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195-point rise in DSE index Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index 3352.10
Market capital Tk 23706.80 cr
Transactions in volume 526457
Transactions in value Tk 3747.07

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 1560.75
Market capital Tk 16968.81 cr
Transactions in volume 183405
Transactions in value Tk 16.75 cr

Supplement

Today's 16-page issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page supplement on the National Day of Italy Pages 13-16

NEWS BRIEFS

Furniture seized from Huda's house

CHUADANGA, Nov 3: Police seized some furniture from the house of Major (ret'd) Bazlul Huda, an accused in the jail-killing case, in Alamdanga thana today. An 11-member police team led by OC of the thana seized eight chairs, two wooden hangers, one dining table and two other tables from the Hatboalia village of the accused, reports UNB.

Meeting of AL Victory Celebration body today

A meeting of the victory celebration committee of the Bangladesh Awami League will be held today at 10 am at the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue. Amir Hossain Anu, Presidium member of the party and convenor of the committee has asked all members to attend the meeting in time, reports BSS.

BCL-Shibir clash in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Nov 3: At least seven persons were injured in a clash between the Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra League activists in the Kushtia Govt. University College today. The clash started during the college union election campaign on the campus. Of the injured three have been admitted to the Kushtia General Hospital. The victims reportedly belonging to the Chhatra League were identified as Tipu, 22, Rafique 23, and Sohel 20. The college union election is scheduled to be held tomorrow.

5 killed in Pak train blast

ISLAMABAD, Nov 3: An explosion on a passenger train in Pakistan today killed at least five people and injured five others, police said. The cause of the explosion, which took place in a compartment of the express train, was not immediately known, reports BSS.

Over 20 Suu Kyi's supporters held

YANGON, Nov 3: Riot police barricaded roads leading to pro-democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi's home today and arrested more than 20 of her supporters at a nearby protest.

Sundarbans 'sick', 40pc forest affected by 'top dying'

LONDON, Nov 3: Up above the crocodile-infested waters around the Sundarbans of Bangladesh, the twisted fingers of leafless branches point skywards. The world's greatest mangrove forest is 'sick' and scientists suspect that global warming is the cause, reports IPS.

Already 40 per cent of the 5,800 square km forest fringing the Bay of Bengal is affected by 'top dying', which kills off the mangroves from the top down.

Now, in an attempt to stop its decline, scientists have begun a three-year project funded by the British government's Overseas Development Administration to monitor the forest.

If their suspicions are found to be true and nothing is done to protect the Sundarbans, the effects would be both devastating and far reaching. Bangladesh would be left to face a decimated fishing industry, increased flooding, and the loss of endangered animals, including the

world's largest concentration of Royal Bengal Tigers, warns project director Terry Thomas.

"The disappearance of the Sundarbans, which is the only thing stopping Bangladesh from sliding into the Bay of Bengal, would be an ecological catastrophe," says Keith Burd, director of the British Council in Bangladesh which is administering the project.

The world's next largest mangrove forest is Mantang in peninsular Malaysia, only one tenth of its size.

The sick mangroves in the Sundarbans indicate to Thomas that already global warming may be having an impact on sea levels in the Bay of Bengal. "The fresh water channels are becoming increasingly saline, and although no one knows yet for sure, we think this may be behind the top dying. It also possibly indicates a rise in sea levels which would push salt water back up into the channels.

It has also been noticed that the tidal levels which regulate tree growth are fluctuating more than ever before. Tidal rise changes vegetative composition and its distribution, according to Thomas, also a lecturer in Resource Economics at Bangor University in Wales.

The initial phase of the project, which got underway in April, will lay the foundations for the fight back against catastrophe. Over the next three years staff from Bangladesh's University of Khulna will visit the universities of Bangor and Aberystwyth to train in the research of forestry and aquatic resources in relation to the Sundarbans.

They will learn how to run long term research programmes into the sustainable management of large protected areas like the Sundarbans, which later will be essential for evaluating temporal changes such as global warming, siltation and salination. They will also learn

the skills needed to run the monitoring unit that will be built at Khulna in a later stage of the project.

The ultimate aim of the link project is to establish Khulna, located 50 miles to the north of the mangroves, as a regional centre to offer graduates specific training in the ecology and sustainable management of tropical coastal zones.

"The initiative doesn't come a moment too soon. The latest report from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts a 50 cm rise in global average sea level by the year 2100, between two and five times the rise in the past century.

For Bangladesh, a rise of only one metre would flood 17 per cent of the country, affecting about 70 million people and effectively swallowing up the Sundarbans.

A buildup of gases such as carbon dioxide is believed by



Sundarbans Bay of Bengal

Prime Minister reiterates Killers of Bangabandhu, 4 leaders must stand trial

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reiterated yesterday that the killers of Bangabandhu and his family members and four national leaders would be tried on the soil of Bangladesh.

"Bangalees have to be united against mentors of killers. Be united against conspirators. Let us all restore the lost glory of the Bangalee nation that once we had achieved through our great War of Liberation under the leadership of the Father of the Nation," said Hasina.

She was delivering her presidential speech at a discussion meeting in the city in memory of four national leaders — Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansur Ali and AHM Qamruzzaman — killed in Dhaka

Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

Ministers, Awami League frontliners and educationists among others, took part in the discussion organised by the AL and held at the Institute of Engineers. They paid rich tributes to the memory of four national leaders and demanded trial of the killers.

Two cabinet colleagues of the Prime Minister were applauded by a packed audience when they demanded of her constitution of a special tribunal to ensure quick trial of the killers.

"None will dare to safeguard the killers of '75", Hasina said, adding, "To me, killers and those who had harboured them are equally mischief-makers".

The discussants included

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, widow of Tajuddin Ahmed and AL presidium member Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman, educationist Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqi and Prof Anisuzzaman, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, AL central leaders Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Anu and Abdul Jalil, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Convenor of Jatiya Samanai Committee Syed Hasan Imam and K M Jahangir, MP.

Besides, a number of other ministers, MPs, Mayor of



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with other ministers and Awami League leaders offering *fateha* at the graves of national leaders at Banani graveyard in the city on the Jail Killing Day yesterday. —Star photo

Interpol's help sought to trace fugitives

Inspector General of Police M Azizul Huq has appealed to the Interpol for its cooperation in tracing the whereabouts of the fugitives accused in the murder cases of August 15 and November 3 in 1975. A Police Headquarters press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

At the 65th general assembly session of Interpol, held in Turkey from October 23 to October 29, the IGP also sought cooperation of the Interpol for extradition of the accused persons.

"Leader of Bangladesh delegation," said Huq.

1975 killings CID records statements of 100 people

Statements of over 100 people have been recorded by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in connection with the killings on August 15 and November 3, 1975, according to official sources.

"We have also recorded statements of some senior civil and military officials and important persons of that time," an official said.

Diana desperately in love with Pak heart surgeon

Neville Stack writes from London

Princess Diana is in love with a Muslim heart surgeon of Pakistani descent, says a London newspaper.

The Sunday Mirror is usually well-informed on Diana stories, so Fleet Street was going frantic yesterday catching up on the background of Hasnat Khan, a 36-year-old bachelor who lives in a small Chelsea flat.

Now an Englishman, he is known to his friends as Natty.

And a friend of the princess told me copy yesterday, while not confirming the Mirror story, "Diana has made it clear to us that she wants to get married again and have at least one more baby — she longs for a daughter — so all that's missing is the man." Up to now, it seems.

The Mirror, which is claiming a world exclusive, quotes "a close friend" as saying Diana is desperately in love. "She has never got to know anyone like him before... she is utterly spellbound."

"He is so calm, so level headed. And he has this incredible power to save life."

Diana in February visited Pakistan and met her friend Jemima Goldsmith, Lahore, now the bride of cricketer Imran Khan. The surgeon's family, who are strict Muslims, live nearby, and have twice tried to arrange a marriage for



him.

But, says the Mirror, Khan flew from England last month to tell the family of his love for Diana.

A friend is quoted as saying: "The family have given the match their seal of approval, even though Diana will not change her religion or the way she dresses, though Jemima did both."

Khan has been a regular visitor to the princess at her apartment in Kensington Palace, and she recently took his

Banks asked not to give loans against shares

Bangladesh Bank, in a major step towards cooling down the overheated capital market, issued yesterday an edict for the banks to stop disbursing loans against share certificates, reports UNB.

Official sources told the agency that the directive to stop advance to the borrowers against share certificates was a temporary measure to "contain" the stock market which has been bullish for last few months.

As per the earlier provision, the banks sanctioned loans to the tune of 40 per cent of the average market price of shares. Anybody can take the loan keeping his share certificates

Col Rashid's wife taken on remand

Zobaida Rashid, wife of Col (ret'd) Rashid, an absconding accused in the August 15 1975 killing case, was placed on CID remand for five days yesterday, according to official sources.

Zobaida was produced before the CMM's court yesterday following her arrest from the Gulshan residence late Saturday night.

She was arrested under the Arms Act for possessing unauthorised bullets for her licensed gun early hours yesterday, said police at Gulshan thana.

Follow lifestyle of Zia, Khaleda asks children

Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday advised the children to love the country and become worthy citizens by following the ideals of late President Ziaur Rahman, reports UNB.

She told the children while speaking as chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony of a cultural competition.

"Amra Zia Hobo", a newly formed children's organisation, organised the function to distribute the 'Kamalkuri Award' among the winners of the cultural and art competition.

Begum Zia said children desiring to become Zia means that they want to follow the life style

Shaheed Zia Hall signboard at N'ganj removed

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ Nov 2: Unidentified people removed the neon signboard of the town hall — Shaheed Zia Hall — and put up a new signboard reading 'Shaheed Muktiyoddha Milanayatan' sometime in the early hours of today.

The incident has sparked oil tension in the port town. Supporters of the BNP and its front organisations brought out processions in the afternoon

'Load shedding likely to end by Nov next'

By Staff Correspondent The load shedding problem in the country is likely to be solved by November next, when two barge-mounted power plants will come into operation in Khulna and Siddhirganj adding 240 MW power to the national grid, Energy Minister Lt Gen (ret'd) Noor Uddin Khan said yesterday.

"Fourteen companies have already talked with the Power Development Board (PDB). It would take eight to 10 months to install the two plants — each with a capacity of 120 MW. Two months will be required for processing the bidding documents," the Energy Minister said at a workshop on Reform of State Owned Enterprises and Privatisation.

"By October or November, we expect that the load shedding problem would be solved," he said.

The current level of load shedding in peak hours is between 200 MW and 125 MW.

"The Ministry will be totally transparent in the bidding for these plants," he added.

Terminating energy sector the

Right time to privatise SOEs, say experts

By Staff Correspondent Speakers at a workshop in the city yesterday observed that now was the right time for the government to prove its commitment for privatisation of State-owned Enterprises (SOEs) by giving the process an "immediate thrust instead of going slow".

Leading economists and experts and entrepreneurs at the workshop on Reform of State Owned Enterprises and Privatisation also suggested the government to overcome the current snags in the privatisation process and work out a privatisation policy so that the investors can know what they would be dealing with.

Energy Minister Lt Gen (Rtd) Noor Uddin Khan also addressed the workshop.

Organised jointly by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) a think-tank and the World Bank (WB) mission in the city, the two-day workshop on its concluding day yesterday also resolved that the government could improve the performance of SOEs, which annually incur a loss of Tk 2500 crore, by introducing private

JS session resumes today

By Staff Correspondent The second session of the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad (JS) resumes this afternoon after a two-day recess.

The Speaker is likely to move in the House today a condolence motion on late leaders Sayed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, AHM Qamruzzaman, M Mansur Ali and Abdur Kadir Seraniat. JS secretariat sources said.

Top leaders of the country's interim government of 1971, the first four were killed at the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975 while the latter was killed on August 15 the same year. All five of them were also the members of the first government of the independent Bangladesh headed by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Meanwhile, the Business Advisory Committee of Jatiya

Shantibahini extends truce till Nov 30

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 3: Shantibahini leaders have unilaterally extended the truce in Chittagong hill districts until November 30 to pave the way for talks with the new government for a political solution to CHT problem.

According to reports received from across the border and other sources, Jagadish Chakma, a leader of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), the apex body of Shantibahini, today issued a press release announcing the extension of the ceasefire.

The ceasefire expired on October 31.

Villager killed in police firing in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Nov 3: A villager was killed when police allegedly opened fire in a bid to arrest an accused of a case at Beyongpara under Ramu thana in the district today.

According to the villagers, Zebal Hossain, 38, died on the spot when police opened fire to disperse the people who had gathered following the arrest of the father of an accused.

Local people said that a police contingent went to the village Beyongpara early in the morning to arrest an accused.

5 NDP activists arrested

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 3: Police arrested five former activists of the NDP after an exchange of fire at Harpara village under Raouzan thana today.

Acting on a secret information, a team of 12 plain-clothes policemen raided at 10:30 am a shop in the village where the five armed activists were staying.

Police said, they were staying there to loot money from a villager who sold his landed property today.

When police went there the armed men opened over 200 rounds of fire and police returned the fire. At one stage, they jumped into the nearby river but police arrested them.

Ultimatum to Kailashtila gas field authorities

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Nov 3: The All-party Action Committee held a protest rally and brought out a procession at the thana headquarters of Golapganj today to press their 6-point demand.

The speakers at the rally called upon the authorities to accept the 'legitimate' demands by November 5, otherwise, they would enforce a blockade at the oil and gas wells at Kailashtila.

They also announced a hartal programme at Golapganj on November 17.

The rally was presided over by Moulana Ghid Ahmed while it was addressed by Thana BNP Secretary Moushuh Sunnah Chowdhury, Nargis, Thana Jatiya Party president Osman Harun Chowdhury, Sylhet district Ganadabi Parishad Secretary Moulana Sadiqur Rahman, Thana Jamaat-e-Islami president Moulana Syed

Fresh clash on BAU campus

MYMENSINGH, Nov 3: A huge contingent of police was deployed on the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) campus today to maintain law and order and curb terrorist activities, a press release said, reports BSS.

Chase and counter-chase between the two rival student groups occurred today on the campus in the wake of

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