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#### DSE MARKET

DSE price index	2087.33
Market capital Tk	14604.08 cr
Transactions in volume	1223998
Transactions in value Tk	34.09 cr

#### Metropolitan

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#### NEWS BRIEFS

### Khaleda goes to Sylhet today

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will offer feteiha at the mazars of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R) and Shah Paran (R) at Sylhet today. She will leave Dhaka this morning and expected to return at night, party sources said, reports UNB.

### Bogra incident: Probe body report by Nov 15

The time for submission of the enquiry report on the violent incidents that occurred in Bogra town on August 22 and afterwards has been extended up to November 15, a handout said here yesterday. The time has been extended as per the request of the enquiry commission which was formed to investigate the incidents of Bogra, reports BSS.

### Trader stabbed to death

JESSORE, Oct 7: Muggers stabbed a local businessman to death and snatched Tk 52,000 from him at Jessore railway station today. Police said the hijackers swooped on Jahangir Hossain as he got off a local train and snatched the money after stabbing him repeatedly. Jahangir, who hailed from Terokhada of Khulna district, died on the spot, reports UNB.

### ASI killed in road accident

FARIDPUR, Oct 7: An Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) of Bhanga thana succumbed to his injuries at Manikganj, on way to Dhaka from here, after he was hit by a speeding truck. SP of Faridpur said the ASI Hiren Chandra Dey was hit by the truck while on duty at Bhanga bus stand on Faridpur-Barisal highway early today, reports UNB.

### One electrocuted in Barisal

BARISAL, Oct 7: A worker of Opsonin Pharmaceutical Ltd was electrocuted this afternoon when he was working in the laboratory at East Bogura Road, police said. Basudev Pal, 22, died on the spot as he suddenly came into contact with a live electric wire, reports BSS.

## I never bowed to any pressure: Biswas

By Special Correspondent

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday expressed his satisfaction that he is going to retire at the end of his term, welcoming his successor Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed tomorrow (Wednesday), and said this will help institutionalise democracy in the country.

In an emotion-packed 59-minute farewell speech to Bangabhaban officials, employees and presidential guards, the 72-year old President said he will welcome the President-designate and take leave formally which is unprecedented in the nation's history.

It would help smooth the path of transition and make the future of the posterity secure, Biswas said. He noted that he never allowed himself to bend under pressure from any quarters or anyone, including that from 'uttar para', or 'from an envoy of a big country'. He, however, did not elaborate. He

promised to defend himself against all kinds of allegations without giving details. "Man is fallible but with the grace of Allah Almighty I tried to dispense my duties truthfully and firmly taking into consideration the nation's interest and weighing the pros and cons of all matters," an emotion-charged President said firmly.

### Leaves Bangabhaban for home today

Abdur Rahman Biswas is packing up to leave Bangabhaban today completing his full tenure of the Presidency for the first time in Bangladesh's history, reports UNB.

He is scheduled to leave the President's Office for his own house in city's Banani at 10:30 in the morning," said a spokesman for Bangabhaban yesterday.

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often lacing his words with a strong southern accent.

Referring to criticisms against him that he never acted when the country was going through a turbulent period last year, he said that under the Constitution the President have limited authority, "something even my successor had said". He said he had challenged them to produce something in writing to save the country from chaos, which they failed.

"When I got the full powers under constitutional amendment before elections, then all kinds of things were said why so and so was given charge of certain ministry. Inshallah, nobody can play with me. I am not afraid of death. I had all the authority, even I could sack the caretaker government. But I exercised the authority for smooth elections under the caretaker government. Because I did not want the people from

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### Swiss, Australian share Nobel Medicine Prize

STOCKHOLM, Oct 7: Two scientists, a Swiss and an Australian shared the 1996 Nobel Medicine Prize for discoveries made while working in Australia on how the body detects virus-infected cells. Sweden's Karolinska Institute said today, reports Reuter.

The winners were Peter Doherty, 55, born in Australia and now working at the University of Tennessee in Memphis and Rolf Zinkernagel, 52, Swiss-born and now working at the University of Zurich.

The two men will share 1.12 million as their prize. Doherty began his career as a veterinary officer at Brisbane's Animal Research Institute after attending universities in the Australian states of Queensland and Edinburgh, Scotland.

He is now chairman of the department of Immunology at St Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee, and a professor at the University of Tennessee's College of Medicine.

Zinkernagel is head of the Institute of Experimental Immunology at the University of Zurich. See Page 12 Col 3

## 'Non-cooperation' by his party govt Mayor Hanif terms it the 'greatest tragedy of life'

Dhaka Mayor Mohammad Hanif yesterday disclosed plans to give a 'new look' to the sprawling Dhaka city by resolving some of the pressing problems before the completion of three years on March 12 of his four-year tenure.

"Despite my limited power, I am going for action shortly to clean the metropolis and give it a new look for the comfort of the city dwellers," he told UNB. The Mayor said he would take necessary steps to remove the traffic jam, seize unlicensed rickshaws, evict illegal occupants from roads and pavements, clean garbage and set up street lights.

As many as 50 BRTC buses will be pressed into the city service soon to ease the transport problem, he said. Roads damaged by rains will be repaired within 15 days of the end to monsoon period.

Besides, a number of underpasses and footovers will be commissioned shortly.

Hanif said the Dhaka City Corporation had undertaken a Tk 2 crore plan this financial

year to develop 52 slums in the city. At present, there are about 450 slums within the jurisdiction of the Corporation.

The Mayor, who apparently landed into a power conflict with the government, said he has no authority to deal with the problems like waterlogging, inadequate gas and water supply and terrorism.

"It's true that I am being blamed by the city dwellers for those problems. But, you know, I have no authority to deal with those issues."

Recently, Hanif put forward a proposal to the Prime Minister for instituting Dhaka Metropolitan Corporation headed by the Mayor to resolve all problems facing the city dwellers and ensure all utility services for them.

But the Mayor's proposal was rejected by the government

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Mohammad Hanif

### Two foreign nationals detained

## Tk 1.4cr gold seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent



The two foreign nationals along with the smuggled gold seized at the Zia International Airport yesterday. Star photo

Customs personnel at Zia International Airport yesterday seized smuggled gold worth Tk 1.4 crore from two foreign passengers, according to official sources.

The gold, in the form of 200 bars weighting 10 tola each was recovered from the baggages of Wolf Gang Loidl, an Austrian and Sijm Manfred Theodoros Maria, a Dutch, who came from Bangkok in a Thai Airways flight on their way to India.

They tried to pass through the green channel without giving any declaration, the sources said.

The tipped-off customs personnel challenged them and recovered 100 gold bars from each of their baggages.

On interrogation later they confessed to the customs authorities that an Indian citizen had given them the gold to reach it to India in exchange of one thousand US Dollars.

The gold was handed over to them at a hotel in Bangkok, according to their statement.

A case was lodged with the Cantonment thana. When contacted, Cantonment thana police said that DB police was interrogating them further.

Mentionably, smuggled gold worth about Tk seven crore was seized at the ZIA on September 21. That was the biggest ever haul of smuggled gold in the country. The gold was found in two cartons of electronic goods.

Customs personnel at the ZIA had seized smuggled gold worth about Tk four crore in 1993 and another quantity of the contraband item worth about Tk 2.4 crore in 1990, according to sources.

### Nat'l committee on arsenic pollution

A national steering committee headed by Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf has been formed to take effective steps in protecting public health particularly with regards to arsenic problem, reports UNB.

The decision came at an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday with Health Minister in the chair.

A scientific expert committee was also formed under the national steering committee to put forward recommendations after examining the causes of arsenic pollution and to find out prevention measures.

The meeting was attended by cabinet secretary, and secretaries of different ministries, director general (DG) of Health Directorate. Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission, DG of Bangladesh Land Survey and DG of NGO Affairs Bureau. Chairman of Rural Electrification Board, Chief Engineer of Public Health Department, Director General of Environment Department, and high officials of different ministries and departments were also present.

### 26 held from ZH Hall compound: Sarwar missing from hospital

By DU Correspondent

A three-member probe body headed by the Proctor of the Dhaka University, Dr Nur-Un-Nabi, was formed to investigate the Zahurul Haq Hall incident on Sunday.

The two other member of the committee are Sharifullah Bhuiyan and Akkas Ali, house tutors of the hall. The committee has been asked to submit its report within three days.

Sarwar Alam, a student of Pharmacy and resident of Zahurul Haq Hall, was thrown out of his first floor room through the window by a group of outsiders.

Meanwhile, the Proctor, quoting police officials, said that the victim, Sarwar, was missing since Sunday night from the Orthopaedic Hospital where he was undergoing treatment.

The Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury while talking to newsmen at his office yesterday said that stern action will be taken against those responsible for the incident.

Ramna thana police said that no case had been lodged in this connection.

Police picked up 26 people from the Zahurul Haq Hall compound at around 1 pm yesterday.

When contacted, police said that most of people picked up were from the nearby employees quarters. They will be released after interrogation, police added.

### JCD activists go on rampage in Ctg, damage vehicles

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 7: Some JCD activists went on the rampage damaging vehicles and exploding cocktails in front of the BNP office at Nur Ahmed road here this afternoon.

According to witnesses, more than 20 vehicles, including autorickshaws were damaged.

Police said, the trouble started when the activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal staged a demonstration and put up barricades on the Nur Ahmed road at 5 pm protesting the arrest of Ajmir Hossain.

Ajmir, an activist of JCD, Chittagong Medical College unit, was arrested by Kotwali police on Sunday. The situation became normal and the barricade was removed following police intervention.

### Rural people must get service Absentee docs to face action, warns PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday warned of action against those doctors who remain absent from health complexes and centres in thana and rural areas, reports UNB.

"This is unfortunate. You must not forget that you are getting your salary from the taxes of common people. Take care of the patients and behave politely with them," she told the doctors.

The Prime Minister was addressing the leaders of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) who called on her at the PM office in the afternoon.

"If doctors disagree to stay in thana health complexes or health centres, take action against them," BMA President Prof MA Majed told the Prime Minister.

Sheikh Hasina called upon the doctors to take medicare facilities to the doorsteps of all classes of people.

"My government will take measure to provide medical facilities to union level, but you (doctors) will have to ensure proper treatment of people," she said.

Pointing to the awful condition of government hospitals, she called upon the doctors to render service to patients, to keep the hospitals neat and clean.

The government has raised the amount of money for the diet of the patients from Tk 18 to Tk 30, she said, adding "I want that this benefit should reach those for whom the allowance is provided." See Page 12 Col 7

### Privatisation of Hafiz Textiles Letter of intent issued to highest bidder

By Inam Ahmed

The government has finally sent letter of intent to the highest bidder for privatising the Hafiz Textile Mills, an issue that had been posing a discord between the World Bank (WB) and the government over the Jute Sector Adjustment Credit (JSAC), according to official sources.

The bidder has been given one month's time to pay the money and take possession of the mills from the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC). But sources said the bidder

has already shown his interest to take possession of the mills by paying its full price of Tk 8.43 crore at a time. The bidder will also own the liability of about Tk four crore of the mills.

"Sale of the unit may take place within two to three weeks," the official sources said.

The letter of intent was issued last week. A decision on privatisation of the mills was pending for over 18 months, the sources said. See Page 12 Col 2

### Govt has failed to ensure safety of people: BNP

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the people throughout the country are now feeling insecure as the government has failed to ensure safety of their reports UNB.

Addressing a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon, he alleged that the ruling party was unleashing attack on literary and cultural personalities. "The attack on Sikdar is the example of countrywide terrorism," Mannan said.

The Dhaka City Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS) organised the rally protesting the recent attack on poet Abdul Hye Sikdar. Central JASAS leader Kazi Khursheduzzaman Utpal presided.

The BNP secretary general charged the Awami League with See Page 12 Col 3

### C'wealth summit in Edinburgh from Oct 24

The next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will be held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, on October 24-27, said a British High Commission press release in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind announced this in London on October 2. This will be the first time since 1977 that Britain has hosted the biennial Commonwealth summit, the Foreign Secretary informed.

He hoped that the Edinburgh Summit will mark an important milestone in the economic and political development of the modern Commonwealth.

The detailed format of the four-day summit meeting will be discussed by Commonwealth senior officials during their meeting in London on October 29-30.

### Rao gets at least one more day's freedom

NEW DELHI, Oct 7: Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao today won a brief respite as the Supreme Court reserved a decision in a criminal cheating case in which he has been summoned by a Delhi court to testify, reports Reuter.

Until the Supreme Court pronounces its order, Rao cannot be summoned by the lower court, officials said. The Supreme Court had not said when it would give its order, they added.

AP says the court granted at least one more day of freedom to Rao, withholding its judgement for one day on his appeal of his arrest warrant in a forgery case.

The court had issued the arrest warrant on Friday, but its execution was delayed until the judgement on Rao's appeal of the warrant was made.

### Release of muggers Three more police officials suspended in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Oct 7: A special team of the Home Ministry's Security Cell has ordered suspension of three more police officials of Narayanganj Sadar thana on charge of releasing three alleged muggers in the town late last month, police sources here said tonight.

The suspended officials are: Muniruzzaman Munir and Pradip, both Sub Inspectors, and Mizan, Assistant Sub-Inspector of the Narayanganj Sadar thana, police said.

When contacted, the new Officer in Charge of Narayanganj Sadar thana told this correspondent. See Page 12 Col 4

## Govt should recast revenue projections, observes MCCI

By Staff Correspondent

The country's top chamber body Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) has expressed its concern that an unrealistic projection of taxes on income and profits for fiscal 1996-97 may put undue pressure on the administration to ensure projected collection, victimising the tax-payers.

In its latest monthly review, the MCCI also felt the need to recast the government's revenue projections since these have been made somewhat optimistically.

Taxes on income and profit have been projected to increase by 17.1 per cent in fiscal 1996-97, which is considerably

higher than the rates of growth in the last five years, the MCCI said.

Similarly projected growths in the collection of Customs Duty, VAT and Supplementary Duty at 14.5 per cent, 15.8 per cent and 15.2 per cent respectively will require commensurate growth in economic activities, it observed.

MCCI further said that judged by the performance of the economy during the first two months of the current fiscal year it appeared that the growth target might not be achieved.

The government should give serious attention to the projected decline in revenue-GDP

ratio and slowing down of tax-GDP ratio in the next fiscal year, MCCI suggested.

It was projected that in fiscal year 97, the total revenue and GDP ratio would decline to 11.6 per cent from current 11.9 per cent and non-tax to GDP ratio would come down to 2.1 per cent from 2.5 per cent in the current fiscal.

However, the tax-GDP ratio is projected to increase slightly to 9.5 per cent in the next year, from 9.4 per cent in current year.

The MCCI review termed the projected non-tax growth decline to 5.8 per cent as disconcerting. See Page 12 col 6

### Delay in publishing results alleged DU masters classes begin a year after Hons exams

By MM Aminul Islam Sajal

Students of Dhaka University, after appearing at Honours examinations are to wait for more than a year for their masters classes to start.

Masters level classes for students in some departments who appeared at Honours examinations in 1994-95 session started this week while results in some other departments are yet to be published.

According to rules, results of any course-system examination must be published within three months of the examination. But almost every department now takes eight to twelve months to publish results, according to sources.

The sources said that the delay in starting classes is mainly due to the delay in publishing

results. Recently, the university authorities shifted Honours and masters examinations of four departments as the results of the previous batches could not be published.

Honours examinations in the Department of English in 1994-95 session had started in September 1995 and ended in April this year. But the results one yet to be published, the sources said. The results could not be published in time as the course coordinator went to London with examining the answer scripts. He did not even hand over the answer scripts to anybody else before his departure. The source said.

The same thing happened in the departments of Public Administration. See Page 12 Col 3

### Readers' Digest's Hero for Today award for Khair

Abul Khair, the nine-year-old boy who saved more than 1000 lives by his quick-witted action that helped avert a train disaster, has been named a Reader's Digest 'Hero for Today' in October, the first Bangladeshi to be awarded with distinction, reports UNB.

Khair averted a major train accident on July 13 in Chandpur district's Hajiganj area after he stopped the approaching 'Meghna' express train by waving a 'Red Petticoat' when he found a part of the rail track missing. The driver was alerted by the red petticoat and stopped the train.

In recognition of his quick-witted decision and courage, Khair will receive a US dollar 300 cash award and a certificate from the international monthly magazine. See Page 12 Col 8



The entrance to the National Botanic Garden at Mirpur in the city. Star photo

### Botanical garden now 'unsafe' for visitors

By Morshed Ali Khan

Lack of security inside the National Botanic Garden (NBG) at Mirpur in the city is keeping visitors away, according to sources concerned.

Visitors are being mugged and harassed regularly by some organised gangs inside the 208-acre garden, some officials at the ticket counter of the NBG alleged. As a consequence, the number of visitors has fallen sharply, they said.

"Everyday, visitors including families and individuals complain to us about mugging and also harassment by vendors who force visitors to buy their merchandise," said a ticket clerk.

Alauddin, a visitor from Gazipur and his family members were mugged of all their belongings at gun point inside the garden at about 3 pm on Tues-

day, said a clerk showing Alauddin's written complaint to this correspondent.

It was learnt that officially the NBG has more than 200 employees including 38 security guards, working full-time. Most of the guards remain busy guarding the officials' residences inside the NBG while others are often involved in "unscrupulous activities," it was alleged by some visitors and employees of the NBG.

Director of the NBG, Manjurul Karim, admitted having "some security problem" inside the garden and said, "we have asked the authorities to give us armed Ansars here and have also decided to introduce ID cards for the authorised vendors."

The NBG authorities have See Page 12 Col 3