

Inside Today

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by Kabir U Ahmad
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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1688.87
Market capital Tk 11816.29 cr
Transactions in volume 883349
Transactions in value Tk 22.80 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 699.73
Market capital Tk 7053.48 cr
Transactions in volume 151030
Transactions in value Tk 3.10 cr

NEWS BRIEFS

Attack on DESA workers: 2 hurt

Two workers of the Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) were injured when a mob attacked them at Jonaki Super Market yesterday. Witnesses said traders of the market turned violent and beat up the DESA workers, Masum, 25, and Motaleb, 40, as power supply to the market was disrupted within half an hour of restoring a line at about 6:30 pm. The injured were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, reports UNB.

Dhaka-Tangail bus service resumes

From Our Correspondent
TANGAIL, Oct 1: Bus services between Tangail and Dhaka resumed today as the road transport workers' union of the district called off their strike. The union decision to call off the strike was taken last night following an assurance by Deputy Commissioner of Tangail to provide compensation to the transport workers affected during a clash with students recently. The assurance was given at tripartite meeting among the students, transport workers' union leaders and the district administration yesterday. The strike was called following a clash between the students of Mirzapur College and transport workers on September 29.

FPAB convening committee formed

The Social Welfare Directorate has constituted a five-member convening committee for Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) with Dr Nilima Ibrahim as its convener. A FPAB press release said in the city yesterday that the Directorate had earlier dissolved the national executive council of FPAB.

Dr Nilima Ibrahim had taken the charge with effect from September 30, the press release added, reports BSS.

Launch hits engine boat: 1 killed

By Staff Correspondent
A 35-year-old man died when the launch Eagle knocked down an engine boat at Bashundhara Ghat of the Buriganga river yesterday. Police said the victim identified as Annas was travelling in the boat and fell into the river. The fire service personnel recovered the body.

2 held with arms

From Our Correspondent
TANGAIL, Oct 1: Tangail Sadar than police arrested two young men with one pigeon and three bullets from the hostel of Bindubashini Government Boys High School here this noon. The arrested persons were identified as Imrul Haider Farid and Forhad Ali. Police said, they were staying in the school hostel.

Prime Minister on live TV programme

Transparency in state decisions a must



Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that as the head of government she believes in and pursues the policy of democratic obligation, fraternity and accountability, reports BSS.

"There should be transparency in the state decisions," she said, adding that public interest suffers in the absence of transparency in the process of taking and implementing decisions.

In a live television question-and-answer session marking the completion of 100 days of her government of national consensus, the Prime Minister called for cooperation and joint endeavours from all in the nation's march towards the 21st century.

During her 30-minute appearance on 'Sabinaya Jiggasa' programme of Bangladesh

Television (BTV), the Prime Minister, besides highlighting various achievements of her government, also replied to questions from the audience in the TV studio as well as from the home listeners over telephone.

At the outset of her speech, the prime minister recalled with deep respect the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the martyrs of the great freedom struggle.

The Prime Minister expressed her thanks and gratitude to the people belonging to all professions and classes for taking part in the struggle for democracy.

The prime minister said she had appeared before the nation on June 24 after formation of her government following the

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Highlights of activities in 100 days

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday highlighted activities and achievements of her government during its 100 days in power, reports UNB.

The activities are as follows: 1) Restoration of voting rights, 2) Steps for running local government by elected representatives, 3) Non-partisan and legal action to curb terrorism, 4) One-man judicial probe into Bogra killings, 5) A 3-member judicial enquiry about the missing of Kalpana Chakma, 6) Judicial enquiry into woodcutter killings in Chittagong Hill Tracts, 7) Enhancement of rationing for police to 40 per cent from 20 per cent, 8) Enhancement of compensation from Tk 50,000 to Tk 100,000 for casualty of police, 9) Legal action against corrupt people and bank defaulters, 10) Submission of statements on property owned by ministers of the present government, 11) Adoption of rules of business empowering ministers as the executive of ministries, 12) En-

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False alarm over gun-running in Bombay

Arms in the ship belonged to Bangladesh peacekeepers

From Kunal Ganguly

NEW DELHI, Oct 1: It all started last week, when officials from the Indian Customs in Bombay alerted the police saying they need help to board and search a ship that they thought was carrying weapons.

The Customs said they were tipped off by a string of informers that they employ to let them know of any wrongdoing around India's main port.

India maintains very high security standard in Bombay in view of wave of terrorist bombings. A total of 13 bombs had exploded across central Bombay on March 12, 1993, killing at least 317 people and destroying many important buildings.

With Bombay, India's business capital, on such a high alert, city police in turn alerted

the state police and the Coast Guard. Top officials of the three departments met in Bombay and reviewed the intelligence reports that they have been receiving since the ship sailed into India's territorial waters.

And the Indians decided to take action. They boarded M V Pachdram and there was instant jubilation. The Indians have exposed another gun-running racket, as the ship's cargo was found to be made up of arms, mainly close combat weapons.

But there was one flaw. None of the ships crew showed any sign of nervousness and none of them made any attempt to conceal anything. That was surprising to the Customs who had expected the crew to tremble in

fright. Also, the captain of the ship told the Customs that the cargo was meant for Bangladesh and it was all official. There was no gun-running involved.

There was apparently some communication gap between the Customs and the ship's crew and the former told the latter that the ship should not be allowed to sail until further investigation.

And then the penny dropped. It was discovered that the ship was indeed carrying arms that rightfully belongs to the Bangladesh army.

But the question still remained. What Bangladesh arms are doing in Bombay, 1,000 miles away from Bangladesh. See Page 12 Col 4

Arafat in Washington to join ME summit

WASHINGTON, Oct 1: Palestinian President Yasser Arafat arrived in the United States early this morning for an emergency summit called to end an explosion of violence that has threatened to derail the Middle East peace process, reports Reuter.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Jordan's King Hussein are already here to join Arafat at the hastily arranged two-day summit called by President Bill Clinton scheduled to begin later today.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak would not take part. President Mubarak said today he refused the invitation to the summit in Washington in part to send a signal to Israel that continued obstinacy can only block Middle East peace.

Mubarak says, Netanyahu's headline comments just before the summit offers little hope of success.

Arafat said Monday he was going to the summit to demand the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank city of Hebron and the closure of the Jerusalem tunnel that caused the recent crisis and bloodshed.

"I'm not asking for the moon. I'm asking for what has been agreed and signed," Arafat said after meeting with three European Union foreign ministers on his way to Washington.

"I am not putting any conditions because peace is a precious target," he said.

Netanyahu said Monday he will propose continuous negotiations to the Palestinians to hammer out all remaining obstacles to implementing the autonomy accord.

Netanyahu added that he and Arafat would be directly involved in such negotiations to speed them along.

A senior Netanyahu aide told reporters on his plane that the Israeli leader expected Arafat to reaffirm his renunciation of violence.

Clinton and King Hussein today huddled in the private residence of the White House for 45 minutes on salvaging the fragile peace process.

They discussed ways in which they could get the peace process back on track," said White House spokesman David Johnson.

Clinton is trying to overcome deep distrust between Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

If he can get Netanyahu and

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Most ministers give statements of assets

By Reaz Ahmad

Most of the ministers and state ministers have submitted statements of their assets to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, according to official sources.

They submitted their statements in last one week in prescribed forms supplied by the Cabinet Division last month.

Monday was the last date for submission of their assets. Those who could not submit their statements till Saturday

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Water experts back home

The 3-member experts committee returned to Dhaka last night after holding talks with the Indian side in a bid to prepare ground for an agreement on the sharing of the Ganges water before the next dry season, reports UNB.

Additional Foreign Secretary Ahmed Tariq Karim led the Bangladesh team at the talks held in New Delhi on September 27-28.

The two sides were learnt to have mainly discussed the dry month flow of the Ganges water. The experts also visited the Farakka barrage site.

The next round of expected talks will be held in Dhaka sometime this month, sources said.

Gayoom due in city Oct 16

By Staff Correspondent

Maldives President Maamoon Abdul Gayoom is scheduled to pay a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh from October 16. It was learnt from diplomatic sources.

The President of the Maldives will be the first Head of State to visit Bangladesh after the Awami League came to power more than three months ago.

President Gayoom is expected to hold talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on increased bilateral cooperation in various sectors including trade and investment. The two leaders will also identify new areas of cooperation within the framework of SAARC.

Over 300000 Asians may have to leave UAE

DUBAI (United Arab Emirates), Oct 1: After working for years to help build the modern cities of the United Arab Emirates, hundreds of thousands of Asians are being forced to leave, and many are going home full of resentment, reports AP.

"I've spent the best years of my life here and this is what I get in return, 48-year old Moto said today as he prepared to board a ship that will take him to his native India.

Moto, who gave only one name, was among the many thousands of Asians who came to the UAE seeking work during the oil boom of the 1970s.

They helped transform the United Arab Emirates from a barren desert into an ultra-modern commercial hub in the Gulf with some of the world's most sophisticated infrastructure.

Now they feel the UAE has turned ungrateful.

The illegal workers estimated by the government at around 120,000 but unofficially pegged at 300,000 or more — scrambled to take advantage of the amnesty queuing for days in front of their embassies for exit permits.

They needed these documents because they had given their passports to their original — and legal — employers in the UAE.

But they later quit to take better-paying jobs illegally, while their passports remained in the hands of their original employer.

The government passed a law in mid-July that stiffened fines and prison sentences for illegal foreign workers and their employers. The law also included an amnesty for illegals, provided they leave the country by Nov 1.

A boat with 1,200 foreign workers left yesterday for India and Moto was among some 2,100 who boarded a second ship today.

Official figures show that of the UAE's 2.4 million population, 75 per cent are foreigners. More than half the population is from five Asian countries — India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

Outnumbered by foreigners by a ratio of 3 to 1, many UAE citizens applauded the decision to expel illegal foreign workers, part of a larger attempt to stop what some have called a cultural invasion.

It is feared that the new law will result in higher prices for services, as companies can no longer hire illegal workers, who are paid less and are easier to exploit than those working legitimately.

he would be forgiven. In the neighbouring Salang Pass, immediately to the west of the Panjshir, there was no fighting reported between the Taliban and the Uzbek faction of ex-communist general Abdul Rashid Dostam.

Afghan Islami Press (AIP) says, forces of Dostam retreated today from the strategic Salang tunnel following a 24-hour ultimatum from the Taliban but no independent confirmation was immediately available.

The Taliban had advanced to the mouth of Salang tunnel, 120 kilometers north of the Afghan capital and fighting was likely with Uzbek soldiers.

Travellers said the two forces were separated by a distance of only a few hundred meters.

Thousands of Dostam's soldiers and senior commanders have reportedly taken up position on either end of the tunnel.

Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka campaign resumes Friday

By Staff Correspondent

The 'Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka' campaign organised by The Daily Star in cooperation with the Bangladesh Scouts and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will resume on Friday.

Members of Dhaka Metropolitan Scouts and Dhaka Regional scouts will visit houses from evening to 10 pm to motivate people to dump their garbage in dustbins.

The programme will continue on every Friday during the month.

Scouts from Graduate High School, Narinda Government High School, Motiheel Government Boys High School, T&T High School, Ideal School and College, Government Science College, Tejgaon Government High School, Nakhla Para Hossain Ali High School, Mirpur Government High School, Pogo High School, Chinnamukta Scout Group, Shaheed Abu Taleb High School, National Bangla High School, Mirpur Bangla High School, Dhaka Zilla Railway Scouts, Dhaka Zilla Sea Scouts, Dhaka Zilla Air Scouts, Rover Scouts and members of the girls in

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'Bangladesh garments have great demand in India'

A 5-member delegation of Calcutta-based Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BNCCI) led by its President Samarendra P Shah called on Commerce and Industry Minister Tofael Ahmed at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

The delegation informed the minister that they wanted to increase trade and investment between the two countries on the basis of economic partner.

They said that there was great demand of Bangladesh garments in India particularly in West Bengal.

They also informed that a large number of Indian tourists wanted to visit Bangladesh and Bangladesh government could arrange a tourism fair in India so that Indian tourists would be able to know about the available facilities and package programmes offered for the tourists.

The delegation emphasised on arranging joint symposium between the two countries in

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Terrorists, police trade fire in Ctg: One held

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 1: Police arrested one terrorist here this evening. A rifle and nine bullets were also recovered from his possession.

The arrested was identified as Suranjit Barua.

Police said they raided the Bhuiya Lane under Panchlaish thana at 8 pm after getting secret information over telephone.

As soon as police went to the spot, the terrorists opened fire. After half an hour exchange of fire, the police arrested Suranjit but others fled.

BCL leader stabbed to death

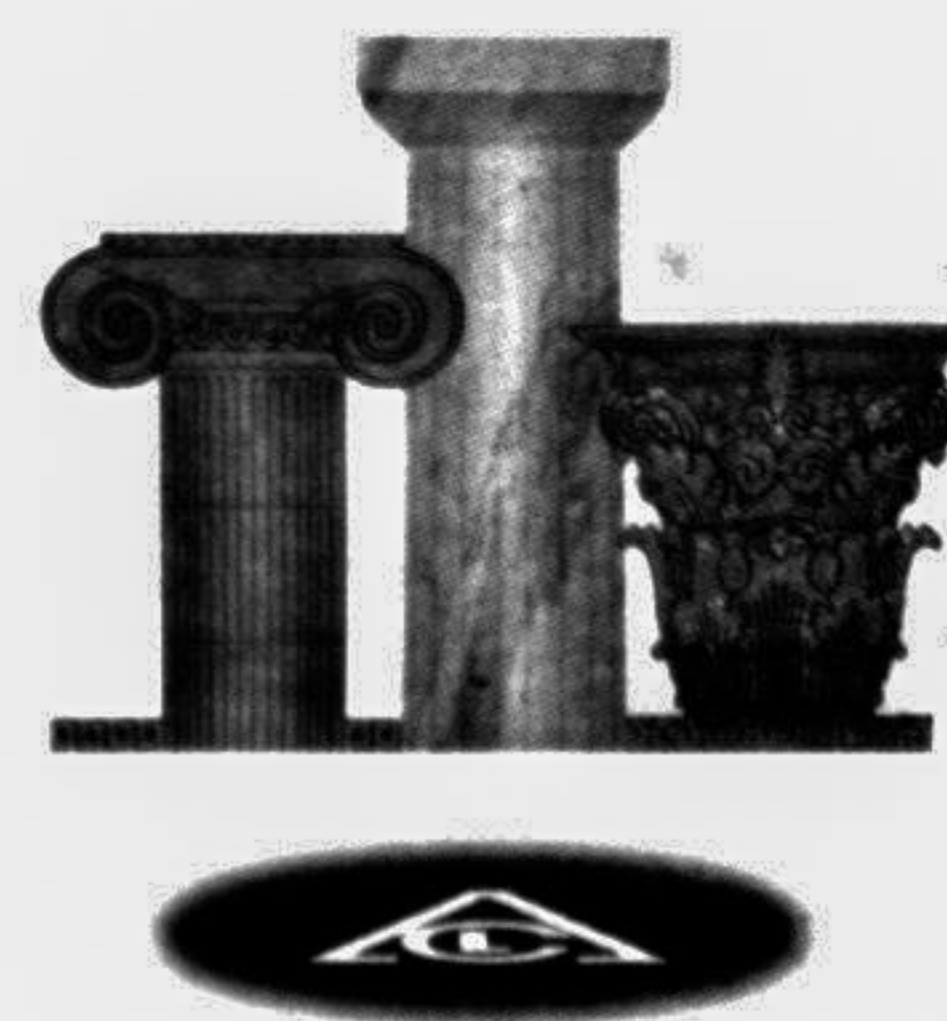
HABIGANJ, Oct 1: A leader of the ruling party's student front was stabbed to death by unidentified miscreants in the Bahubal thana headquarters today, police said, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Ful Mia, 22, Bangladesh Chhatra League Bahubal thana unit

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