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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	3627.01
Market capital Tk	25841.94 cr
Transactions in volume	709355
Transactions in value Tk	59.57 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	1738.54
Market capital Tk	19608.20 cr
Transactions in volume	267870
Transactions in value Tk	19.44 cr

NEWS BRIEFS

ALPP meets Nov 20
A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held on November 20 at 11:30 am at the conference room of the Treasury Bench on 9th floor of the Sangsad Bhaban. Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting, reports BSS.

BCL factions clash in Khulna: 4 hurt
From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Nov 16: Four persons were injured in a clash reportedly between two rival groups of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) here on Friday night. The injured include two BCL leaders — Jahangir Alam and Taslimuddin Asha. Three shops were ransacked during the clash in which bombs and firearms were used, eyewitnesses said.

Half-day hartal at Golapganj today
From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Nov 16: The All Party Action Committee has called a half-day hartal at the thana headquarters of Golapganj tomorrow to press its 6-point demand. The demands include setting up a fractionation plant and a Gas Turbine at Golapganj, shopping acquisition of lands in the name of Jalalabad Gas and creating job opportunities for the local people.

25 shops gutted at Panchagarh town
PANCHAGARH, Nov 16: Twenty-five shops were gutted in a devastating fire near Tetulia road in the town last night. The fire originated from a cigarette butt at a timber shop. The people extinguished the fire in the absence of the Fire Brigade team. The three vehicles of the Fire Brigade have remained out of order for a long time, reports BSS.

One arrested with counterfeit notes
From Staff Correspondent
RAJSHAH, Nov 16: One Belal was arrested with 41 counterfeit 500 taka currency notes from the Atranol Bazar of Sapahar thana yesterday. Belal went to a shop to change the counterfeit notes. The shopkeeper on suspicion informed the police who later arrested him.

PM's call at Food Summit in Rome Ensure a world without hungry people and thirsty land



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the World Food Summit at the FAO headquarters in Rome yesterday. — PID photo

ROME, Nov 16: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today called for a grand alliance and cooperative efforts of people's organisations, NGOs, government and international agencies for ensuring a world without hungry people and "thirsty land," reports agencies.

"The road to a world without hungry people and thirsty land is long and hard, but it exists," Sheikh Hasina asserted while addressing the World Food Summit at FAO headquarters here.

"Whether our cooperative efforts in the coming years will match the promise of a gentler and kinder world that is more caring and less private is not for us to say," she said.

The Prime Minister said, we have before us two judges — our children to whom we shall bequeath either a pillaged earth or a habitable world, and the hungry millions whom we are pledged to serve and have, so often, so short.

While giving a painful picture of the present day world the Prime Minister said, "Never has the sheer number of men, women and children suffering from hunger been so high. "Never have so many people uprooted by natural disasters and human cruelty alike, crowded along roads, and struggled their way on to make-shift hovels or pitifully flimsy vessels."

She further added that never have so many people drifted in ever greater number into marginal areas or overcrowded slums. "Never have the muted cries of the hungry been made more desolate by the lonely anguish of exhausted earth, denuded, forests and sterile fishing grounds," Sheikh Hasina said before a receptive audience.

She stressed the need for quick implementation of commitments and proposed concessions of the Agriculture Agreement for the developing countries.

It is equally vital that low-income countries are supported

IMF mission starts review of economy

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is expected to provide a 600-million US dollar loan to Bangladesh, began its review of the country's economy as a step to open up negotiations on a credit programme.

A six-member mission, led by IMF Advisor for the South-east Asia and Pacific Department Margaret R Kelly, has already started consultation with the officials of the Ministry of Finance to take stock of the national economy.

A finance ministry source told UNB yesterday that the IMF's Economic Review Mission will continue discussions with the officials of the ministry till November 26 before their departure from the country.

The mission would submit a report to the government sometime next month identifying the areas where the economy needs further reforms and setting conditionalities for the IMF loan under the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF).

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kabir, during his recent visit to Washington DC to attend the Board of Governors meeting of the World Bank-IMF Group, approached the IMF Managing Director, Michel Camdessus, for the loan.

Although the IMF provides credit to support a country's balance of payment situation, the finance minister in a session with the local press after the Washington meeting, ruled out that the country was faced with an immediate crisis in its external sector.

Officials of the finance ministry said the balance of payment situation of the country is "still under control" as the exports are growing according to the projection while imports also marked steady growth.

But the country is not in a comfortable position in the foreign exchange reserve situation as it was some months back because the export performance was not good last year, said an official of the finance ministry, preferring anonymity.

He said the reserve, which was once at its peak of 3.2 billion US dollars, is more or less static for last 8/9 months at two billion dollars which is equal to import bills of 3-4 months.

Although the reserve position improved last month from



Bhasani's death anniversary today

The 20th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani will be observed in the country today in a befitting manner, report agencies.

Different political and socio-cultural organisations will pay their respect to the late leader, who championed the cause of the downtrodden throughout his long political career.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, in a message on this occasion, recalled the sacrifices made by the late leader particularly for the peasants and workers and said he would always be respectfully remembered by the people of this country.

Prime Minister Sheikh

No agitation on streets now: BNP

By Nazmul Ashraf

The National Executive Committee of the BNP has decided that the party would not go for a massive agitation against the government right now but would prepare itself for this by consolidating its organisational strength across the country, meeting sources said.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the committee and some selected leaders held at a city hotel yesterday with party chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The meeting authorised the National Standing Committee, the highest decision-making body of the party, to finalise moderate agitation programmes as a run up to a massive anti-government movement, the sources said.

Begum Zia, in her winding up speech, made it clear that her party would not go for street agitations now but would continue the agitation in parliament, several party leaders said.

"We'll not return to parliament until our 10-point demand, submitted to the Speaker, is accepted by the Treasury Bench", she was quoted as saying.

She urged the party leaders to consolidate party strength throughout the country.

The BNP chief also assured the delegates of changes in the party's executive body and the standing committee, both.

The executive body meeting felt that going for a movement now to topple the government would fail to gain massive public support and would rather cause adverse reaction in public mind, the sources said. It stressed the need for revamping the party down to grassroots level and inform the people more about the ruling party's anti-democracy and anti-people character.

The nearly 12-hour meeting that also witnessed debates over tough programmes against what the party said, state-sponsored terrorism.

Supporting the party lawmaker's abstention from the current session of parliament

India Festival begins in city tomorrow

A 13-day 'India Festival, 1996', will be held in various cities of Bangladesh, including the capital, Dhaka, from November 18 to 30 as part of the cultural exchange programme between the two countries, reports BSS.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs and Sports Obaidul Quader told a press conference at the Shilpakala Academy yesterday that the festival will be held in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Jessore.

Earlier, "Bangladesh Festival of Art in India" was held in Delhi, Calcutta and other cities of India in 1994.

Minister for Post and Telecommunications

Remarks about Bangabandhu Mannan demands action against persons responsible

By Staff Correspondent

Acting president of the ruling Awami League Abdul Mannan, MP, has said lawful actions have to be taken against those who passed "audacious" remarks about the Father of the Nation.

"Leader of the Opposition in parliament and other leaders must have to answer to the nation for their statements devoid of common sense. The nation expects a responsible Opposition. An Opposition devoid of common sense can only create chaos and push the country towards anarchy," said Mannan.

He was addressing as chief guest a special extended meeting of the city unit of AL held at its central office at the Bangabandhu Avenue.

With City AL senior vice-president Rezauddin Ahmed in the chair, the meeting was addressed by among others AL central leaders Siddiqur Raul Khan and Mukul Bose and city AL general secretary Motazzal Hussain Chowdhury Maya, said a press release.

Party insiders told this correspondent that the meeting

Four dacoits beaten to death, villager killed in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Nov 16: Four dacoits were beaten to death, a villager was killed and 12 others were injured in a fierce clash between villagers and a gang of dacoits at Pakuria bazar in Sadar thana on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the dacoits numbering about 35 stormed the business centres and a nearby house at about 1:30 am exploding cocktails and crude bombs and looted valuables.

On hearing the hue and cry, villagers of Pakuria and nearby two other villages rushed to the spot and caught six of the dacoits red-handed. Four of them were beaten to death by the mob. The rest, however, decamped with the booty.

One of the villagers who received bomb injuries died on the spot. He was identified as Jalal Uddin.

Police recovered the unidentified bodies this morning. Two injured dacoits were also handed over to police.

The bodies were sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy. Seriously injured Ashutosh



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a meeting of the party's National Executive Committee at a city hotel yesterday. — Star photo

Manzoor murder case Hearing of Ershad's bail petition shifted to Nov 21

By Staff Correspondent

Hearing of the bail petition of Jatiya Party chief H M Ershad in the Manzoor murder case was not held yesterday.

Ershad's counsel said Special Judge Abdul Majid, who is hearing the bail petition went on three days leave yesterday. November 21 has been fixed as the next date, they said.

Earlier, the date of hearing was shifted twice, on October 19 and November 2.

Ershad so far obtained bail in 13 cases. A total of 18 cases were filed against him after he was forced to resign on December 6, 1990, following a mass-uprising.

He was acquitted in one case. He has been serving 13 years in prison in two corruption cases.

'1.5cr people threatened by arsenic pollution'

One and a half crore people in the country are threatened by arsenic pollution and about 700 arsenic-affected patients have been identified so far, this was told at a training course on 'Arsenic pollution related health problems' yesterday, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the course at the auditorium of the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM) in the city, Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf said the government had identified arsenic pollution as a national problem and was determined to solve it.

He emphasised the need for joint action by other concerned ministries along with the health ministry and said an extensive programme had been undertaken at field level in the affected districts.

Jointly organised by NIPSOM and Disaster Forum, an

One stabbed to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

One person was stabbed to death and a young man was found dead in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Mostafa, 35, manager of 'Sankatmochon', the Chamber of an astrologer at Malibagh DJT Road, sustained fatal injuries when a group of about 15 people attacked the chamber at around 7:30 pm, police and local people said.

He was immediately taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead, hospital sources said, adding another youth identified as Mamun, 22, son of the owner of the chamber, Dewan Golam Sarwar, Lalon Shah, was injured in the attack.

According to the local people the attackers, mostly local young men, demanded toll from

UNCTAD's efforts to help LDCs Dhaka for support of dev partners

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed has emphasised on full support of the development partners of LDCs and organisations concerned to UNCTAD in its efforts to assist the LDCs to integrate into an international trading system, reports UNB.

Addressing the concluding session of the three-day meeting of Ministers of LDCs in Geneva, he termed the meeting "very useful" for the least developed countries (LDCs).

"It has given us an opportunity to share with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) various ideas in the context of the Singapore Meeting," the minister told the WTO-sponsored meeting which ended in the Swiss city on Friday.

According to a message received in Dhaka yesterday Tofael said delegates from the LDCs have also been able to hold private sessions amongst themselves and after detailed discussions reached a consensus on issues of common interest to the LDCs.

Speaking as the coordinator of the LDCs, he appreciated the support provided by UNCTAD to LDCs during the Uruguay Round negotiations and in the implementation phase to improve the capacity of these countries to overcome the challenges and also to take advantage of the opportunities arising from the Uruguay Round Agreements.

Also on Friday Tofael had a meeting with Rubens Ricupero, Secretary General of UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

Tofael briefed Ricupero about the policies and programmes, adopted by the present government of Bangladesh. They also exchanged views on trade and development related issues of common concern.

The UNCTAD secretary general commended the active, positive and constructive role being played by Bangladesh as the coordinator of the LDC Group.

BSS adds. On conclusion of the meeting, a 10-point declaration

40 illegal immigrants including Bangladeshis held in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 16: A Nepalese illegal immigrant, Dol Bahadur Saru Magar, 32, drowned in an irrigation canal near Kuala Besut, 400 kilometers (240 miles) northeast of here today, reports AP.

Police Superintendent Mokhtaruddin Idrus told the National News Agency Bernama in Besut that Magar, from Bhanasayang, Sarayva, Nepal, "drowned while crossing the canal to avoid police detection."

A drainage and irrigation department worker found the semi-decomposed body snagged among some fallen tree branches in the canal, he said.

In an operation today police arrested 40 illegal Burmese, Nepalese and Bangladeshi immigrants. They will either be charged in court or deported.

Benazir's close aide, several officials held

ISLAMABAD, Nov 16: A former close aide to sacked Premier Benazir Bhutto and several other key officials have been detained in an anti-corruption drive, reports and official sources said today, report agencies.

Those picked up by enforcement agencies include Ahmad Sadiq, who was principal secretary to Bhutto until her dismissal by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari on November 5, the Nation daily reported.

The others identified by the newspaper are Rifat Askari, former chairman of state-owned Oil and Gas Development Corporation, and Azhar Suhail, former head of the official Associated Press of Pakistan news agency.

Another top official, Mohi-ud-Din Bakhsh Abbasi, president of the country's largest state-owned bank, the National Bank of Pakistan, had been detained in Karachi.

Official sources said the men had been taken into custody in connection with investigations into alleged abuses of authority and misappropriation of state funds.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister of Punjab stepped down today just two weeks after he was reinstated by the Lahore High Court.

Manzoor Wattoo told a news conference in Lahore that he had sent his resignation to the provincial governor.

"I do not want to be an obstacle in the election process," hammad Rased a local businessman.

Some local people including school teachers and student leaders also echoed his sentiment saying that the hall owners were very 'influential' people and maintained 'good connections' with the administration.

The Police Superintendent of Gazipur, Prokita Ranjan Shah, when contacted, expressed his ignorance about it. When the correspondents requested him to visit at least one of the halls along with them, the SP said, "Do whatever you can."

PSI of N'ganj thana suspended for extortion

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Nov 16: A Probationary Sub Inspector (PSI) of the Narayanganj thana was suspended today on charges of extortion from a general store shopkeeper, police said.

The PSI, Shaukat Jahar, was caught by traders of the 'Saigan Plaza' on Thursday when he allegedly went to collect Tk 10,000 from the Mita General Store. He joined the thana 11 months back and his probationary period was supposed to end this December, police added.

Local traders alleged that

Porno films in Joydevpur movie houses

By Mizan Ali and Rafiq Hasan

Reluctant to give their names, some of these teenage boys said they were frequent visitors in these halls.

Pornographic films titled "Innocent girl," "Seven from Heaven" and "Lady Doctor Analyst," all having seal of approval by the Bangladesh Film Censor Board were screened in three halls, one at the Joydevpur crossing and two others at Joydevpur town.

Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur district Nazrul Islam, when contacted yesterday said, "We summon the owners and managers of halls whenever we receive complaints of publicly showing pornographic movies."

"One such uncensored film was recovered while being screened at Chandana hall about six months back," the DC said. The film was handed over to the Censor Board for necessary actions, he added.

Some local people, while talking to the correspondents alleged that these cinema halls were involved in screening such films for quite sometime. According to them all those movie houses screen such movies either in 'cut piece' or in 'full length' in their morning shows.

Sometimes a pornographic film is "one ticket for two

One arrested with counterfeit notes
From Staff Correspondent
RAJSHAH, Nov 16: One Belal was arrested with 41 counterfeit 500 taka currency notes from the Atranol Bazar of Sapahar thana yesterday. Belal went to a shop to change the counterfeit notes. The shopkeeper on suspicion informed the police who later arrested him.