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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	3955.93
Market capital Tk	25620.51 cr
Transactions in volume	580769
Transactions in value Tk	36.31 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	1693.21
Market capital Tk	19185.28 cr
Transactions in volume	181893
Transactions in value Tk	10.12 cr

NEWS BRIEFS

Govt to off-load SBC held shares

Government has decided to off-load the shares of different companies in the possession of Sadharan Bima Corporation through Dhaka Stock Exchange, reports BSS.

Indian minister Bommai in city

Indian Human Resources Development Minister S R Bommai arrived in the city yesterday to inaugurate the 13-day 'India Cultural Festival' beginning today. State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader received Bommai at the Zia International Airport, reports UNB.

CSE opens 2nd trading booth

Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) has opened its second trading booth, said a press release yesterday. ORA Rasul Nizam, Director, inaugurated the booth on Saturday. The new trading booth was opened on Saturday. The existing booth at the CSE was experiencing tremendous pressure in recent months.

Sarbahara party leader arrested

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Nov 17: An alleged Sarbahara party leader was arrested from Char Manjur village under Hizla thana of the district last night. The arrested was identified as Abdul Khaleque Gharami. Meanwhile, police has also recovered eight cocktails from different places of the district.

Urs of Khwaja Mainuddin today

The Religious Affairs Ministry has taken steps to observe the holy Urs of Hazrat Khwaja Mainuddin Chishti (R) today in a befitting manner. The government has called upon the people to observe the day with due respect, an official handout said, reports BSS.

Milad at mazar of Hazrat Shahjalal

SYLHET, Nov 17: A milad mahfil expressing gratitude to the almighty Allah for the passage of the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill was held today in the mazar premises of Hazrat Shah Jalal here. Prayers also were offered for peace and progress of the country and peace of the departed soul of Bangabandhu

Gowda assures all cooperation to resolve issues

ROME, Nov 17: Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda today said his country would extend all-out cooperation in solving bilateral issues with Bangladesh, reports BSS.

India wants the best of relations with Bangladesh which is essential for both countries. Gowda said when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met him at the FAO headquarters here.

The two leaders met for the first time since they took over premiership of their respective countries.

Official sources said the two leaders discussed all outstanding issues in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her confidence that the relations between the two friendly countries would be further strengthened

for the common benefit of the two peoples.

The two leaders resolved that the outstanding issues could be solved through bilateral discussion.

The expansion of trade between the two countries figured prominently during the talks.

The two premiers invited each other to visit their respective countries.

Talks with Deuba

Sheikh Hasina also met Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba here today.

Recalling that Nepal was one of the pioneering countries to recognise Bangladesh, the Nepalese Prime Minister said that his country has excellent relations with Bangladesh. As we are close neighbours we should work more closely.

Deuba said.

Terming Hasina most popular leader of the region, the Nepalese Prime Minister invited her to visit the Himalayan country.

Sheikh Hasina extended her deep gratitude to Deuba for his country's support and cooperation during Bangladesh's liberation struggle.

Deuba said both the governments came to power after a long struggle for democracy in their respective countries.

Prime Minister Hasina said her government also traversed a hard journey to democracy in Bangladesh and established a government of consensus.

Hasina said she had offered the main opposition to join her consensus government but the opposition rejected the proposal.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with her Indian counterpart Deve Gowda in Rome yesterday. — PID photo

Food Summit concludes in a mix of hope & cynicism

ROME, Nov 17: In a mix of hope and cynicism, a UN gathering to fight world hunger wrapped up today with an ambitious pledge to feed the world — the bold declaration made at the last such gathering 22 years ago in the same hall.

"I hope and pray that this time we can get it right," said Eugene Whelan, Canada's former agriculture minister and participant in the 1974 conference at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

The seven-point plan adopted by the 194 nations also urged for fewer trade barriers for food and opposed using food aid as a political tool — leading to denunciations of embargoes by a host of speakers including Pope John Paul II and Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

The plan, however, is only a set of non-binding guidelines.

RMCH interneer docs continue strike

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Nov 17: The interneer doctors of the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) continued their strike for the sixth day today.

The interneer doctors demanded punishment of the employees responsible for attacks.

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Some openly questioned the value of staging costly international gatherings without sharper requirements for action.

AFP adds: The UN food summit failed to move significantly towards eliminating hunger, many delegates and analysts said.

Cuban President Fidel Castro struck the most dramatic chord when he called the summit "shameful" for failing to do more to help about one-fifth of the world's population whose diets do not meet minimum food needs.

Castro blasted the goals set forth by the delegates, asking in his plenary session speech on Saturday: "What kind of cosmetic solutions are we going to provide so that in 20 years from now there would be 400 million instead of 800 million starving people?"

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Glowing tributes to Bhasani

By Staff Correspondent
Nation yesterday paid glowing tributes to Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, a great leader of the country who championed the causes of the toiling masses on his 20th anniversary of death.

Our Correspondent from Santosh, Tangail adds: Leaders and workers of Awami League, BNP, JP, their allied organisations, Bhasani Smriti Sangsad, Bhasani Academy and other socio-cultural bodies here visited the mazar of the late leader and offered munazat. They also arranged Qurankhoni, milad mahfil, feeding of destitutes, discussion meeting, Bhasani book fair on the occasion.

BSS adds: Speakers at a rally in Dhaka called for forging unity of the country's progressive patriotic forces to establish an exploitation-free society as dreamt by Moulana Bhasani.

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AL warns at rally in city People won't tolerate 'derogatory remarks'

By Staff Correspondent
Awami League leaders at a rally in the city yesterday criticised BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia for passing derogatory remarks about the Father of the Nation and said the people would not tolerate such utterances.

They also expressed gratitude to the people and the Jatiya Sangsad for the passage of Indemnity (repeal) Bill, 1996, removing all legal barriers to prosecution of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members.

AL acting president Abdul Mannan, General Secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, and

Miss World contest: 4000 protesters held

BANGALORE, Nov 17: Baton-wielding police arrested some 4,000 leftists here today after they tried to lay siege to a hotel housing 89 contestants of the Miss World pageant, reports AFP.

Witnesses said the predominantly female crowd, led by senior Communist Party of India-Marxist leader Suhaini Ali, was beaten back by truncheon-wielding policemen, and later packed off to police stations.

All said before her arrest that she had scored a victory over the state administration.

The action came hours after the police chief of this southern Indian city, capital of Karnataka state, said he was prepared to smelt out any protests.

"Nothing is being left to chance. We are anticipating all kinds of threats and are making arrangements to counter them," Sarat Chandra Burma, police commissioner of Bangalore, said.

"We are also going to make preventive arrests," he said. "So far protest groups have been peaceful... but we are worried

Italian investors keen to explore five areas

ROME, Nov 17: Italian entrepreneurs are keen to invest in developing the infrastructures in the energy and power sectors in Bangladesh, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi told Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina when she met him at the FAO headquarters here today, reports BSS.

The Italian Prime Minister said the main thrust of his country would be on medium-scale joint ventures, in marble, garments and shoe productions.

He said, as in both countries new governments are in power, they should discuss newer ways of cooperation. "We must keep contact at high level," he added.

Prodi said, Italy will send a high-level delegation to Bangladesh to explore the different avenues of bilateral cooperation.

Sheikh Hasina explained to the Italian Prime Minister various potentials and investment-friendly conditions in Bangladesh as well as the liberal policy and other fiscal aid.

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Radar Purchase Case Ershad's bail prayer rejected

A court yesterday rejected the bail prayer of former President H M Ershad in the radar purchase case, reports UNB.

In rejecting the prayer, Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Shahidul Haq observed: "The case is pending for trial and since the accused petitioner was a President of the country, his release on bail may hamper the trial because of the fact that possibility of tampering of the evidences can't be ruled out."

On May 4, 1992, the Bureau of Anti-corruption filed FIR with the Cantonment police alleging that as per approval of former President H M Ershad it was decided to purchase one high-powered radar for Bangladesh Airforce in the year 1986.

It was further alleged that as a result of purchase of the said radar from Westinghouse Company of America, the accused in collaboration with others caused pecuniary loss of Tk 64.44 crore to the government.

It may be mentioned that Ershad, the chairman of Jatiya Party, got bail in 13 cases so far out of the 19 cases against him.

Najir Rahman Manju released

By Staff Correspondent
Najir Rahman Manju, former minister in H M Ershad's cabinet and treasurer of the Jatiya Party, was freed yesterday from Dhaka Central Jail.

He was earlier granted a presidential pardon.

Manju, who had fled the country after the fall of Ershad government in 1990, was sentenced for nine years in absentia in two corruption cases and one case under the Special Powers Act.

He was taken into custody after he returned to the country in July.

Manju was received by leaders and workers of Jatiya Party and Najir Rahman Manju Mukti Parishad at the jail gate, a press release of the Parishad said. It said, Manju expressed his thanks to his well-wishers and gratitude to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for his release.

Hartal observed at Golapganj

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Nov 17: An eight hour hartal was observed at Golapganj thana from 6 am today at the call of the All Party Action Committee to press its six-point demand.

The demands include immediate setting up of a fractionation plant, LPG plant and gas turbine power plant at Golapganj, cancellation of acquisition of private lands for Jalalabad Gas and jobs for local people in Kollashitla gas field.

Several thousand vehicles were stranded as road links with Beanibazar, Kanaighat and Jakiganj were disrupted.

A big rally was held in the afternoon with Golapganj thana Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Moulana Syed Nasiruddin in the chair.

It was also addressed by thana BNP secretary Mohiud Sunnah Chowdhury, thana JP President Osman Harun Chowdhury, labour leader Saleh Ahmed, and leaders of JCD.

Jungle cat dies at Mirpur Zoo



A jungle cat at the Dhaka Zoo. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Fifth feline meets the same fate in a week

By Staff Correspondent
One of the five jungle cats at the Dhaka Zoo, a nearly extinct feline, was found dead in its cage early yesterday morning, sources at the Zoo said.

With the death of the jungle cat, the number of dead felines at the Zoo rose to five within seven days. Four Royal Bengal tigers including a cub mysteriously died between November 9 and 13. Five other tigers which fell sick over the last week, were recovering till yesterday, the sources added.

"We do not know how the cat died, it was alright when we offered food yesterday (Saturday). This morning we found it dead, hanging from the platform where it usually hangs around," said a caretaker of the Zoo.

Veterinary Officer of the Zoo
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Production of paddy may go up by 2.4 mmt

By Sharier Khan
Production of paddy in the country is estimated to increase to 29 million metric tons (mmt) this year from last year's 26.6 mmt, according to a forecast of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The expected increase is due to favourable weather and increase in lands under paddy cultivation this year, FAO said.

The production in 1994 was 25.2 mmt which was much below the target because of drought and shortfall in supply of fertiliser. Natural disaster and fertiliser supply shortfall continued in 1995, resulting in the below target production.

Production of Aman is expected to reach 10 mmt (failed) which will be well above last year's output. Harvest of Aman crop has started.

The production of Aman will exceed the target this year because of the timing and nature of flood and expansion of arable land," said a FAO expert. Rice production may continue to increase next year, the expert hoped.

The estimated import of rice this year is likely to decline to 0.9 mmt from last year's 1.3 mmt. The projected rice import for 1997 is even lesser 0.7 mmt.

The country roughly spends over Tk 1000 crore for importing one million metric tons of rice.

The stock position of rice is also expected to improve 1997, the FAO forecast said.

"Last year, 85 per cent of the total staple food requirement was produced in the country. This year, it is likely to be over 90 per cent," said another high official of the FAO.

"But despite this improvement, the target this year

Extortionists stab 2 in city

By DMC Correspondent
Two brothers were stabbed by a group of extortionists in a market at Sobhanbagh in the city yesterday afternoon.

The victims, Md Ali, 32, and Liaquat Ali, 25, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

According to their family members, a gang of about 10 people ransacked the business house of Saurid Rahman, 45, the elder brother of the victims as he refused to pay toll.

The gang stabbed the two when they tried to prevent them from attacking their elder brother.

The members of the gang also demanded a few days ago a toll of Tk 50,000 from Saurid who stays in Mohammadpur area.

However, police said, more than two persons were injured during the attack at about 4 pm.

None was arrested in this connection till the filing of the report last night.

BSS adds: In another incident — Sunday night, 2 of 109, West Rampura was injured when an alleged mugger stabbed him at Dhalpur, Demra, yesterday afternoon.

He is undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, hospital sources said.

Create atmosphere for dialogue: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia has said there is no difference between the ruling Awami League and Jatiya Party, reports UNB.

Ershad is the B team of Awami League... He usurped state power from an elected BNP government in 1982 with the support of Awami League. Their entente still remains intact," she alleged.

"This unholy entente is against the interest of the country and its people," the BNP chairperson said in her presidential address at the party's central executive committee meeting at a local hotel on Saturday night.

Begum Zia said her party was abstaining from the House to protect its parliamentary rights through the 10-point proposal. "We are offered a proposal for negotiation. But the government is not willing to create an atmosphere for discussion."

The Leader of the Opposition laid emphasis on creating favourable atmosphere for discussion by stopping the ruling party's repression on BNP leaders and workers.

If the government continues its repressive measures, the peace-loving people will be quite naturally aggrieved, Begum Zia said adding a movement would have to be launched with active participation of the aggrieved people.

She said the AL was needed to be in power as part of India's delineation of hegemony by en-

Police constable allegedly rapes disabled girl

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Nov 17: A police constable, Gopal Chandra Shil, of Bojra police outpost was placed under suspension and closed in the police lines today for allegedly raping a physically handicapped teenage girl.

Police said the constable was caught by neighbours when he was fleeing after raping Khaleda Khatun (16) at her house in absence of her parents on Saturday night.

A case was lodged with Sonadanga thana in this connection.

The police constable was suspended and 'closed' after hundreds of people of Sonadanga area demonstrated today in front of the police station demanding punishment to him.

RAJUK Commercial Plot Auction Notice

Most ideally located Commercial-cum-Residential Plot No. 52 at Gulshan South Commercial Area, Dhaka facing Gulshan Avenue measuring more or less 497.75 sq. metre (7 katha 7 chattak) will be allotted for 99 years lease on open auction.

Applications on prescribed form to be obtained with terms and conditions from Janata Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk. 500/= (Taka five hundred) only in cash for each set (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates), Rajuk from the intending bidders up to 2.00 PM on 28-11-96.

The auction will be held on 30-11-96 in the Conference Room, 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10.00AM.

Chairman
Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha
Dhaka

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