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LCs in July-August fall by 15pc to Tk 4370.92cr

DSE index reaches new high, Wonderland Toys enters CSE
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DSE MARKET	
DSE price index	2116.95
Market capital Tk	14811.38 cr
Transactions in volume	1000629
Transactions in value Tk	32.99 cr

CSE MARKET	
CSE price index	911.90
Market capital Tk	9519.09 cr
Transactions in volume	372370
Transactions in value Tk	7.80 cr

Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a two-page supplement on Toiletries & Cosmetics
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Many seats in colleges, varsities likely to remain vacant

By Aminul Islam

Enrolment capacity of degree-level educational institutions including universities and medical colleges may remain unfulfilled this year due to low percentage of pass in HSC examinations, according to official statistics.

The number of successful candidates in HSC examinations held under all the five education boards in the country this year is 1,27,504 compared to the last year's record of 2,17,546.

But as per data available from the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS), the total enrolment capacity of all the government and private degree-

level institutions was 1,56,500 last year.

This shows that at least 28,996 seats may remain unfulfilled. Besides, a large number of students go abroad every year for degree-level studies, officials of the Ministry of Education said. But they could not give the number of such students going abroad.

According to the BANBEIS, 621 degree colleges in the country have an enrolment capacity of 1,35,000. These include 221 government colleges and 391 non-government colleges.

The nine government-run universities and the private universities have a total capacity of 18,000.

The thirteen government-run medical colleges together with some private ones can absorb 2000 students.

Besides, Bangladesh Institute of Technology, Institute of Glass and Ceramics, Institute of Leather Technology, Institute of Textile, Institute of Marine Engineering, the Agriculture College have a total intake capacity of 1500.

Out of 393,959 who appeared at the examinations under the four boards, 99,175 came out successful. The percentage of pass is 24.32 in Dhaka Board, 30.76 in Comilla Board, 19.35 in Jessore Board and 34.49 in Chittagong Board. The average percentage is 25.17.

This is for the first time this year that HSC examinations under all the five education boards were held with same questions.

Falling standard of education in institutions particularly in rural areas was the main reason for low percentage of pass in Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations this year, according to the chairmen of Dhaka and Chittagong education boards yesterday.

According to the chairmen of both Dhaka and Chittagong boards, deviation from the set pattern of questionnaire may have also contributed to the low pass percentage.

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Zainul Abedin Folk Art & Craft Museum opens PM assures allout efforts to uphold cultural heritage

SONARGAON (Narayan-ganj), Oct 19: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today pledged government steps and patronage for boosting production and improving the standard of folk art and handicrafts which will help increase export earning, reports UNB.

Through folk art and crafts it will also be possible to spread and project the cultural heritage of the country abroad, she said inaugurating Shilpa-charya Zainul Abedin Folk Art and Craft Museum at Sonargaon.

"We want to bring about a revolution in the folk art and craft sector giving it allout support and patronage, creating a favourable environment," the

Prime Minister told the inaugural function.

Lok O Karushilpa Foundation built a two-storied ceramic brick building with modern architectural design for the museum at the premises of the foundation at Sonargaon.

The new museum has been decorated with engraved wood products, terracotta, and other woodworks and with traditional Jamdani and Naksikantha.

Hasina said the government would take steps to expand the activities of small and cottage industries for augmenting production and standard of folk craft.

To infuse dynamism into the folk art and craft sector, the

government, if needed, would introduce new technology and system, she said.

The Prime Minister said the government also would take steps to immediately remove problems faced by the folk artisans and craftsmen in their profession. The government has taken allout measures to create an atmosphere congenial to the folk art and craft producers.

She said the traditional 'Jamdani' saree and 'Nakhshikantha' of this country could succeed in earning fame in world market and in capturing market gradually. Demand and popularity of Jamdani and Nakhshikantha are also on the rise.

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Devotees visiting the city's main Durga Puja mandap at the Dhakeswari Mandir on the occasion of saptami, yesterday. — Star photo

23.47 pc pass Rajshahi Board HSC exams

By Staff Correspondent

The results of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations of 1996 under Rajshahi Education Board was announced yesterday.

The percentage of pass is 23.47.

The percentage of pass in four other Boards announced Thursday were: Comilla Board 30.76; Chittagong Board 34.49; Dhaka Board 24.32; and Jessore Board 19.35.

Out of 1,20,709 examinees under Rajshahi Board, 28,329 passed; 4920 in first division, 18,591 in second division and 4,778 in third division.

M Hasibur Rahman of Rajshahi College topped the combined merit list of Science group securing 913 marks with four letters.

Pradipta Prometheus Mitra of Rajshahi College stood second with 905 marks and four letters while Kazi Abdullah Al-Mamun of Rajshahi Cadet College stood third securing 901 marks with four letters.

In the combined merit list of Humanities group, KMA Mamun Khan Chisty of Fazar Al-Mollah College at Tanore, Rajshahi, stood first securing 859

marks with four letters.

Hasan Mahmud of Rangpur Cadet College with 847 marks and two letters was placed second in the group, while Shyamolima Sarkar of Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College third with 835 marks and two letters.

M Abdul Hamid of Bagatipara College with 772 marks and one letter topped the combined merit list of Commerce group.

M Abu Hanifa of Rajshahi College stood second securing 769 marks with one letter while Nahid Sultana of Joypurhat Government College stood third securing 732 marks with one letter.

Monzila Chowdhury of Boga Cantonment Public School and College stood first in the female merit list of Science, Agriculture Science and Home Economics group securing 888 marks and four letters.

Shyamolima Sarkar of Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College topped the female merit list of Humanities, Islamic Studies and Music group. She scored 835 marks

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President concerned Some pvt varsities not maintaining legal bindings

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday expressed concern over the establishment of so many private universities without maintaining requisite legal bindings and standard of a university, reports UNB.

He in this context cited newspaper reports on a 'fake university' and the arrest of its so-called vice-chancellor.

"Such a precedence will tarnish the reputation of private university in Bangladesh," said the President while talking to an 11-member delegation of the

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Ershad granted bail in JP Office Case

Former president and Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad has been granted bail in a corruption case for alleged misuse of public money on decoration of the JP central office.

First Additional Sessions Judge of Dhaka Abdul Majid granted the bail yesterday.

But legal technicalities barred Ershad's lawyers from trying to secure his bail in the case for murder of Maj Gen Abul Manzoor.

The case came up for hearing yesterday but the hearing was adjourned.

JP sources said the counsels

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Gold smuggling Show cause notice on owners of ship today

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Oct 19: Customs authorities will issue tomorrow a show-cause notice to the owner of QC Teal, the feeder vessel from which smuggled gold was recovered recently, according to official sources today.

The unloaded containers of the imported goods brought by the QC Teal from Singapore still remained dumped at the MPB jetty yard till today.

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NEWS BRIEFS

PM's help for road accident victims

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sanctioned Taka 1.30 lakh from her relief fund for the family members of the victims who were killed in a tragic road accident at Daudkandi recently. State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru handed over cheques for Taka ten thousand to the family members of each of the 13 victims on behalf of the Prime Minister at Daudkandi TNO office yesterday, reports UNB.

Two stabbed in city

Two persons were seriously injured in two separate incidents of stabbing in the city yesterday. Shafiqur Rahman, 30, a master's examinee from the Dhaka College, was stabbed by an alleged snatcher in the morning at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in front of the office of the Bhorer Kagor. He was going to the university to fill up his examination form. In another incident, Aminul Hossain, 30, son of Azizul Hossain, News Editor of the Daily Desh Bani, was stabbed by some unidentified miscreants at Patla Khan Lane under Sutrapur police station in the evening, reports BSS.

Police constable electrocuted

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 19: A police constable was electrocuted while taking a bath in a pond near the Zia High School at Panam under Sonargaon thana this afternoon, according to police sources. Maznum Mia, son of Saidul Ali of Tangail district, was electrocuted when he came in contact with a live electric cable under the water. The cable fell into the pond after being snapped off a nearby electric pole at one end. He was rushed to the Sonargaon Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead.

28 killed in Zaire

BUKAVU, Zaire, Oct 19: At least 28 civilians have been killed around the eastern Zaire village of Kiliba in fighting between Zairean soldiers and ethnic Tutsi rebels, humanitarian sources said today. Aid workers in Bukavu said that dead and wounded from Friday's clash near a Sugar factory had been arriving at the town of Uvira, 15 km away near the border with Burundi. There was no immediate death toll for combatants, reports Reuters.

PM to address UNGA session Oct 24 Three investors' confces will be held during visit

By M Anwarul Haq

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in pursuit of her government's economic diplomacy, would seek investments by both multi-national companies as well as Bangladeshi nationals living in the US during her forthcoming visit to that country.

Official sources said that during the nine-day visit scheduled to begin on October 22, she will address three investors' conferences including one to be attended by the chief executives of several leading US firms and multi-national companies, highlighting the investment climate in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister's official programme would, however, be to address the United Nations General Assembly as a special guest on October 24 on the occasion of UN Day, the sources pointed out.

She will be accompanied by a 72-member entourage which will include a 20-member official delegation, 22 businessmen, some prominent citizens and a media team. The Prime Minister is expected to be lodged at the Hotel Grand Hyatt in New York, sources concerned told The Daily Star.

Sheikh Hasina will address the UNGA at 3 pm on October 24. She will hold bilateral talks

with several world leaders who are expected to be in New York for the UN Day, the sources said.

Chief executives of several UN agencies will call on the Prime Minister in New York. They include Nafis Sadek, Executive Director of UNFPA, Caroline Bellamy, head of UNICEF, the President of World Population Council, the UN

ADC of Magura stabbed, robbed

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 19: Abdus Shukur, ADC (general) of Magura was stabbed and robbed of Tk 25 thousand by some armed men near Batnanhatir Dhal under Magura thana last night, according to police sources.

The unidentified armed men put up a barricade on the Jessore-Magura road with a banana tree at about 7.30 pm. The ADC was returning by his jeep. The armed gang stabbed him and snatched the cash and other belongings.

He was given first aid. A case was filed with Magura thana in this connection and a youngman was arrested in this connection, police said.

High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Administrator of UNDP.

The Prime Minister will make all efforts to impress upon the foreign and US business community and the wealthy Non Resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) about the congenial economic climate, opportunities and incentives for investment in Bangladesh. She will address two meetings on October 25 with potential investors — one with US and foreign investors and the other with the NRs. Her third meeting with investors, particularly portfolio fund managers, will take place on October 28. The meetings are being organised by Perigore, the sources added.

The Board of Investment and the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are already making efforts to make the meetings fruitful. It is learnt that much interest has already been generated among US and foreign investors in energy and gas sectors.

The leading US financial paper, the Wall Street Journal, is planning to bring out a special supplement on investment opportunities in Bangladesh on October 24, the sources noted.

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AB Bank loan Case against Morshed Khan, 8 others filed

By Staff Correspondent

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption yesterday filed a case against M Morshed Khan, MP and some high officials of Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd in connection with sanctioning of a Tk 3.5 crore loan by the bank.

The FIR lodged by the Bureau with Motijheel thana named Morshed Khan, Chairman of AB Bank, A Rahim Chowdhury, Managing Director of the bank, M Faizur Rahman, brother of former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, Haroon Ferdousi and five other persons in connection with a loan sanctioned by the bank.

The Bureau in the FIR claimed that the accused persons 'received/transacted' loan worth Tk 3.5 crore from the principal branch of the AB Bank showing 'forged documents' for the mortgaged property through 'abuse of power and mutual understanding'.

The loan was sanctioned for the purchase of Jadz Distillery Limited, a disinvested unit of BSRIS, the FIR said.

It further claimed that the land mortgaged with the bank in 1994 was already sold out to another person and the price of the land was also inflated. The bank officials, without surveying the land or examining the documents, recommended for sanctioning the loan, according to the FIR.

When contacted last night

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Japan goes to polls today LDP likely to stage a comeback

TOKYO, Oct 19: The Japanese political party that voters threw out of power 3 and a half years ago in outrage over corruption scandals may complete a remarkable comeback in today's elections, reports AP.

But even if the conservative Liberal Democratic Party makes it back, it is unclear whether it will produce the bureaucratic and market reforms they have promised.

"There's a big difference between what politicians say before the election and what they say after," said Yoshihiro Wakabayashi, a discount store chain executive.

Polls predict the Liberal Democrats could win an absolute majority Sunday in Parliament's 500-seat lower house, which selects the prime minister.

Victory would mean a total turnaround from the last election in July 1993, when the party stumbled from power for the first time in 38 years.

Since then, Japan has had more than its share of turmoil — political and otherwise. Many voters are weary of the power struggles and upheaval that followed instead of the promised reforms.

Three different coalition governments and four prime ministers have held power with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto taking over in January at the head of a Liberal

Democrat-Socialist coalition.

The country has also suffered the shocks of the January 1995 Kobe earthquake that killed more than 6,000 people and the terrorist nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subways two months later.

Hashimoto's biggest advantage is that he offers stability — and, his supporters hope, a return to the brighter days of the 1970s and '80s, when Japan's economy grew strongly and steadily.

The economy is recovering, but sluggishness from the recession brought on by the collapse of real estate and stock prices in the early 1990s. Many college graduates, especially women, are having trouble finding jobs.

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8,500 people being infected with AIDS a day in the world

Everyday some 8,500 people are being infected with AIDS around the world which will result in 3.1 million new cases of the deadly disease this year, reports UNB.

The bizarre scenario of the scourge was given at a 3-day seminar that began in Dhaka yesterday. It has been jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF to find out preventive measures against AIDS in Bangladesh.

Inaugurating the seminar on 'The Global Challenge of AIDS: Together for Future' at a local hotel, State Minister for LGRD Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain suggested formulation of effective preventive and control of AIDS in the country to save the people from the killer virus.

He pointed to neighbouring countries like India, Myanmar and Thailand facing AIDS in an

epidemic form. Although Bangladesh is a low preventive area with 68 identified cases of HIV-infected people, this should not make 'us complacent and indifferent'.

The minister said population movement, particularly between neighbouring countries, was posing threat for the people in Bangladesh.

"Unless we become extra-watchful and remain vigilant, we may also face a problem similar to that of neighbouring countries," Alhaj Hossain said.

He said though the right type of medicine for the cure of AIDS was yet to be invented, the people here may at least minimise its occurrence through preventive method. He called for creating awareness and motivation against the disease.

Additional Health Secretary Nurul Abedin and UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh Rolf C Carriere also spoke in the

opening session of the seminar.

About 70 representatives from different professional groups, including commercial sex workers, rickshawpullers, doctors, health officials and NGOs are taking part in it.

The seminar will look at the past, present and future of the situation of HIV and AIDS in Bangladesh.

The Additional Health Secretary said a draft national policy on AIDS in Bangladesh would be finalised on October 30.

Abedin listed various government efforts to detect, treat and prevent AIDS in the country and said an agreement on a project with the assistance of UNDP was signed in March this year to prevent and control AIDS in Bangladesh.

Farooq Abdullah urges militants Surrender arms in 30 days or face crackdown

SRINAGAR, India, Oct 19: Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah urged separatist militants today to surrender their weapons in 30 days, or face a crackdown by Indian security forces, reports Reuters.

"I give them 30 days to surrender their weapons before any government official," Abdullah told a news conference in the summer capital of Srinagar. "I have decided to get them in the mainstream."

Abdullah did not say if he would call a ceasefire during the period between the security forces and militant groups who have been fighting Indian rule in the Himalayan state since 1990. He said at least 50,000 people have been killed in the separatist violence.

"If they don't surrender, they will face further guns," Abdullah said. He also warned Kashmir's recently raised pro-gov-

ernment militias to surrender their guns, promising them jobs in Indian security units.

Abdullah, the leader of Kashmir's national conference party won an absolute majority in the state assembly last month when India held the first elections there in nine years.

In a tearful speech during his inauguration earlier this month, Abdullah said: "The last drop of my blood is dedicated to India."

Westerners alive
Another report adds, Farooq Abdullah said today he had reports that four Western tourists taken hostage by Muslim militants last year were still alive.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
ঢাকা

একজন সহ মানুষ একজন সহ করদাতাও বটে

- রিটার্ন জমাদানের আর মাত্র দিন কয়েক বাকী।
- ১৯৯৬-৯৭ কর বৎসরের জন্য সাধারণ ও সিনিয়রবর্গী উভয় প্রকার রিটার্ন জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ৩১শে অক্টোবর। দেশের সকল জেলাসমূহের প্তান ডাকঘরে আয়কর রিটার্ন ফর্ম পাওয়া যাবে।
- ফর্ম সংগ্রহ করে যথাসময়ে রিটার্ন জমা দিন।
- কর ফাঁকি রাখে গোয়েন্দা অধিদপ্তর সদা সচেষ্ট।
- কর ফাঁকি দেয়ার চেষ্টা থেকে বিবত থাকুন।
- কর ফাঁকির অপচেষ্টা আপনার জীবনে শুষ্ক বিপতাই বয়ে আনবে।
- কর পদান সক্ষমত কোন জিজ্ঞাসা থাকলে কর পরামর্শ কেন্দ্র, বিসিএস (কর) একাডেমী, শান্তিনগর চৌরাস্তার পশ্চিমে ১৩৩/৩ নিউ বেইলী রোড, ঢাকা (ফোনঃ ৪১৫৩৬৯৯)-এ যোগাযোগ করুন। একেঙ্গে 'করদাতাদের জন্য জ্ঞাতব্য' শীর্ষক পুস্তিকাটি বিতরণ করা হয়।

*** নির্ধারিত সময়সীমার মধ্যে আপনার কর পরিশোধ করুন।**
*** সরকারী কর্মকাণ্ডে আপনার অংশীদারিত্ব নিশ্চিত করুন।**

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