scene.

In another accident, two persons were killed and ten others injured when a speeding jeep overturned at Balukhali under Ukhiya thana in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

One of the victims was identified as Ledu Barua, 28. The condition of the two injured persons was stated to be critical.

All the injured persons were admitted to local hospital.

The accident occurred as the driver lost control of the steering wheel.

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Tareq Rahman, son of BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia, appeared at the High Court yesterday for anticipatory bail. — Star photo

## Yasmin murder: Next hearing Oct 26

## Bail prayers of three main accused rejected

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Sept 22: The Special Court, Rangpur has fixed October 26 as the next date for hearing of the sensational Yasmin murder case.

Charges against all nine accused are to be framed on that day.

Yesterday, the Special Court had its first session on the case and all nine accused appeared and submitted prayers for bail.

The Judge of the Special Court, Abdul Matin, who is also the district and Sessions Judge, Rangpur, after hearing both the prosecution and the defence, rejected the bail petitions of the three main accused and sent them to jail. He, however, granted conditional antiderm

bail to six other accused. The court asked the six accused to submit the documents regarding their antiderm bail which was granted earlier by the High Court.

The three main accused in this sensational rape and murder case are: Mainul Haq, Ex-ASI of Kotwali thana, Dinajpur; Abdus Sattar, Ex-Constable of Dinajpur police lines and Amrita Lal Barman, a former driver of police lines, Dinajpur. The six other accused are: Abdul Mutalib, Ex-SP, Dinajpur; Mahtab Hossain, former Officer-in-Charge, Kotwali thana, Dinajpur; Swapon Kumar Chakravarty, Ex-SI, Kotwali thana, Dinajpur;

Matiur Rahman, former Officer-in-Charge, Watch DSB, Dinajpur; Md Jahangir Alam, Ex-ASI of Kotwali thana, Dinajpur and Dr Md Mohsin, Medical Officer, General Hospital, Dinajpur.

Earlier on September 5, the hearing of the case was scheduled to start at the Dinajpur Special Court. But upon a petition submitted by accused Abdul Mutalib, Ex-SP, Dinajpur praying for transforming the case from Dinajpur to anywhere for fair trial, The High Court shifted the case to Rangpur fixing September 21 for appearance of the accused in the Special Court

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