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DSE trading makes new record Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index	2087.38
Market capital Tk	14604.49 cr
Transactions in volume	1336458
Transactions in value Tk	40,22cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	872.16
Market capital Tk	8791.63 cr
Transactions in volume	309667
Transactions in value Tk	7.86 cr

NEWS BRIEFS

Partial solar eclipse Oct 12

A partial eclipse of the Sun will take place on October 12, an ISPR press release said in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Meteorological Department says, the eclipse will begin at 17 hrs. 59.5 minutes and will end at 22 hrs. 4.8 minutes EST. The greatest eclipse will occur at 20 hrs 2 minutes and the magnitude of the eclipse will be 0.76. This eclipse will, however, not be visible anywhere in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Probe body on IU incident

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Oct 8: A five-member enquiry committee headed by Professor M Alauddin has been formed to investigate the incident on Islamic University Campus on September 28. The committee will submit its report to the university authorities by October 31, according to university sources.

Swedish team meets BNP Secy Gen

A Swedish delegation, led by Allan Appeal Board Chairman Hans Blyme, called on BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at the party central office in the city yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed various issues of common interests and the country's current political situation, reports UNB.

Mothbaria AL calls hartal Oct 12, 13

The ruling Awami League has called a half-day hartal on October 12 and dawn-to-dusk on October 13 in Mothbaria thana of Pirojpur district to press for removal of the local education officers. According to a faxed message received in Dhaka yesterday, the Mothbaria thana Awami League has called the hartal alleging massive corruption, limitless bribery and irregularities committed by the thana education officials. At a protest rally held in front of the local Awami League office yesterday, reports UNB.

Turkish troops kill 188 Kurds

ANKARA, Oct 8: Turkish security forces killed 118 Kurdish guerrillas today in clashes on the mountainous border with Iraq, the state-run Anatolian news agency said, reports Reuters. The agency said 11 members of the security forces had also died in the fighting, in the southeastern Turkish provinces of Sirmak and Hakikari.

Shahabuddin takes oath as President today

By Staff Correspondent

President-elect Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed takes oath of office today. He will be the 14th President of the country. Chief Justice ATM Afzal will administer the oath at a ceremonial function at the Darbar Hall of the Bangabhaban at 10 am. Justice Shahabuddin succeeds Abdur Rahman Biswas, who left the Bangabhaban yesterday on completion of his five-year tenure. Biswas was given a ceremonial farewell at the Bangabhaban prior to his going back to his Banani residence in the city. Biswas was the first president to complete his tenure in the country's 25-year history. Outgoing president Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, ministers, state ministers, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Members of Parliament, diplomats, leaders of professional groups, top civil and military officials, intellectuals, journalists and elite of the city are expected to attend the swearing ceremony. Justice Shahabuddin was elected President unopposed on July 23 last. Nomination of Justice Shahabuddin for the presidency by ruling Awami League was widely ac-

claimed by all quarters. With his taking oath today, Justice Shahabuddin returns to working life after a 21-month retired life. He had gone on retirement from the office of the Chief Justice on January 31, 1995. Until yesterday, Shahabuddin, known for his strict principles and honesty, had been living in a rented house at Dhanmondi in the capital. Justice Shahabuddin had headed a non-partisan caretaker government installed after the fall of autocratic Ershad regime on December 6, 1990 in the face of a mass upsurge. He earned fame at home and abroad for holding the country's first-ever free and fair general elections in February 1991 under a non-party caretaker administration. He continued as acting president until his successor, Abdur Rahman Biswas, took over on October 9, 1991. UNB adds: After his election, Shahabuddin Ahmed had expressed his optimism to head the republic with total neutrality. "Even a partisan person makes himself neutral after assumption of the office of President in the parliamentary form of government," said Ahmed: I am not the party President. One can come See Page 12 col 1



President-elect Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed

Farewell to Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas made a ceremonial exit from Bangabhaban yesterday afternoon concluding his five-year tenure, reports UNB. "Khoda Hajez" said Biswas waiving hands as the officials and employees of the President house bade him farewell. The outgoing President was accorded a hearty and ceremonial farewell before his departure at 5pm. A smartly turned-out contingent of the President's Guard Regiment (PGR) gave President Biswas a farewell guard of honour at the lush-green lawn of the presidential palace. The President reviewed the guard of honour. National Anthem was played on the occasion by the Army band. Military Secretary to the President Major General Ruhul Alam Chowdhury and Commanding Officer of the PGR conducted the review parade. See Page 12 Col 8



Outgoing President Abdur Rahman Biswas was given a guard of honour by the President's Guard Regiment at Bangabhaban yesterday. —PID photo

'War of letters' over composition of JS standing bodies

By Nurul Kabir

The offices of the Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad and the Chief Whip of the Opposition in the House have recently been engaged in a 'war of letters' on the possible composition of some vital Parliamentary Standing Bodies including the Public Accounts Committee, according to sources in the offices. The main point of the dispute is which party should get how many members in the standing bodies. Besides, the status of the Jatiya Party in Parliament has become another point of controversy among the policy makers of Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The JP's status was also mooted in the maiden session of the seventh Sangsad, where the AL legislators had claimed that the JP belonged to the Opposition Bench. The BNP members argued that the JP, a partner in the government, led by Sheikh Hasina could not be long to the Opposition and therefore could not be entitled to the rights and privileges of the Opposition Bench. Meanwhile, Chief Whip of the seventh Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasanat Abdullah has so far exchanged two letters with the Chief Whip of the Opposition on the possible composition of the four standing bodies but the two leaders are yet to reach an agreement on the issue. The Chief Whip, Abul Hasanat Abdullah of the AL, wrote the first letter to his opposition counterpart, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, on August 26 requesting him to give the names of the BNP lawmakers for the Public Accounts Committee, Committee on Estimates, Committee on Public Undertakings and the Committee on Government Assurances, one of the four AL Whips told The Daily Star. In his reply to the letter the next day, the Chief Whip of the Opposition wanted to know the ruling party's criterion for constituting the bodies. Abdullah's second letter on September 10 said that the governing party would follow the convention, especially the one set by the BNP in the fifth Parliament, in forming the committees. Unsatisfied with the reply, the Chief Whip of the Opposition sent a reply on September 16 informing his Treasury Bench counterpart that the example of the fifth Parliament did not fit in this time when the strength of the BNP was an opposition party in the seventh Parliament was much greater than that of AL in the fifth parliament. The Chief Whip of the Opposition also refused to give the JP the status of an opposition party in Parliament. The dispute is yet to be resolved as the Chief Whip of the Parliament is out of the town and the Chief Whip of the Opposition is also abroad. According to the JS rules of Procedure, The Public Accounts Committee is meant for the examination of accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by the House for expenditure.

278.82 acres of land allocated for railroad connecting JMB

Some 278.82 acres of land have been allocated in Gazipur sadar thana for constructing railroad connecting the Jambhura multipurpose bridge at Bhuapur in Tangail, reports UNB. A high-level meeting was held yesterday that a total of 1,357 acres of land should be acquired to install 85 kilometers of rail tracks from Gazipur to Bhuapur. The meeting, chaired by Communications Minister Anwar Hossain, was informed that allocation of 278.82 acres of land was approved by the central land allocation committee on Sunday. Bangladesh Railway has already scrutinized the tender documents of contractors for constructing the rail line and sent those to the Asian Development Bank for further steps. The Communications Minister directed the officials concerned to complete all preparations for linking railway with the bridge, including land acquisition. See Page 12 Col 8

Dhaka urges UN to set code of ethics for water sharing

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad yesterday urged the world community to formulate an international code of ethics to help countries in their efforts towards bilateral and multilateral agreements on sharing of waters, reports UNB. Addressing the 51st session of the UN General Assembly in New York, he laid emphasis on "political will, goodwill and good intentions" to resolve all outstanding problems or new ones with neighbours. "Our outstanding problem with India over the sharing of waters of the Ganges river is not unknown to this forum," Azad said, adding adequate fresh water is indispensable for Bangladesh for its agriculture, irrigation, fisheries, river traffic, and for maintaining ecological and environmental balance. According to a message received in the city, the Foreign Minister told the UN that Bangladesh had resumed bilateral discussions with India to resolve the vexed problem of water sharing amicably and equitably in an atmosphere of mutual confidence and trust. Azad said shortage of fresh water resources is not unique or peculiar to Bangladesh or this region. Even from the international perspective, it is an issue of primal significance. Quoting a strategy paper of the Committee on Natural Resources of ECOSOC, he said 52 countries with a population of more than three billion people will be 'water stressed' or face chronic water scarcity by the year 2025. The problem has as much to do with the availability of fresh water in the overall global context as with the fact that such resources, even when available in abundant quantities, may be found in the wrong places or are available at wrong times. The problem, therefore, is intimately and intricately

PM, Mayor talk city problems today

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Mohammad Hanif and its ward commissioners will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office today, reports UNB. A source at DCC said the Prime Minister has invited the Mayor and 107 ward commissioners of the corporation at her office in the evening. The meeting is expected to discuss the city problems as well as the problems facing the corporation.

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11 killed in Chandina road accident

COMILLA, Oct 8: Eleven people were killed and 40 injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Nuritola in Chandina thana today, reports UNB. Police and witnesses said the mishap occurred when two buses — a Dhaka-bound bus from Noakhali and a Laxmipur-bound bus from Dhaka — collided at 2pm. Another Laxmipur-bound bus rammed the two as its driver lost control. Seven people, including two women, died on the spot while two others succumbed to their injuries on way to hospitals. Another two died at Chandina Hospital and Comilla Medical College Hospital (CMCH). Six of the dead were identified as Ayub Ali Pradhan, 45, lecturer of Chandpur Women's College, Rima Rahman, 18, Khorsheed Alam Manik, 28, Kamaluddin, 32, and Anwar Hossain, 35, of Laxmipur district and Kohinor Begum Parul, 50, of Feni. The bodies were sent to Comilla morgue. Twenty of the injured were rushed to Chandina Hospital from where two — Daisy, 28, and her daughter Tasmina Rahman, 6 — shifted to Comilla Combined Military Hospital, five to CMCH and two to Sadar Hospital. Abul Khasem, 40, Abdus Sobhan, 70, of Laxmipur, Nurul Haque, 65, of Raipur, Abdull Huiyan, 65, of Noakhali district and another unidentified man were admitted to CMCH in critical condition. Two other critically injured, identified as Abdull Gafur, 75, of Noakhali and Mohammad Abdullah, 80, of Laxmipur were admitted to Sadar Hospital. See Page 12 Col 8

Indemnity repeal ordn: Report to be finalised today

Star Report The committee formed to examine repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance is likely to finalise its report today, according to official sources. The Indemnity Ordinance of 1975 was drafted by the then deputy secretary, Ministry of Law, A Quddus Chowdhury who was later made a judge of the Supreme Court on deputation and subsequently, secretary of the same ministry. Justice Quddus Chowdhury is likely to be interrogated by the CID shortly in connection with the August 15 killing as well as the November 3 jail killing of 1975, besides the developments that took place during the period. See Page 12 Col 6

30,000 tonnes of wheat allocated to 282 flour mills

The government has allocated 30,000 metric tons of wheat to 282 flour mills throughout the country to check the price hike of atta and flour in the open market, reports UNB. The district-wise allocation of wheat (in metric tons) is Dhaka-2,050, Narayanganj-6,700, Munshiganj-700, Gazipur-800, Narsingdi-100, Manikganj-200, Tangail-200, Mymensingh-500, Kishoreganj-100, and Faridpur-300, said a PID handout. Some 600 metric tons of See Page 12 Col 1

Obaid for trial of people involved in Aug 15 killing

FARIDPUR, Oct 8: BNP leader K M Obaidur Rahman MP today expressed his sorrow at the tragic incidents of August 15 and November 3, 1975, reports UNB. Addressing a meeting of the members of the district Bar Association here, he said the entire gamut of the August 15 and the November 3 tragedies should come to light and the persons involved in the incidents be tried. The BNP leader alleged that some newspapers were publishing imaginary stories hampering the ongoing investigation into the tragic incidents. Obaid who was a state minister in the post-75 Mushtaq government sought the government's intervention in this regard. Presided over by the Bar President Advocate Syed Amiruzzaman, the meeting was See Page 12 Col 7

2 bills for separation of judiciary likely

By Mizan Ali

The government is likely to place two bills in the next session of the Jatiya Sangsad, seeking separation of the judiciary from the executive organ of the state, according to official sources. The Separation of Judiciary Bill will be tabled as a bill for 14th amendment to the Constitution. The other bill will seek amendment to the CrPC in view of consequential changes, the sources added. The Separation of Judiciary Bill will aim at achieving total separation of the judiciary from the executive organ of the state, according to official sources. For separation of the judiciary from the executive, it is necessary to amend the present Article 116 and to restore the dispensation as provided in the original article, some legal experts said. The provision for control of the judiciary by the executive was introduced under the Fourth Amendment, they pointed out, adding that in the second proclamation order number IV of 1978, the provision for consultation with the Supreme Court was later introduced. They further said without amending Article 116 of the Constitution, as it now stands, separation of the judiciary from the executive cannot be effective meaningful and complete. See Page 12 Col 7

August 15 killing CID interrogates retired Naik

The CID police yesterday interrogated retired army Naik Sheikh Mohammad in connection with the August 15, 1975 killings, official sources said. Sheikh Mohammad was arrested earlier and placed on five days' remand in custody. The CID is likely to interrogate some more civil and military officials in connection with the August 15 killing and the jail killing of November 3, 1975, the sources said. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members were killed on the night of August 15, 1975 in a military putsch. See Page 12 Col 3

Gold haul at ZIA 2 foreigners placed on 5-day remand

By Staff Correspondent Two foreign nationals arrested on charge of smuggling gold at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) Monday were placed on a five-day police remand yesterday. The Detective Branch (DB) police, who are investigating the case, yesterday afternoon produced Wolf Gang Loidl, an Austrian, and Sijm Manfred Theodorius Maria a Dutch national, before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) court which granted the remand. Customs personnel seized 200 gold bars, each weighing 10 See Page 12 Col 4

700 shanties gutted in Mirpur

By Staff Correspondent At least seven hundred makeshift houses were gutted in a fire at the Kurmitola Relief Camp in Mirpur 12 in the city yesterday evening. The blaze that broke out in one house at about 5:30 pm spread to the whole area within a very short time, police and fire service personnel said. The camp is located near the Purabi cinema hall in block-E in Palabari. The cause of the fire and the See Page 12 Col 3

Thai team wants to know more about investment scope

Senator Photipong Lamsam, chairman, Board of Trade of Thailand and leader of the visiting Thai Chamber delegation, yesterday stressed frequent visits by trade and businessmen of Bangladesh and Thailand to each other's country to know intimately all facets of their economies, reports BSS. "We got to know more of what investment area and business opportunities are lucrative for us in other's countries," Senator Lamsam said during a plenary meeting with leaders of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) in the city. FBCCI President Salman F Rahman and representatives of both sides spoke at the session held at FBCCI Bhawan. Lamsam said although Dhaka and Bangkok are good friends and trading partners for a long time, business has not reached any significant level. The leader of the Thai delegation extended an invitation to FBCCI delegation to visit Thailand and said that his country was ready to buy more from Bangladesh for the growth of bilateral trade and also to offset imbalance against Bangladesh. The Thai delegation is scheduled to stay in Bangladesh till October 17, a team member said. The delegation will visit Chittagong today to see port facilities and other areas of interest. Later the Thai team had a meeting with Bangladesh businessmen here yesterday. The meeting held at the conference centre of the FBCCI was presided over by Salman F Rahman. Our Staff Correspondent reports: President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MCCI) yesterday urged the visiting Thai trade mission to explore the investment opportunities in country's manufacturing, utilities and service sectors. Bangladesh has established See Page 12 Col 3

Briton, Canadian share Nobel Prize for Economics

STOCKHOLM, Oct 8: Professors James Mirrlees of Great Britain and William Vickrey of Canada were today awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics for their work on incentives under asymmetric information, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced, reports AFP. The pair's research focused on how contracts and institutions can be designed to handle different incentives and control problems. This has generated a better understanding of insurance markets, credit market, auctions, the internal organisation of firms, wage forms, tax systems, social insurance, competitive conditions and political institutions, the Academy said. The research addresses situations where decision-makers have different or incomplete information, for example, where a bank does not have complete information about lenders' future income. Incomplete and asymmetric See Page 12 Col 4

'SAARC action needed for food security'

Bangladesh has called for collective action to help alleviate food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition in the SAARC member countries, reports UNB. The call came from a two-day SAARC agriculture ministers meeting that began in Islamabad yesterday to determine a common SAARC position for the next World Food Summit to be held in Rome from November 13-17. There is no way other than to strengthen our capacity to produce basic foods for the people," Bangladesh Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury told the meeting, according to a message received in the city. She also called for drastic efforts for increasing food output to combat hunger in the SAARC region. All elements that can effectively help mitigate persistent food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition should be considered in order to ensure food security, Matia suggested. Research and extension services which are weak in many parts of the region must be improved, she said emphasising both short and long term priority actions in this regard. The SAARC member countries may, upon assessment of the available technologies, identify technologies suitable for dissemination, she added. See Page 12 Col 5

JCD calls strike at DU today

By DU Correspondent Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), yesterday called a day-long strike in the Dhaka University for today protesting the incident in Zahurul Haq Hall and the alleged attempt to set fire to a room of a JCD leader in Mohsin Hall of the university. The JCD leaders also demanded See Page 12 Col 6