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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	3272.90
Market capital Tk	23148.68 cr
Transactions in volume	923336
Transactions in value Tk	57.08 cr

NEWS BRIEFS

JS session adjourned

The Jatiya Sangsad session was adjourned yesterday till 4:15 pm today Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury announced the adjournment at 11:02 last night, reports UNB.

ALCWC meets tomorrow

An emergency meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will be held tomorrow at Ganabhaban at 8 pm. Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting, said a press release, reports UNB.

Capt Wahab sent to jail

Captain (ret'd) Abdul Wahab was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after his last five-day police remand in the Serniabat murder case. Wahab was arrested on October 22 on charge of Bangabandhu murder and had been in 15 days remand before the five-day one in the Serniabat murder case, reports UNB.

BCS psychological test Nov 29

The psychological (written) test for the successful candidates of 17th BCS examinations will be held at their respective centres at 9:30 am on November 29. The candidates, who have not yet received admit cards for the test, are advised to contact the concerned PSC head or regional offices along with their original written test admit-cards from November 26-28, said an official handout yesterday. They will have to show the two admit-cards in their examination centres, the handout said, reports UNB.

Indian sarees worth Tk 6.1 lakh seized

Detective Branch (DB) police seized smuggled Indian sarees worth about Tk 6.1 lakh and arrested one person in the city yesterday. The police seized 1850 pieces of sarees when these were being unloaded from a truck on Secretariat Road near Bangabazar early in the morning, police said. The arrested person was identified as Emran Hossain, 38, police added saying a gang was involved in smuggling Indian sarees into the country. The number plate of the truck in which the goods were carried was also forged. A case has been filed with Ramna thana in this connection.

AL leader beaten to death in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Nov 11: A local leader of the Awami League was beaten to death at Gazaripara village in Jhenaidag thana early today, reports UNB.

Dhaka, Delhi to boost border trade, resolve water dispute

NEW DELHI, Nov 11: India and Bangladesh today decided to open up their border trade by reactivating the existing bilateral agreement as the two countries reaffirmed their commitment to find a solution to the vexed issue of sharing of the Ganges water, reports PTL.

The decision to open up the border trade was taken during official talks between External Affairs Minister I K Gujral and his Bangladeshi counterpart Abdus Samad Azad here, according to official sources.

The two leaders decided to resume their parleys on wide ranging issues on Wednesday including the river waters dispute. The two countries are likely to find a solution to the dispute before the onset of the next dry season in Bangladesh.

Samad Azad, who is here on a four-day official visit, also had a meeting with Water Resources Minister Janeswar Misra.

Tariff concessions for import of Bangladeshi goods to India and the Chakma refugees were among other issues which figured during Gujral's talks with Samad Azad, the sources said.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister told Gujral that a national committee has been formed by the Bangladesh government to look into the Chakma issue. Three MPs from Bangladesh will visit Tripura shortly to reassess the Chakmas, who have fled Chittagong Hill Tracts, about their rehabilitation when they returned home.

During the meeting with Samad Azad, Misra expressed the hope that a solution to the Ganges water sharing dispute would be found in tune with the principles of fair and equitable distribution and rights of the two countries.

He said official level talks between the two countries on

the vexed issue since the new governments were installed in New Delhi and Dhaka this year were "extremely fruitful and encouraging."

Misra told Samad Azad that India was committed to the approach of transparency in solving the water dispute.

Referring to his talks with Bangladesh Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak here last month, Misra said the two countries had called for exchanging data and information between various official channels to find an amicable solution to the problem.

Misra and Samad Azad agreed that the problem had affected people in both the neighbouring countries and that it was imperative to understand each other's requirement and perspective in this regard.

Samad Azad expressed Bangladesh's appreciation of the genuine efforts of the United Front government to resolve

the water sharing dispute. He hoped that a solution to the water sharing problem would give a new fillip to bilateral ties between the two countries.

BSS adds: Samad Azad also met Indian Vice President K R Narayanan. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Atal Behari Vajpayee and widow of former premier Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi.

Later in the evening while speaking at an official dinner hosted by Gujral, Samad Azad said, "I have discerned that there continues to exist a goodwill for Bangladesh among the leadership and people of this great country. The firm resolve to move ahead with our relations is also palpable. All this has enhanced my confidence that a solution to all outstanding issues, particularly the conclusion of a permanent sharing agreement of the Ganges waters before the onset of the next dry

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Backstage move for BNP's return to JS

By Staff Correspondent
Backstage parleys are on for the return of BNP lawmakers to the Jatiya Sangsad.

Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor and a senior Awami League leader, Suranjit Sengupta, MP told The Daily Star last night that he had telephonic conversations with Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan for their early return to the House.

The two BNP leaders expressed their willingness to sit for a discussion over it, Suranjit said.

"I rang both Mannan Bhuiyan and Khandaker Delwar at 10:30 am today (Monday) and urged them return to the House. They responded in the positive and expressed their strong feeling to come back," Suranjit told this correspondent at the Sangsad Bhaban.

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Rome summit: PM to hold several bilateral meetings

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will have bilateral meetings with several world leaders during her upcoming visit to Rome to attend the World Food Summit.

Foreign Ministry sources told this correspondent yesterday that bilateral meetings were scheduled between Sheikh Hasina and the prime ministers of India, Nepal and South Korea, the president of Indonesia, vice president of South Africa and deputy prime minister of Thailand. She would pay courtesy calls on the president and the prime minister of Italy during her stay in Rome. Besides, she is likely to have some more unscheduled bilateral meetings with other leaders.

Some 70 heads of state and government are due to attend the summit which will focus on the global food situation, the sources noted.

Hasina would address the Summit on November 16.

The Prime Minister leaves Dhaka for the Italian capital on November 14 at the head of a

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Organising lottery punishable

The government has advised industrial and business concerns to abstain from organising lottery, lucky draw, lucky coupon or liner as these are punishable offences under Bangladesh Penal Code 294 (Gha), an official handout said yesterday, reports BSS.

The advice came in view of organising such lotteries by some industrial and business firms for wide marketing of their products through attracting buyers.

The handout said the government would be compelled to take legal action if any industrial or business firm was found to arrange such lotteries.

CAG's letter to education ministry Financial irregularities at DU over last 20 years alleged

By M M Aminul Islam

The Dhaka University authorities have been violating government rules regarding payment of salaries and other allowances, including pensions, of teachers, officials and employees over the last 20 years, according to the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

In a letter to the Ministry of Education recently, the CAG office sought its intervention for resolving these longstanding issues. Such irregularities could not be allowed to continue for an indefinite period, the letter said.

The major portion of the university budget comes from the government's revenue funds but government rules were being violated here, it noted.

The letter, sent on October 8,

was the second in this regard as no action followed the first one sent on April 4 this year.

A list of irregularities was also submitted with the second letter.

The office of the Director General of Local and Revenue Audit Directorate, had also informed the Ministry of Education about the irregularities, the letter pointed out.

The letter, a copy of which was also sent to the Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, said the DU is being regulated by the Presidential Order No 11.

The university authorities, however, think that as per the order, the DU syndicate is the authority to take decisions regarding payment of salaries, allowances and other financial matters of the university.

According to the Service (Reorganisation and Conditions) Act, which came into effect on July 1, 1973, all powers regarding payment of salaries and allowances of all government organisations, public bodies and other nationalised organisations have been vested in the government, the letter said.

According to Section 3 (f) of the Act, any rule contrary to this Act will be void. This provision of the Act was conveyed to the registrars of all universities, it went on.

Following a request from the DU authorities, status quo was maintained temporarily and the education ministry was requested to inform the Comptroller and Auditor General's office about the final decision.

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Letter to B Chowdhury Speaker offers help to resolve JS impasse

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury yesterday offered to take an initiative to resolve the impasse following BNP's decision to abstain from attending the Jatiya Sangsad session till its 10-point demand is met.

BNP has been staying out of the House since Sunday after submitting its charter of demand to the Speaker.

"I have sent the memorandum you have handed to me along with other MPs of your party containing the decision not to take part in proceedings of the Sangsad to the honourable Leader of the House and the parliament secretary," the Speaker said in a letter to Deputy Leader of the Opposition Badruddoza Chowdhury.

However, Badruddoza Chou-

dhury was not available in his Sangsad Bhaban office late last evening when the single-page letter was dispatched from the Speaker's office.

Offering his good offices to resolve the impasse, Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said that if he was informed properly he would have remained prepared to take necessary steps. "I can assure you that I shall be guided only by the Constitution and Rules of Procedure as I have always been, to conduct the business of the Sangsad," the Speaker said.

He hoped that the BNP legislators would return to the House to help consolidate and institutionalise parliamentary democracy by properly trans-

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'Political parties must stop patronising hoodlums'

By Staff Correspondent

The legislators of the ruling Awami League and its partner in the government Jatiya Party yesterday expressed the view that if the political parties stopped patronising the hoodlums, it could substantially contribute to improving the law and order in the country.

Identifying the deterioration of law and order and lack of socio-political stability as the main impediments to economic development of any Third World country, they said it was possible to improve the situation in the country if all concerned, especially political parties, make united efforts to do so.

The legislators were taking part in an inconclusive "general discussion" on the law and order in the Jatiya Sangsad. BNP MPs have been abstaining from attending the session to press their 10-point demand.

Some 10 lawmakers including Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, A S M Feroz and Akhtaruzzaman of AL, Raushan Ershad, Rabeya Bhuiyan and Advocate Fazle Rabbi of JP and Gazi Shamsur Rahman of Jamaat-e-Islami participated in the discussion.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, at 11 pm deferred the discussion, following a request from Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman, till today. Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak and Home Minister Rafiqul Islam are now scheduled to speak on the issue today.

Taking part in the discussion, Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim told the House: "Without a sound law and order and political stability, we cannot move forward."

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Benazir will appeal to SC to restore her govt

ISLAMABAD, Nov 11: Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said today she will lodge an appeal with the Supreme Court in the next two days asking that she be restored to power.

Benazir told Reuters television in an interview that she considered her sacking last week by President Farooq Leghari to be a constitutional coup, a presidential coup and an act against democracy.

"I consider it to be illegal," she said, speaking at the prime minister's spacious official residence, which she said she would vacate tomorrow.

"I shall go to the Supreme Court of Pakistan and I hope the Supreme Court will restore the National Assembly."

Benazir said she planned to hold a meeting with lawyers today. "I hope we can wrap the ap-

peal up. If we do, it will be filed tomorrow, otherwise, the latest by the day after."

She said the legal petition would state that the allegations against Leghari leveled against her government were false, and that the ostensible aim of the presidential order — to hold free, fair and impartial elections — was also false.

Leghari's order dismissing Bhutto's government cited corruption, mismanagement and extra-judicial killings among other accusations which he said had virtually paralysed the government.

Benazir said she felt betrayed by Leghari, who once served in her cabinet and was hand-picked by her to become President in 1993. She said he should step down.

The President should

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JS may pass Indemnity (Repeal) Bill today

The Indemnity (Repeal) Bill is expected to be passed by parliament today to pave the way for trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

The Bill was introduced in the House on Sunday and sent to the special parliamentary committee for scrutiny.

The committee submitted its report before the House today (Monday). Advocate Rahmat Ali, chairman of the committee, placed the report recommending that the Bill be passed in the form as it was introduced in the House.

Earlier in the day, the special committee at a meeting scrutinised the Bill and prepared its report.

Ruling party sources indicated that the Bill is likely to be passed today by a simple majority.

The current session of parliament may be adjourned for several days after its sitting today or the day after.

Pvt sector allowed to transport cargo by aircraft

The government yesterday decided to allow private sector participation in the transportation of cargo by aircraft, reports UNB.

The proposal was approved by the cabinet at a meeting at the Prime Minister's Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, said an official announcement.

It also endorsed, in principle, the proposed Rome Declaration and Action Plan of the World Food Summit in the Italian capital November 13-17.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lead the Bangladesh delegation to the summit.

Besides, the draft Human Limbs and Tissue Transplant Act 1996 was approved in the cabinet meeting.

2 young men murdered in city

By DMC Correspondent

Two young men were murdered and at least two others injured in separate incidents at Sabujbagh and Sutrapur areas in the city yesterday.

One of the victims, Liton alias Raven, 24, son of Billal Hossain of Mugdapara, was beaten to death by unidentified men while one Amanullah Biplob, 25, was found dead with bullet wounds in Sutrapur area, police said.

Liton and two others were seriously assaulted by a group of people in Jhilpur area in Mugdapara at about 12:45 pm, police said. An emergency patrol team from Sabujbagh thana rushed to the spot and rescued the three.

They were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctor

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Ershad gets bail in 2 more cases

Former president H M Ershad was granted bail yesterday in two cases relating to the misuse of power and corrupt practices, reports BSS.

Divisional Special Judge, Dhaka and Additional Sessions and Special Judge, 3rd court Dhaka allowed bails to Ershad.

The first case relates to allegation of reappointing a terminated employee of the Suhrawardy Hospital in late eighties on the recommendation of the then prime minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed.

Ershad's counsels submitted that as President, Ershad had

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Rome Declaration: Goal set to fight hunger, food insecurity

Star Report

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has reached agreement on a Rome Declaration and Plan of Action to be adopted at the end of the three-day World Food Summit scheduled to open in the Italian capital from Friday.

"We consider it intolerable that more than 800 million people throughout the world, and particularly in developing countries, do not have food to meet their basic nutrition

needs," the Declaration said. "This situation is unacceptable."

The Plan of Action calls on national governments and the international community to address the multifaceted causes underlying food insecurity, in an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, according to a message received in Dhaka.

It sets as an immediate goal "reducing the number of undernourished people to half the present level not later than

2015." FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf has invited 196 heads of state and government to attend the historic Summit at the FAO headquarters in Rome.

In a six-month effort that involved at its peak 440 delegates from 137 countries, the CFS prepared the Declaration and Plan of Action, drawing on recommendations made by FAO member nations at their regular regional conferences earlier this year, consultations of sev-

eral hundred non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and input from other UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and research and academic institutions.

The CFS recently reached consensus following an all-night meeting in which delegates ironed out remaining differences on issues concerning the right to food and how trade, population and conflict prevention pertain to food security. Delegates broke into ap-

plause when Ambassador Pedro Alfonso Medrano Rojas of Chile banged his gavel and announced final approval of the documents.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time in the history of the United Nations that agreement has been reached on a policy statement and plan of action in advance of a major conference. Usually the negotiations are still going on when the meeting is about to end," Medrano Rojas said.

Praising the "exceptional

efforts by a large number of people" taking part in the drafting process, Medrano Rojas said, their work clears the way for world leaders attending the Summit to discuss implementation of the Plan of Action rather than having to first debate the premises on which the plan is based.

The problems of hunger and food insecurity have global dimensions and are likely to persist, and even increase dramatically in some regions, unless