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# The Daily Star

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**DSE MARKET**

DSE price index	2633.51
Market capital Tk	10626.37 cr
Transactions in volume	1140185
Transactions in value Tk	48.57 cr

**CSE MARKET**

CSE price index	1113.80
Market capital Tk	11982.69 cr
Transactions in volume	497127
Transactions in value Tk	16.07 cr

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**VOA to broadcast PM's interview today**

Voice of America (VOA) Bangla Service will broadcast an interview with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at its 10 pm broadcast today. The interview was taken by VOA Bangla Service chief Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, reports BSS.

**Border talks with India today**

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Oct 29: A joint border conference between Bangladesh and India will begin at Habiganj tomorrow morning.

The meeting will discuss border demarcation and reconstruction of pillars across the frontier, smuggling and other trans-border problems.

A 9-member Indian team, headed by the District Magistrate and Collector of Paachchim Tripura, will attend the conference. The Deputy Commissioner of Habiganj will lead an 8-member Bangladesh team at the 2-day meeting.

**Shehabuddin new envoy to USA**

The government has decided to appoint present Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of France KM Shehabuddin as the Ambassador to the United States of America, an official handout said yesterday, reports UNB.

**Indo-Bangla ties in telecom stressed**

NEW DELHI, Oct 29: The visiting Bangladesh Minister for Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Nasim called on Indian Union Minister for Communications Beni Prasad Verma at the latter's office here this afternoon. They discussed ways and means for increased cooperation in the telecommunications sector between the two countries, reports BSS.

**Convening body of city Mahila Dal**

A 112-member new convening committee of Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal Dhaka city unit, was formed yesterday with Selima Rahman as its convenor. Earlier, party high command dissolved the former committee, said a BNP press release, reports UNB.

**Statue of Shiva stolen from temple**

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 29: A statue of Hindu god Shiva was stolen from a temple at night, police said. Some unidentified people stole the statue by breaking open the screen of grill at the Sree Sree Luxmi Narayan Ziur Temple Monday midnight. Local jewelers estimated that the cost of the 15-kg statue would be more than Taka 10 lakh, reports UNB.

## Thousands homeless in coastal dists 14 killed, 15 trawlers missing in cyclone

Star Report

At least 14 people were killed, fishermen in 15 trawlers were feared missing and thousands became homeless in the cyclonic storm that swept the coastal districts of the country in the early of yesterday.

According to reports received from our bureaus and other sources, the core of the storm roared across the Sundarbans between midnight and 3 am and moved towards north-eastern region of the country, weakening into a land depression.

But it triggered heavy rain-fall all over the country and whipped up surges, five to seven feet above the normal tide, inundating paddy fields and houses in a number of coastal districts and off-shore islands.

Five bodies of fishermen from Dublarchar were seen by other fishermen in the Bay, three children were buried under debris of their mud-built houses at Khulna, two people drowned in Golachipa when their boat capsized and two died when a tree fell on them at Bhandaria.

In the city, a couple was killed when a wall collapsed on their makeshift house at a slum during the storm. A woman was also injured in the incident.

The tidal bore also ripped

through coastal embankments in Moheshkhali, Kutubdia, Teknaf, Sandwip, Hatiya, Barguna, Galachipa, Patuakhali, Sakhira, Bhola, Bagerhat and Khulna.

It flooded vast tracts of Aman fields and houses of farmers.

As the cyclone crossed the coast, it released heavy showers which continued in Cox's Bazar and other places. People in the coastal districts who took refuge in storm shelters or were evacuated by local administrations were reluctant to return to their houses as the sky remain overcast and rains poured yes-

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### Forgetting the dress code

A traffic policeman taking a respite on the pavement after standing in knee-deep water during the morning rush hour yesterday.

The cyclone-driven rains since Sunday night continued until Tuesday morning, disrupting normal life in the city, as streets were inundated.

The situation was worse in Shantinagar, Malibagh, Shahjahanpur, Motijheel, Bijoyanagar, Kakrail, Purana Paltan, and Fakirerpool. Massive traffic jams delayed thousands of office-goers and interrupted business as flooded streets slowed traffic.

On some streets like Park Avenue near PWD headquarters water remained till the afternoon contributing to the jams. Similar situation was seen in Shantinagar, Kakrail and Paltan areas.

— Star photo by AKM Mohsin



## Repatriation of Rohingyas to be completed in two months

The repatriation of the Rohingya refugees will be completed in next two months when all the remaining 39,000 refugees will be able to return home from Bangladesh to Myanmar, a UNHCR official said yesterday.

"We are close to winding up the repatriation of the refugees from Bangladesh. We will now focus only on the reintegration of the returnees in their homes," said Francois Founat, director of the UNHCR's regional bureau for Asia and Oceania in an exclusive interview with UNB.

At the beginning of the 1991-92 influx, nearly 250,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees flooded Bangladesh to escape alleged persecution — killing, rape and forced labour — in Myanmar's western province of Arakan.

Nearly 211,000 refugees have already returned home in past two years since the repatriation supervised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) began in full scale. Currently, 39,000 refugees are awaiting repatriation in-

cluding 11,000 whose names have been cleared by Myanmar government.

The number of refugee camps has come down from 19 to five along the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf-Bandarban region.

The voluntary repatriation programme is now the largest organised repatriation in Asia — its main features being repatriation, protection and reintegration.

Founat was in Dhaka for a short visit after his tour of Arakan villages, where the returnees are being rehabilitated and their shelters in Bangladesh.

"I was pleased by the level of cooperation — both central and local — I received in Myanmar," he said sitting at the UNHCR's Dhaka office shortly before his departure for Geneva, the UNHCR's headquarters.

He said the situation in Myanmar has changed a lot. The authorities in Myanmar are extending all cooperation to the UNHCR," he said, "we have been able to be in close contact with the villagers that helps build confidence."

"With the UNHCR presence, they (the returnees) feel they are not alone. They are not abandoned," he said.

The repatriation is done through two reception and two transit centres in Myanmar. At the reception centres, the returnees undergo immigration and customs procedures and receive cash grants of Kyat 2,000 (about 20 USD) per person in addition to Kyat 2,000 for housing repair and building materials per family.

Also they get Kyat 100 for transportation per person as well as assistance in kind such as mosquito nets, cooking pots and buckets, including two-month food rations provided by the WFP.

"We think it is important that those who have returned home are given a chance to remain there," the UNHCR official said stressing that "we have a role to play."

The difference now is that the Myanmar authorities have accepted the protection role of the UNHCR and grant its international staff unrestricted ac-

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## Nov 7: AL to maintain 'status quo'

Star Report

The Ruling Awami League has opted for maintaining "status quo" regarding November 7, party sources hinted yesterday. The day is being observed as National Revolution and Solidarity Day since 1975.

"Awami League, never in past, had observed the day and is not going to observe the day this time either. Awami League's changed status now as a party in power will make no difference," acting president of AL Abdul Mannan told this correspondent.

When asked about keeping November 7 as a public holiday, he said "Don't speculate anything in advance. Every issue has its right time to be settled."

"Right now there are many other important issues to get attention on a priority basis. We have not yet discuss the November 7 issue," said Abdul

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## All issues with neighbours to be solved bilaterally: PM

BOSTON, Oct 29: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed her high optimism that the issues relating to sharing of Ganges water with India, refugee problems with Myanmar and asset-sharing with Pakistan could be solved through bilateral discussion, reports BSS.

Speaking at a reception accorded to her by the Bangladesh community here on Monday evening, the prime minister said Bangladesh had received positive response from India over resolving outstanding issues including sharing of the Ganges water very soon.

The New England Civic Reception Committee organised the function in honour of the Bangladesh leader who reached Boston from New York yesterday.

Held on the Tufts University

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## 3000 vehicles stranded at 3 ferry ghats

MANIKGANJ, Oct 29: Some 3,000 vehicles were stranded at Aricha, Nagarbari and Daulatdia ghats today, following disruption of the ferry service due to Monday's inclement weather, reports UNB.

According to a BIWTC source, incessant rain and gusty wind caused by depression in the Bay, disrupted the ferry service for about 14 hours till 8 in the morning.

Among the stranded vehicles were 1,500 trucks laden with vegetables as well as passenger coaches. Suffering of the passengers stranded at the three ghats on Monday night knew no bound due to the fowl weather.

From the three ghats, some 3,000 vehicles are ferried by 18 ferries in a day.

## Hannan Shah, 2 others get anticipatory bail

By SC Correspondent

The High Court Division of the Supreme Court yesterday directed Hannan Shah, former Jute Minister, as he surrendered for anticipatory bail in a corruption case, to appear before the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka within 15 days.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury and Justice Md Joyal Abedin after granting bail to the accused, directed the police to arrest him and two others in connection with the case by this time.

It was alleged in the case that the accused sold the Lessers Press House, Narayanganj only at Tk 1.5 crore but its estimated value was about Tk 7.69 crore. Advocate Mahubur Rahman moved for the petitioner.

Hearing concludes

## HC order on writ against Indemnity Ordn today

By SC Correspondent

The hearing on the writ petition challenging the Indemnity Ordinance was concluded yesterday and today is fixed for order thereon.

In the division bench of the HC comprising Justice M M Hoque and Justice M A Matin, the hearing on the petition was confined within the issue of not starting a case by the Officer-in-Charge of Dhanmondi Police Station upon receipt of the FIR, relating to the August 15, 1975 killings, filed by the petitioners.

Attorney General K S Nabi appearing on behalf of the government submitted that the pe-

See Page 12 Col 7

## Delhi hopes for acceptable solution to water issue

NEW DELHI, Oct 29: India and Bangladesh today inched towards a solution to a decades-old water-sharing dispute, a major irritant in relations between the two countries, officials said, reports Reuter.

Bangladesh Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak and his Indian counterpart Janeshwar Mishra at official level talks identified the steps needed to forge a consensus on the issue.

"We have discussed in a friendly atmosphere and we have already identified our problems and we are very much close to solving them," Razzak told Reuters television after the meeting.

"Surely we hope that it will be solved in future. We have come closer," he said.

The Ganges dispute has been a major irritant in relations between the two neighbours since India built its Farakka barrage near Bangladesh's northern border in 1974.

Dhaka says the barrage 18 km from Bangladesh's northern border obstructs the river flow and deprives the country of its fair share of water.

It says India diverts much of the water to meet its own requirements for irrigation and navigation during the dry season, while it releases excess water during the monsoon, causing extensive flooding in Bangladesh.

A statement by India's Water Resources Ministry quoted Mishra as saying that he hoped the initiative taken by the Indian government would lead to a mutually-acceptable solution.

Mishra said official-level discussions should continue to find a consensus on sharing of the waters.

Razzak today had a luncheon meeting with Foreign Minister I K Gujral. He is due have talks with Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda and Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal

state, tomorrow. Basu is expected to visit Bangladesh in mid-November for further talks on water-sharing.

Razzak stressed the need to find a long-term solution to the issue before the onset of the next six-month dry season, which begins in December.

Bangladesh officials say more than 40 million people in northern and north-western Bangladesh are seeing their land gradually turning into desert because of the Farakka barrage.

BSS adds: The two ministers met in a private session before the delegation-level talks. They also had a talk in an exclusive meeting after the formal discussion.

Talking to the media after the meeting, the Bangladesh minister said that his talks with his Indian counterpart had been productive and that

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## JS goes into session Nov 1 Stormy debates on major issues likely

By Nurul Kabir

The forthcoming session of the Jatiya Sangsad is likely to be marked by serious legislative business as well as heated debates on some socio-political and economic issues, sources in the Treasury and Opposition benches have hinted.

The session scheduled to begin on November 1 is likely to witness introduction of and discussions on some important Treasury Bench bills which would have far-reaching effect on the national life, sources in the ruling Awami League high command said.

The bills might include one seeking separation of the judiciary from the executive organ of the state, one seeking a four-tier local government system and another for repeal of the much-talked about Indemnity Ordinance, the sources added.

On the other hand, sources in the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) indicated that the session would witness heated debates on the government's 'soft-corner for India in running the affairs of the state.

"We shall definitely ask the government to explain in the House its position on certain national issues including shar-

ing of the Ganges water with India," reported government plan to give transit to that country, import power from her and so on," a member of the BNP standing committee told The Daily Star.

"We are also expecting serious discussions on the government's failure to maintain law and order, its indifference towards paddy and jute growers who are now being compelled to sell out their crops below the production costs," said Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

Discussions on the alleged politicisation of the administration, repression on political opponents and indiscriminate use of the state-run electronic media in favour of the ruling party might also generate heat in the House during the session, Opposition sources hinted.

The Treasury Bench is likely to move a bill seeking separation of the judiciary and one seeking a four-tier local government system covering the village, union, thana and district level units of the administration, said Suranjit Sengupta, MP, a presidium member of the AL and

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## Dhaka for land transport facilities with neighbours

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain has said there are tremendous prospects of developing surface transport facilities from Bangladesh to Nepal, Bhutan and North-eastern India, reports UNB.

Addressing the ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure in New Delhi yesterday, he said a land transport development policy and programme expected from the meet would be of immense benefit to all of the nations.

"I am confident that this conference will identify the prospects and problems in this region in implementing the land transport development projects," he said according to a message received in Dhaka from the Indian capital.

It will also enlighten the governments of ESCAP member countries, development partners and others concerned of the best ways of meeting the challenges, he told the meeting.

opened Monday by Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda.

The minister informed the meeting that the Bangladesh government had agreed to a policy of formation, normalisation and improvement of the operational efficiency of international transport networks under the Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTD) programme.

The government, he added, has also agreed to give priority to the ALTD project in the regional action programme for infrastructure development and establish a national transport facilitation committee.

Policies for improvement of multimodal transport and freight forwarding were also agreed upon by the government. It also agreed, in principle, with the proposed draft ministerial declaration on infrastructure development in Asia and the

See Page 12 Col 1

## Maj Dalim's house, movable property of Moslem seized

Police yesterday seized the movable property of Risalder Moslemuddin, an absconding accused of Bangabandhu assassination and jail-killing cases, reports UNB.

Earlier on Sunday, police went to the Dhanmondi house of Major (ret'd) Shariful Haq Dalim to seize his movable property following a court order, but later confiscated the house.

Dalim is an accused of the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Following a warrant of distraint issued by the Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate of Dhaka, the Sadar thana police raided the house of Moslem at Tawadi Maholla in Narsingdi town in the early hours yesterday.

The seized articles include air conditioner, color television, refrigerator, two-in-one, furniture and domestic animals. Police also recovered an airgun from the house.

However, it could not be confirmed if police picked up any one from the house.

Moslemuddin alias Hiron Khan alias Rafiqul Islam, who was promoted to honorary Captain after the August 15 bloody coup, has been absconding for last several months.

It was believed that Moslem was killed in an abortive army coup in Bogra Cantonment during the General Ziaur Rahman regime. But, it was later known that he is still alive.

Moslem, who is said to have shot at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the fateful night on August 15, went into hiding after the arrest of Col Farooq, Col Shahriar and Major Khalifuzzaman on August 13 this year.

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## Navy patrol fires on fishing boat in Bay: 2 killed

CHITTAGONG, Oct 29: Two fishermen were killed and another sustained bullet injuries when Navy patrols fired on a fishing boat suspecting it to have been engaged in smuggling in the Bay early today, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Shah Alam, 32, son of Moazzam Hoq of Aslampur village, and Mohammad Farooq, 33, son of Jaiul Abedin of Jiban-nagar village in Char Fashion thana of Bhola district.

Seriously injured fisherman Babul was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

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## Businessman robbed of Tk 12 lakh

By Staff Correspondent

A gang of armed muggers snatched away Tk 12 lakh, some US Dollars and some share certificates from a businessman at Boro Moghbazar in the city yesterday, police said.

Two muggers in a motorbike intercepted Ahmed Enamul Kabir when he came out of his house, in his car. They broke the windshield of the car. Kabir drove the car fast but the muggers followed him.

Two other muggers in another motorbike joined them and gheraoed Kabir's car when he got stuck in a traffic jam, a few yards off his house. They snatched the keys of the car from Kabir on gun point and took away the briefcase from the boot in which Tk 12 lakh.

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## 4 shot, wrist of young man cut off in city

By DMC Correspondent

Suspected terrorists shot four persons and cut the wrist of a young man in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Three persons received bullet injuries following a row over realising tolls at Rayerbazar near Mukti Cinema Hall in the afternoon.

One Hazrat Ali, 30, reportedly a drug addict, used to collect tolls from people near Rayerbazar High School yesterday and when three unidentified gangsters refused to give him money an altercation started between the two sides, police said.

At one stage, two young men — Habibur Rahman and Manruzzaman — came in aid of Hazrat Ali but, the three youths fired on them, police added.

The injured were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

In another incident, Barkatullah, 22, a mechanic, received stab and bullet injuries near Golapbagh ground at Dhalpur under Demra police station.

According to police, Barkat was attacked by one Sabur, a terrorist and his accomplices as

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## JCD activist stabbed to death in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Oct 29: A student of Jessore City College, also a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist was stabbed to death allegedly by a group of Chhatra League (BCL) supporters at Barandipara here this morning.

According to police, Jahangir, 20, was attacked when he was talking with his friends at 9:30 AM. The victim was immediately taken to the Jessore General Hospital in a critical condition where doctors declared him dead.

The cause of the killing could not be known.

A case has been filed with Kotwali thana.