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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 169.24
Market capital Tk 11825.88 cr
Transactions in volume 826798
Transactions in value Tk 21.34 cr

Supplement

A two-page special
supplement on the
National Day of China
and a one-page
supplement on
"Tourism Month"
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NEWS BRIEFS

President, PM greet Chinese leaders

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have felicitated Jiang Zemin, President and Li Peng, Premier of the People's Republic of China on the occasion of the country's 46th anniversary of founding. In separate messages of felicitations they expressed confidence that the existing relations between the two peoples would be strengthened further. They wished them good health and happiness and expected continued peace, progress and prosperity of the people of China, reports BSS.

Dhaka-Jamalpur bus service resumes

JAMALPUR, Sept 30: Bus communication between Jamalpur and Dhaka via Mymensingh resumed today after 25 days of suspension. The bus communication on the routes remained suspended since September 5 following conflict between the bus owners of Jamalpur and Dhaka, reports UNB.

Arms recovered

CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) recovered two light guns, one pipgun, seven rounds of cartridges and arrested 24 miscreants from different areas of the city today, reports BSS.

Plane, chopper service in pvt sector okayed

Nat'l body on CHT formed, on arsenic problem soon

The government has formed a national committee, seeking a negotiated settlement of the longstanding Chittagong Hill Tracts problem, reports UNB.

Headed by Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah, the committee will start its work soon to find out a solution of the CHT problem through discussion and understanding according to a official announcement.

The committee also includes the Chittagong City Corporation mayor and other elite, including MPs.

It was constituted as per decision of the Cabinet meeting held yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Earlier, the Cabinet yester-

day adopted some important decisions, including formation of a national committee on the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The national committee would be formed to find out a way for political solution of the CHT problem.

The Cabinet also accepted a proposal from Parbatya Chatagram Jana Sanghati Samiti, the political front of the Shantibahini, for extending the current truce up to October 31.

The Cabinet meeting endorsed a proposal for introducing airplane, including STAL, as well as helicopter service in the private sector in the domestic routes.

The meeting appreciated the contribution of outgoing Cabinet Secretary Ayubur Rahman in his professional life, including in the War of Liberation of Bangladesh, and his role during the free and fair elections held under caretaker government in 1991 and 1996.

Contamination first noticed in 1984

No drugs, diagnostic facilities for arsenic infected people

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday termed the growing arsenic problem as a 'national crisis' and urged all concerned to put in their best efforts to remedy the situation, reports BSS.

The crisis has created a panic in the country ... urge all concerned to use all their expertise and merit for its remedy," he said while speaking at a seminar on 'Chronic arsenism an alarming health hazard in Bangladesh' here at the Shaheed Dr Milon Hall at IPGMR.

Department of Dermatology and Venereology of IPGMR organised the seminar which was also addressed by Director General of Health Prof Shamsuddin Siddiqui while IPGMR Director Prof Mohammad Tahir was in the chair.

The minister said in many areas 'tube wells' have been sealed off in view of the arsenic contamination in the ground water. "But the problem is that we have little alternate sources of water," he observed.

Prof Siddiqui said the problem of the arsenic contamination in ground water came to

to find actually what causes the arsenic contamination."

Presenting a paper at the seminar, head of IPGMR's Dermatology and Venereology Department Prof AZM Maidul Islam said doctors of the PG Hospital came in contact with arsenic infected patients only in the early 1995 and have so far treated 126 patients.

"All the patients took tube-well water for drinking purpose and has been suffering from the infection from seven months to five years," he said.

Prof Islam said the arsenic infected patients are suffering from skin lesions, hyperkeratoses, fissures and cracks in palms and soles and leg ulcer.

"All the patients also complain of cramps in legs while anemia is common in almost all the cases," he added.

Prof Islam said the treatment of chronic arsenic poisoning is not satisfactory as the effective drugs are not available in the country.

He said the laboratory facilities for diagnosis and monitoring the patients are "almost ab-

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The Daily Star-BUP round-table in city

Water policy should meet long, short term needs

Star Report

Participants at a round-table on 'National Water Policy of Bangladesh' in the city yesterday stressed the need for all-out efforts to formulate a water policy to accelerate the pace of development.

They observed that the policy should meet both long and short term needs of the country, taking into account the availability of water in 54 'common rivers' and the ground water resources.

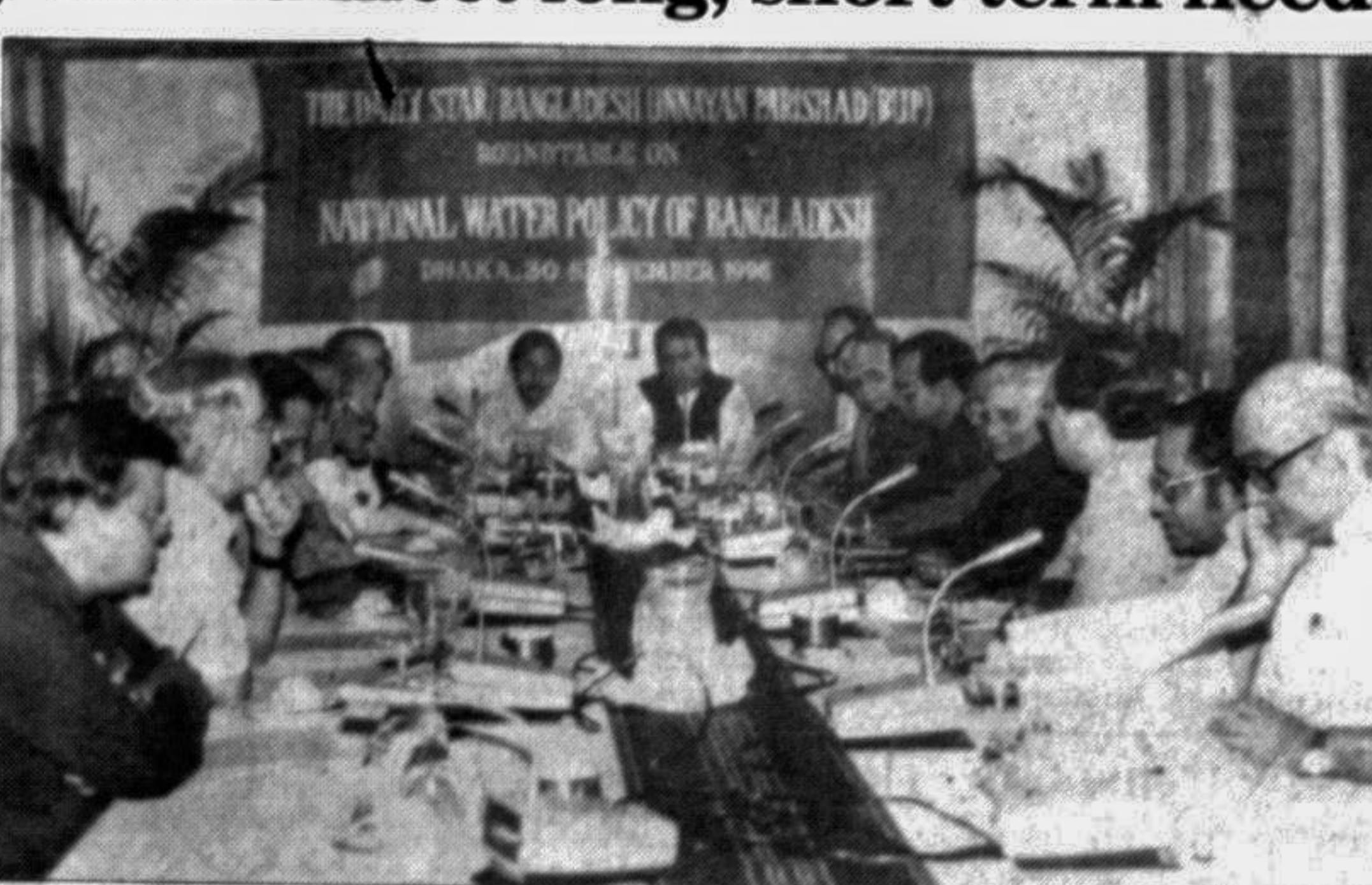
The policy should be formulated without depending on foreign consultants, the participants said.

The round-table was jointly organised by The Daily Star and Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), at Sonargaon Hotel.

Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam moderated the round-table while BUP Chairman Dr Qazi Kholiduzzaman Ahmed chaired it.

Qazi Kholiduzzaman initiated the discussion by present-

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The Daily Star and Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad jointly organised a round-table on National Water Policy of Bangladesh at a city hotel yesterday.

Power tariff

goes up by 10 pc today

By Staff Correspondent

A ten per cent rise in power tariff in the first phase will be come effective today.

According to a government circular, the power rate will increase by another five per cent from December 1.

The power tariff for agriculture and irrigation users will remain unchanged.

According to the new tariff rate, the first 300 units of electricity will cost Tk 1.75 from today and Tk 1.85 from December 1 for domestic users instead of the previous rate of Tk 1.65 for the first 200 units.

The next 200 units will be charged at the rate of Tk 2.95 from today instead of the previous rate of Tk 2.75 for units beginning from 201 to 700. There will be no change of tariff for this category from December 1. From 700 units to 100 units.

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BAC may file
cases against
5 more former
BNP ministers

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption is poised to bring charges of corruption against five more senior ministers and two influential leaders of the previous BNP government.

Competent sources told UNB that the Bureau had almost completed its investigations against former Law Minister Mirza Golam Haqiz, former LGDR Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, former Communications Minister Col (retd) Oli Ahmed, former Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam and former State Minister for Establishment Barrister Amrinul Huq.

Charges are also being framed against DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman MP and AGS Nazimuddin Alam MP. Mirza Golam Haqiz, according to the sources, is being sued for abuse of power in acquiring land for the Mirza Golam Haqiz Complex at Savar. The local sub-registrar was allegedly bribed for acquiring the land.

The Bureau is also investigating a series of charges against former Communications Minister Col (retd) Oli Ahmed. These included buying a house in Boston, USA, and the See Page 12 Col 1



BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan addressing a big rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

— Star photo

Fresh BNP programme 'Meet demands by Oct 15 or face tougher action'

The BNP yesterday announced a fortnight-long action programme for six divisional headquarters to press its demands for end to government's "repressive" measures against its leaders and workers, reports UNB.

The programme includes massive demonstration, procession and rally, also designed to press for resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Abu Hena for his "partisan" role in conducting polls.

Announcing the programme from a big rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP gave the government time until October 15 to meet the demands with a note of warning that they would be forced to go for tougher action if the demands were not met.

The BNP secretary general and former minister strongly criticised the Awami League government's decision to suspend issuance of voter identity cards. This government only knows how to file false cases against its opponents. The demands were not met.

During the period, he said thousands of BNP men were arrested and several thousand others charged in various "false" cases. This government is a litigious government. This government only knows how to file false cases against its opponents.

See Page 12 Col 7

Tk 40cr allocated for expansion of Dhaka EPZ

The board of governors of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) at a meeting last night with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair took five important decisions on its development programmes, reports BSS.

The decisions included allocation of Taka 40 crore for the expansion of Dhaka EPZ project. The expansion over 214.34 acres of land would be completed.

See Page 12 Col 8

ME summit in Washington today

JERUSALEM, Sept 30: PLO leader Yasser Arafat is planning to fly to Washington for the summit on rescuing Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and there is no indication the Washington meeting will be delayed, a Palestinian official said today.

President Clinton's Mideast summit had been thrown into

WASHINGTON, Sept 30: Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak will not attend the Middle East crisis summit in Washington being organised by US President Bill Clinton, the White House said today, reports Reuter.

question today when a PLO official said Arafat asked that it be postponed until its success could be assured.

Arafat was expected to fly to Luxembourg this afternoon for discussions with European Community officials and then

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BSSP won't join 5th Wage Board till demands met

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Sammilita Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSSP) has expressed its resentment at what it called the government's indifference to its demands.

The BSSP at an emergency meeting yesterday observed with deep concern that no step has yet been taken regarding fulfilment of its demands even after the Prime Minister's as

See Page 12 Col 7

23 DCs appointed

The government has appointed 23 new Deputy Commissioners, an official announcement said last night, reports UNB.

BPATC Director Mohammad Nazrul Islam has been appointed DC of Nawabganj. Deputy Secretary of the Shipping Ministry Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman DC of Pabna. Deputy Director of Civil Aviation Authority Abu Naser Ahmed DC of Narayanganj. Deputy Secretary of Home Ministry Golam Kibria M Nurul Amin DC of Moulavi Bazar and Director of National Savings Director Accrata Pada Gostami DC of Dinajpur.

Deputy Secretary of Education Ministry Khandaker Abu Mohammad Abdullah has been appointed DC of Bagerhat. Personal Secretary to Health and Family Welfare Minister Hatem Ali Khan DC of Barisal. Director of Special Affairs Division KM Abul Kalam DC of Noakhali.

With an aim of discharging duties to the old people 10 years ago I established Old Home Rehabilitation Centre at my own initiative and with own finance, providing therein facilities of Shelter, Clothing, Medicine, Food etc. towards overall rehabilitation of the help-less old people of 60 years and above.

The centre is being successfully run till now. The centre is now situated on a plot of land of 60 bighas near Monipur Bazar, Rajendrapur, Gazipur. An extension project for rehabilitation of around 5000 old people has been undertaken by me. Nobel Prize winner Ms. Mother Teresa laid the foundation stone of this project on the 21st April, 1995. I would request the country men to extend co-operation in providing me with the information of help-less old people through out the country.

In this auspicious international day I extend my heartiest feelings and best wishes to the old people of home and abroad. I also appeal to the countrymen specially young generation to come forward to render services and perform duties to the distressed people by way of making arrangement for their rehabilitation.

In fine, I once again make appeal to all concerned not to neglect and mistreat the old people who once took immense trouble for our establishment in the society and arrange to send them to me towards giving me the opportunity to accommodate them in my aforesaid centre with all basic amenities of life which every human being has a right to enjoy.

KHATIB ABDUL ZAHID MUKUL
FOUNDER CHAIRMAN

**OLD HOME REHABILITATION CENTRE,
GIVENCHY GROUP OF INDUSTRIES**

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AND
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