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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 18.65cr

Supplement

Today's 16-page issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page supplement on the National Day of Saudi Arabia on Pages 13, 14, 15 & 16 and one page supplement on BRTA on

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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).

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 pollute. 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 Petroethyl lead 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

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 petitioners 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 Luther Rahman Khan, former state minister for relief, who had 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 done.

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

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

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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 victim 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 Bangalow this afternoon.

The victim, Zahid, of Farakpur village was caught by the group, taken to the Taragonia Dak Bangalow 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.

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