

Inside Today

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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	2137.39
Market capital Tk	15117.38 cr
Transactions in volume	851728
Transactions in value Tk	28.81 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	932.90
Market capital Tk	9736.05 cr
Transactions in volume	266475
Transactions in value Tk	5.68 cr

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NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda returns tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia is due to return home from Saudi Arabia tomorrow. The secretary general of the party Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP said this here last night. Begum Zia, along with her family members, went to Saudi Arabia on October 13 to perform Umrah at the invitation of Saudi King Fahad Bin Abdul Aziz.

AL sub-committee on Victory Day

The Bangladesh Awami League (AL) has formed a sub-committee headed by its president member Amir Hossain Anu and comprising all members of the party's Central Working Committee in observance of the Victory Day. The committee would chalk out the party programme to celebrate the Victory Day, an Awami League press release said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

2 alleged dacoits beaten to death

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 23: Two suspected dacoits were beaten to death by a mob at Barathakia village under Mirersharai thana last night police said. They were identified as Md Nuruddin and Shah Alam.

Landslide kills one in Moulvibazar

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 23: A young man was killed in a landslide at village Ahmedpur under Barlekha thana of Moulvibazar yesterday. The victim was identified as Shamin 24 son of one Basir Ahmed of Yakubnagar.

PM addresses UNGA session tonight

US investors show interest in energy, oil, gas sectors

NEW YORK, Oct 23: The leading US entrepreneurs showed keen interest for investment in the energy, oil, and gas sectors in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

During a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Grand Hyatt Hotel here yesterday evening, the leading US entrepreneurs in the energy sector lauded the free market economy system operating in Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister is now on an eight-day official visit here will address the United Nations General Assembly tomorrow.

US Congressman Bill Richardson, who headed the 19-member delegation during its meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in his introduc-

tory remarks said that the US Congress has great admiration for the present government in Bangladesh. He said, energy sector is an attractive area of investment in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister told the meeting that a favourable atmosphere now exists for private sector investment in Bangladesh.

Referring to the country's low rate of inflation and stable economy, the Prime Minister called upon the US business leaders to become partners in the progress of Bangladesh. "You should utilise the investment opportunities created following the installation of our government," she said.

She said with increasing demand for electricity, power

sector has tremendous potentials in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister highlighted various reform measures initiated by her government to encourage massive investment in private sector. "Even at the cost of high risk we have increased the electricity tariff so that private sectors including international organisations feel encouraged to make investment in power generation," she added.

Earlier, the Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment Taufiq Elahi Chowdhury and Energy Secretary Dr S A Samad apprised the US business leaders of various potentials in industrial investment in Bangladesh for the foreign entrepreneurs.

Speaking highly about the potentials of the people of Bangladesh, Congressman Bill Richardson observed that the dedicated, skilled and huge manpower of Bangladesh is the cheapest in the region.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh David N Merrill, who also attended the meeting, praised the reform policy of the present government and said that time is very favourable at this moment to invest in Bangladesh, particularly in energy, oil and gas sectors.

The chief executives of 19 leading US entrepreneurs including Occidental Petroleum, Exxon, UNOCAL, Independent Petroleum, Westing House, IRG, Consolidated Gas and Finex at-

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Second bridge over Buriganga may be delayed by 10 months

By Morshed Ali Khan

Work on the second Buriganga bridge connecting Babubazar with Zinzira may not be completed as scheduled due to complications arising out of relocation of the ferry ghat and different underground lines for utility services there, according to officials of the construction firm.

Work on the bridge started in September, 1995 and is scheduled to be completed by February 1998. It will be delayed by at least ten months, the officials said.

The construction firm, The Engineers Limited, has already revised the original programme and submitted it to the Road and Highways Department (RHD) for approval, an engineer of the firm said.

"It took us months to sort out the relocation of the ferry ghat and WASA, T&T and DESA lines which were situated on the

bridge alignment," said the engineer adding that the Titas gas line on the same circuit was yet to be relocated.

The delay is "inevitable" due to complications arising from relocation of these lines, he said.

"We have requested the department to extend the time limit for the project upto December 1998 and the department has sent it to the ministry for final approval. We are yet to hear from them," said the official of the firm.

The cost of the project may also rise by about Tk three crore from the original Tk 57.3 crore because of the delay, he claimed.

When contacted, the Chief Engineer of RHD advised this correspondent to contact the Additional Chief Engineer for information regarding the bridge. The Additional Chief

Engineer said that the work might be delayed due to relocation of the lines for utility services. He also advised the correspondent to contact the Superintendent Engineer of the department for further information regarding extension of the time limit for the project. The Superintendent Engineer was not available for comment.

The total cost of the project including expenses for construction of the approach roads, flyovers and the bridge comes to a total of Tk 133.04 crore, according to an official document. The length of the approach roads and the bridge together is 1.479 metres. The project is financed by the government.

The bridge will connect the city directly with Keraniganj thana and contribute greatly to the expansion of the city on the southern part. Everyday, more

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Terrorists trade fire with police in city : 5 held

Police arrested five terrorists after an encounter with a group called 'Ghesu Bahini' in the city's Tejgaon industrial area early yesterday, reports UNB.

Police said, the Officer-in-Charge of Tejgaon thana, ABM Sultan Ahmed, along with a police team, on a tip-off gheraoed a hut in the slum behind the Tibet factory at about 3:05 am.

Sensing police presence, the armed activists of 'Ghesu Bahini' a notorious terrorist group of Shaheenbag, Tejgunipara, Nakhapara and Tejgaon industrial area, fired indiscriminately on the police.

Police also exchanged fire with the armed goons during the drive to nab Selim alias Shailla, a stalwart of 'Ghesu Bahini' who was wanted in more than 20 criminal cases.

At last, police succeeded in arresting Shailla, 25, along with

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Relatives of Nazmul Hasan Khokon waiting over his body at Siddhirganj, Narayanganj yesterday.

— Star photo

Terrorists kill one, stab 5 in N'ganj

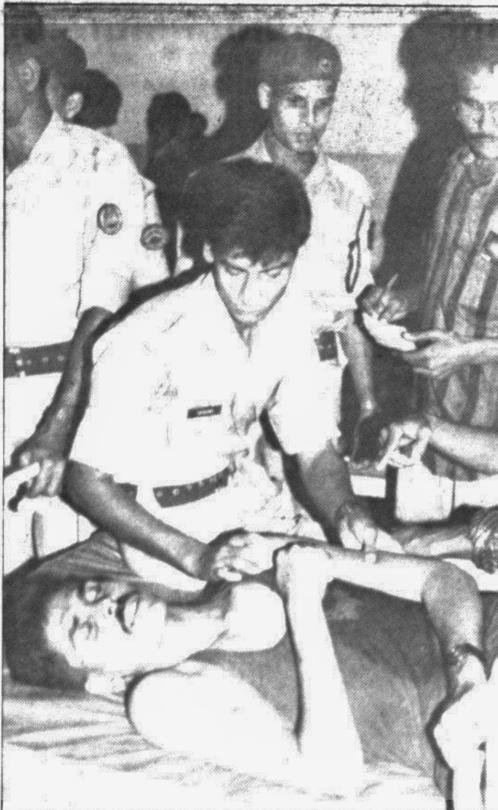
By Staff Correspondent

A middle-aged man was stabbed to death while at least five others were injured by a gang of terrorists in Allpara area under Siddhirganj thana of Narayanganj district yesterday.

One Nazmul Hossain alias Khokon, son of Jainal Abedin, 20, and Faruq, 28 — were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

The victim was first taken to the Narayanganj Hospital and

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One of the four injured Ansars of Gopibagh Ansar Camp at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

— Star photo

Youths attack Ansars in city : 4 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

At least four Ansar personnel were injured when a gang of local youths attacked them in front of the Ansar Camp at South Gopibagh near Kamalapur railway station in the city yesterday, police said.

The injured Ansars — Shahinur, 24, Aminul, 25, Joyal Abedin, 20, and Faruq, 28 — were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

Police said the youths, numbering about 50 attacked the Ansars at about 4 pm when they

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Fake number plates A section of DCC men involved, police suspect

By Staff Correspondent

A section of employees of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) might be involved in forging number plates and other materials issued for rickshaws and rickshaw vans in the city, resulting in an abnormal rise in the number of such vehicles, police sources said.

"Because of such practices, the government and the DCC were deprived of revenue on the one hand and on the other, the number of such manually driven vehicles has shot up, worsening the traffic jam in the city," said a police official.

Meanwhile, detective police

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Radio, TV channel in pvt sector suggested

By Staff Reporter

Participants at a seminar on autonomy for Radio and Television yesterday expressed the view that the country's electronic media should be privatised with a number of channels competing with each other to allow free-flow of information.

The seminar was arranged by the Jatiya Press Club as part of its founding anniversary programme. Journalist Mahfuzullah presented the key note paper.

Two other papers were presented one by Press Club President Rezauddin Ahmed and the other by former BTV producer Atiqul Huq Chowdhury. Rezauddin Ahmed could not attend the seminar due to indisposition and his paper was read out.

Convener of the press club seminar committee Yusuf Pasha and Secretary General of the Club Khandaker Manirul Alam conducted the seminar.

Mahfuzullah in his paper observed that there is no guarantee that those who would produce TV programme would remain nonpartisan even after the Radio-TV gains autonomy. The government would try to retain its political control over the electronic media. So the best option is to permit Radio and TV channels in sector which would be conducive to the growth of democratic values and practices, Mahfuzullah noted.

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Transfer without posts

By Nurul Kabir

The fate of some officials of the Family Planning Directorate (FPD) has become uncertain with the authorities concerned transferring them to district level offices having no relevant posts.

Besides, the Directorate has neither given the officials concerned specific assignments nor it has any immediate plan to create the relevant posts in the field level offices, sources in the FPD said.

When contacted over telephone, Director General of the FPD Khairuzzaman Chowdhury told The Daily Star on Monday "Anyone feeling uncomfortable with the transfer order is free to quit the job." Asked what would the officials do in their new offices when there are no posts of PCO there, the DG said, "The chiefs of the stations concerned are supposed to brief them on their new responsibilities."

The FPD authorities have transferred three Population Communication Officers (PCOs)

of the Dhaka-based IEM (Information, Education and Motivation) unit of the Directorate in August to Rajshahi, Sylhet, Tangail offices and another to Dhaka Division office. The officers are Mohammad Isa, Mohammad Aminul Arifin, Mohammad Motahar Hossain and Umme Salma, sources in the FPD said.

Three out of the four, whose salaries and allowances come from the development budget, drew their last salaries in June. "We are not getting salaries since June last and now we are ordered to go to the district level offices against no post," one of the officials said.

The transfer order had said that they would be dismissed from the jobs if they failed to go to the new stations by August 26 last.

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Khaleda for better ties among SAARC states

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has emphasised on building better relations among the South Asian countries by strengthening the SAARC reports UNB.

"SAARC countries have some problems due to geographical and political reasons, but these are not insoluble," she said while talking to some ambassadors in Riyadh on Monday, according to a party press release in Dhaka yesterday.

Dean of the diplomatic corps and Pakistan ambassador in Riyadh Shahed Amin Khan, and Ambassadors of Sri Lanka, Nepal and China along with their wives made courtesy call on Begum Zia at the Royal Conference Palace in the Saudi capital.

The BNP chairperson said it is essential to build up friendly relations among the countries removing suspicion and mistrust and increasing mutual cooperation between

them. "The relations, she said, would be strengthened and the countries able to move forward for economic development and maintaining ecological balance if the existing problems could be resolved immediately."

The Leader of the Opposition hoped for resolving the problems of SAARC countries through discussion.

Begum Zia said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had opened the door to friendly relations and mutual cooperation among the seven countries of South Asia through the SAARC.

"We've built the SAARC with these objectives, and friendship and cooperation among the SAARC countries improved during the tenure of our government," the former Prime Minister said.

"SAARC countries lag behind economically due to centuries of colonial exploitation. But these countries are rich in

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Order to shoot 'foreign guerillas' in Kashmir

By Staff Correspondent

JAMMU India, Oct 23: Indian soldiers have been ordered to shoot on sight Muslim guerillas from Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Pakistan or any other Islamic country in Kashmir, a top general said here today, report AFP.

General S. Padmanabhan said the latest offensive would exclude moderate Muslim rebels from Kashmir, but added orders had been given to eliminate "foreign mercenaries" on sight across the troubled Himalayan valley.

"The defence ministry has directed troops in Kashmir to kill all those foreign Muslim rebels who are spotted and those who refuse to go back to Pakistan," said Padmanabhan, a veteran of an Indian offensive in Sri Lanka.

The general said up to 300 infiltrators were presently fighting in the mountainous frontier state, adding an offensive would be launched to

eliminate them totally.

"Enough is enough Kashmir is sick of death and blood. We hope the foreign rebels will get out of Kashmir or get killed," he told reporters at an army garrison 65 kilometres (39 miles) from the state winter capital of Jammu.

India says fighters from several countries, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia, are assisting Kashmiri militants spearheading a rebellion in the province since 1989.

The officer, in charge of 80,000 combat troops in Kashmir, said a quarter of some 4,000 Kashmir rebels were "hardcore" guerillas.

Another reports says: Muslim militants blasted a car bomb outside a fortified hostel for newly-elected state legislators here today, killing two policemen and wounding six other people, police said.

Corruption case filed against Hannan Shah

By Staff Correspondent

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption yesterday filed a corruption case against former Jute Minister Brig (ret'd) ASM Hannan Shah, reports UNB.

The case was filed by Akhtaruzzaman, an officer of the Bureau, with Ramna police under Section 5 (2) of the Anti-Corruption Rule 1947 and Section 109 of the CrPC.

In the case the plaintiff alleged that the former minister sold government press machines worth about Tk 7.69 crore for only Tk 1.5 crore, police said.

He said in that way the former minister abused power for his self-aggrandizement.

Serniabat killing: Capt Huda taken on 8-day remand

By Staff Correspondent

Captain (ret'd) Nurul Huda arrested in connection with the killing of Abdul Rob Serniabat was taken on eight-day police remand yesterday, reports UNB.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court granted the remand when Huda was produced there by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). Serniabat's brother-in-law of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and a minister of the then cabinet, was killed on the fateful night of August 15, 1975 at his residence at 27, Minto Road which is now the headquarters of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

CID, which is also investigating the assassination of Bangabandhu Mujib and

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Cargo movement thru' Ctg Port declines

By Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 23: The movement of cargo through the Chittagong Port declined in the first three months of the current fiscal compared with the corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

According to reports the port handled 22,65,186 MT of cargo during the period from July to September down from 26,80,640 MT handled during the same period in 95-96.

Port officials attributed the fall to less importation of food-grain, cement and oil.

In the first three months of the current fiscal import cargo stood at 18,31,155 MT while exported goods totalled 4,32,031

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10 lakh bales jute procured

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) has procured 10 lakh bales of jute during the current procurement season, reports UNB.

This was disclosed yesterday at a review meeting with State Minister for Jute and Textiles AK Faejul Haque in the chair.

The Minister instructed the authorities concerned to purchase the rest five lakh bales of jute to meet the target of this year.

Faejul Haque asked the officials not to purchase jutes from the middlemen instead of farmers.

UN Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The United Nations Day-96 will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world today, reports UNB.

In observance of the day, being observed as the United Nations Day since 1948, a symposium will be held at Hotel Purbani in the city organised by the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB).

To mark the day, Federation of the United Nations Staff Associations (FUNASA) in Bangladesh will organise a blood donation programme at the UN clinic in the morning.

They will also arrange a cultural evening at the UNDP premises.