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STOCK MARKET

DSE Index	837.59 (+0.35%)
Market capitalisation Tk	40.45 billion
Turnover in volume	82,701
Turnover in value Tk	19.85 million

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PM opens Dhaka Int'l Trade Fair Exporters urged to offset trade imbalance

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia opened the Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) '95 in the capital yesterday with a call to offset the existing trade imbalance.

Inaugurating the fortnight-long fair at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, she urged the manufacturers and exporters to avail themselves of the liberal export policy pursued by her government for contributing to the overall national prosperity.

Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) organised the trade fair at the 15-hectare fair ground, which is being participated by 64 enterprises from 19 countries, besides 137 local firms.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the economy of this part of the world which now comprises Bangladesh had been export-oriented before the colonial period.

"Our commodities like muslin, spices, salt, sulphur etc. were acclaimed worldwide because of their qualitative edge," she said. "Bangladesh was then a land of plenty."

Begum Zia outlined the present trade, export and industrial policies of her government and said steps have been taken to produce more commodities, raise qualities and explore and diversify the market.

"We need peace and stability for sustaining this trend of investment and development," she added.

"We adopted a long-term strategy for the export sector," the Prime Minister said. This strategy, formulated for the period 1992-2000, expresses strong commitment for removing the bottlenecks which impede exports.

Later, the Prime Minister inaugurated the DITF '95 by cutting the ribbons at the entrance and released balloons as crackers exploded and bands played to mark the occasion.

Speaking at the inaugural function, Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam said on objective of the DITF '95 was that the foreign participants on their return home would spread the news of favourable business and investment climate in Bangladesh.

He said that to offset the negative impact of the Uruguay Round Talks on the ready-made garment sector, the government had decided to provide incentives for setting up new textile mills.

Commerce secretary A H See Page 12 Col 4



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who inaugurated the Dhaka International Trade Fair yesterday, admiring a prayer mat at the Iranian stall. The Iranian ambassador is also seen on her left. —PID photo

Dhaka signs Delhi Declaration

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday signed the Delhi Declaration, reaffirming Bangladesh's commitment to ensure education for all aiming at transforming burdensome population into a human resource, reports UNB.

The declaration came from a summit of nine most populous developing countries of the world, including Bangladesh, held in the Indian capital in December 1993.

In the conference, leaders of Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan expressed their firm determination to fulfil the internationally-set target of education for all and implement the resolutions adopted in the World Conference on Children.

"Today, I am signing the combined declaration of nine countries... Through this, our commitment to ensure education for all is reiterated," Begum Zia said in signing the declaration.

The declaration reads: "We, the leaders of nine high-population developing nations of the world, hereby reaffirm to pursue with utmost zeal and determination the goals set in 1990 by the World Conference on Education for All and the World Summit on Children, to meet the basic learning needs of all our people by making primary education universal and expanding learning opportunities for children, youth and adults.

"We do so in full awareness that our countries contain more than half of the world's people and that the success of our efforts is crucial to the achievement of the global goal of education for all."

Speaking at the signing ceremony at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the afternoon, the Prime Minister said ensuring education for all is a formidable challenge, but not an impossible task.

"We must have to eradicate illiteracy to hold our head high as a self-respecting nation in the world," she said and called upon all irrespective of party affiliation, opinion, profession and position to stand on the same platform in reaching the light of education to all households.

Begum Zia further urged all to build the education for all programme into a social movement by placing education above everything.

"Inshaallah, we would be able to free the country from the curse of illiteracy, if we work together," she hoped.

The Prime Minister said there is no alternative to transforming the population into human resource and education is the most important tool for human resource development.

Begum Zia said the education curriculum had been formulated with the demands of rural life and the need for knowledge about health, nutrition and sanitation. The government has also taken up programme for free distribution of textbooks among primary school students.

She lauded the role of non-government organisations supplementing government initiatives by playing their part in the effort.

The function was also addressed by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, Secretary of the Primary and Mass Education Division Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed and Joint Secretary A K M Anisur Rahman.

Russian general killed Non-stop shelling of Grozny

GROZNY, Jan 7: Russian troops pounded Grozny today with artillery, mortar and rocket fire and Interfax news agency reported a top Russian general had been killed, reports Reuters.

Major general Viktor Vorobov, commander of Russia's Interior Ministry's task force in breakaway Chechnya, was killed in Grozny, Interfax said. Vorobov, the first senior officer killed in Chechnya since Russian troops moved into the region, died when a mortar exploded, it said.

Thick black clouds of smoke covered Grozny as Russian artillery, mortar and rocket fire poured into the centre of the rebel city.

Shells were landing every few seconds. The top floors of the presidential palace, which has become the focus of Chechen resistance, were engulfed in flames. Russian wounded and prisoners of war are kept in the basement of the building.

Russian troops bettered the city centre but did not try to capture it, staying in position about a mile (1.5 km) from the palace.

"The Russians are using new methods, trying to move forward block by block with tanks and heavy artillery," said Hussain, a Chechen military commander. "They are not gaining any ground, but they are destroying the city."

Interfax said an oil refinery in the outskirts of Grozny was on fire after Russian shelling.

Official Russian information was typically upbeat. The resistance of (Chechen leader Dzhokhar) Dudayev's supporters is weakening," the government press service said.

It said regular armed forces and interior troops were "successfully" and "actively" disarming the rebels, some of whom were fleeing the city.

But this Reuters correspondent saw groups of well-armed Chechen fighters pouring into Grozny.

President Boris Yeltsin sent troops into Chechnya on December 11 to crush the region's independence bid and launched a failed tank-led attack on Grozny on New Year's Eve.

Four weeks later Russian troops are bogged down in an unpopular war, seemingly unable to capture Grozny, Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev or even his presidential palace.

But the Russian military appear determined to push to the end their campaign despite growing criticism at home and abroad.

Yeltsin's powerful Security Council said on Friday that it was vital for Russia to overcome armed resistance as soon as possible and wipe out illegal armed groups in order to restore constitutional legality in Chechnya.

In headline language, the council, Yeltsin's inner circle of top officials, targeted "leaders of some parties."

Policemen asked to stand by people

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday asked policemen to stand by the people whenever they face trouble and are in need of service in keeping with a new concept of police system, reports UNB.

"In a democratic system, the police are the real friends of the people. The concept of police system has been redefined in order to protect helpless people from repression of the strong on the weak and rescue them from the clutches of oppressors," she said.

Addressing the inaugural function of the Police Week 95 at Rajarbagh Police Line in the morning, she said the government had undertaken steps to transform the police force into a society-oriented force.

As a result of the new system, the Prime Minister told the function, a very close relationship is developing between members of the police and the people of all strata of society.

She hoped that the police force would brighten its image.

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Seismic survey for oil, gas begins in the Bay

By Shariar Khan

Two foreign companies began seismic survey for exploration of oil and gas in the Bay of Bengal yesterday morning official sources said.

A specially equipped survey ship — Ross Seal — hired by Cairn Plc of Scotland and Holland Sea Search of the Netherlands for 30,000 US dollars a day, had earlier arrived at the Chittagong dry dock jetty at 10 am Friday, and began the seismic survey at 6 am yesterday.

The authorities are, however, yet to take necessary steps to keep fishing boats and trawlers away from the survey route of the Ross Seal, a source concerned in Chittagong told this correspondent over telephone last night.

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Entente with 'Razakars' will be suicidal: Aref

By Staff Correspondent

Kazi Aref Ahmed, president of the Jatiya Samajtrantik Dal (JSD) yesterday said, any political understanding with the Razakars (collaborators) would be suicidal for those who believe in the spirit of the liberation war and democracy.

Addressing a discussion meeting in connection with the founding anniversary of the Chhakra League, Aref Ahmed called upon the students to

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V P Singh quits Janata Dal

NEW DELHI, Jan 7: Former Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh has quit the country's main centrist opposition party, and said he will stay away from politics for five years, newspapers reported today, says AFP.

"I will not be renewing my membership of the Janata Dal (people's party)," V P Singh, who headed India's first coalition government that lasted 11 months until November 1990,

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Japanese Boat Case Ershad's trial resumes

The trial of deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad in the Japanese relief boat purchase case resumed yesterday after a gap of seven weeks in the court of the Additional Sessions Judge and Special Judge Mrs Zinat Ara, reports BSS.

The business of the court was very brief and the proceedings will be taken up today, the judge said.

A F M Ziauddin Ahmed, a former director in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, was produced yesterday as a prosecution witness.

Ahmed was one of the members of the five-member committee appointed by then Secretary of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation to submit its recommendations on the procurement of the relief boats, prosecution sources said.

Ershad and a Japanese national serving in the trading firm Marubeni Corporation

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15 lakh converge at Biswa Ijtema

TONGI, Jan 7: The three-day Biswa Ijtema, the second largest congregation of world Muslims after the Hajj, began here today on the bank of the river Turag, report agencies.

Nearly 1.5 million devout Muslims from more than 70 countries are estimated in the huge crowd.

Organisers expect the number to double during the 'Akhari Munajat' (the concluding prayers) on Monday at the end of the Ijtema, held under the auspices of the Tablig Jamaat.

Almost 10,000 devotees from 45 countries have converged on the congregation venue, 20 kilometres north of the capital. They are from Saudi Arabia, the UK, USA, Algeria, Bahrain, the UAE, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sudan, Brunei Darussalam, Australia, France, South Africa, the Philippines, Chad, Nigeria, Singapore, Kuwait, Qatar, Turkey, Thailand, Morocco, Ethiopia, Jordan, India and Pakistan.

The devotees have assembled under a one square mile canopy raised on the occasion.

Religious lectures were delivered today.

"Rooms" for the devotees under the huge jute canopy have been arranged on a district basis. Separate arrangements have also been made for the foreigners and the religious leaders at the north-western corner of the Ijtema premises.

Bangladesh Railway will operate special trains till January 10 to (and from Tongi).

Arrangements have been made for supply of drinking water and electricity to the Ijtema premises.

Bangladesh Army and Navy have constructed some floating bridges on the river Turag for devotees coming from the other side of the river.

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8 killed, 44 injured in road accidents

From Staff Correspondent

School, received serious injuries when a bus hit him from behind. He was going to his school on a bi-cycle.

Later, he succumbed to his injuries at the sadar hospital. Two separate cases were filed with the police.

BSS reports, four persons were killed and 14 others injured when a Dhaka-bound mini-bus collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction at Kanahar under Trishal Police Station in Mymensingh yesterday morning.

Of the four dead, two passengers, Barin Majumder, 26, and Dayanaya, 30, died on the spot while two others Gendu Mia, 38, and Moimuddin, 25, died at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

The drivers of both the mini-bus and the truck fled following the accident.

According to eye-witness account, the mini-bus belonging to a 'gate-lock service' (direct) was in a high speed and met with the accident as it went to the wrong side. The bus was heavily damaged.

UNB from Sirajganj adds, a housewife Romena, 50, died on the spot when a speeding truck knocked her down at Sarisakola in Shahajadpur thana on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway yesterday.

Eight persons were killed and 44 others injured in road mishaps in Jhenidah, Mymensingh and Sirajganj yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Jhenidah reports, three people were killed and 30 others received injuries, seven of them seriously in separate road accidents in the district yesterday.

Witnesses said two people died on the spot when a bus bound for Jhenidah from Kushtia dashed against a traffic island at Arappur bus stand in the town at 4 am yesterday.

Advocate Prodyut Kumar, 35, and another unidentified man aged about 45, who were travelling in the bus, died on the spot. Both the bodies have been sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Seven people who were admitted to the Jhenidah Sadar Hospital are Nur Islam, 26, Rashid Mollah, 30, Rafiqul Islam, 25, Ramindra Roy, 42, Alfazuddin, 36, Shahidul Islam, 30, and Muntruzzaman, 25. All of them are said to be in critical condition.

Driver and the helper of the bus managed to flee the scene.

In another incident at Goalpara on Jhenidah-Magura road at 11 yesterday morning, Alamgir, an SSC examinee from Jhenidah Model High

Speaker attends office

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali went to his office yesterday for the first time after recovering from a minor heart ailment.

He was admitted to the Suhrawardy Hospital on December 30 and was released Wednesday.

"The Speaker stayed in his chamber for a brief period and went through some important files," a Parliament secretary source told The Daily Star last night.

Resignation letters of 147 Opposition MPs remained pending for the Speaker's decision regarding their validity. The MPs, belonging to the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, submitted their resignations on December 28, a day after the expiry of their 'deadline' for the government to accept the demand for a caretaker administration for holding general elections.

JS sources said that Razzak Ali might start normal daily activities today.

Fresh polls only answer to present crisis: Tofael

Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed yesterday asked the government to immediately dissolve Parliament and transfer power to a non-partisan caretaker government for holding general elections.

"After our resignation, fresh election under a neutral non-party caretaker government is only answer to the present crisis," he told UNB.

Tofael expressed his ignorance of the reported government move to resolve the crisis. Had the government been honest towards ending the crisis, it could have been resolved before December 27, he added.

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Protest against deferment of CHT polls

By Staff Correspondent

The Greater Chittagong Hill Tracts Students' Council (GCHTSC) yesterday protested the extension of time-limit for holding elections to the local government bodies of the country's three hill districts.

The government on Thursday extended the time-limit for polls to the local government councils of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban.

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বাংলাদেশ রাইফেলস

দ্বিশত বার্ষিকী
১৭৯৫-১৯৯৫

বাংলাদেশ রাইফেলস-এর দ্বিশত বার্ষিকী উদযাপন উপলক্ষে সকল রাইফেলস সদস্য দেশবাসীকে জানাচ্ছে সশ্রদ্ধ সালাম

'দ্বিশত বর্ষ পূর্তি' বিশেষ অনুষ্ঠানমালা

- ০৯ জানুয়ারী ৯৫ : * মানবতার সেবার রাইফেলস সদস্যবৃন্দের বৈশ্বীয় বক্তৃদান।
- ১০ জানুয়ারী ৯৫ : * বাংলাদেশ রাইফেলস-এর 'দ্বিশত বর্ষ পূর্তি' উপলক্ষে স্বাক্ষর ডাকটিকেট প্রকাশ।
- ১১ জানুয়ারী ৯৫ : * রাইফেলস সদস্যবৃন্দের আনুষ্ঠানিক কুচকাওয়াজ।
- ** রাইফেলস পরিবার কল্যাণ সমিতির উন্নতিকল্পে হস্তশিল্প প্রদর্শনী।
- ১২ জানুয়ারী ৯৫ : * বাংলাদেশ রাইফেলস-এর 'দ্বিশত বর্ষ পূর্তি' উপলক্ষে বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশনে বিশেষ সেমিনার/অনুষ্ঠান।
- ১৩ জানুয়ারী ৯৫ : * 'দ্বিশত বর্ষ পূর্তি' উপলক্ষে প্রেশামূলক চোরাচালান বিবোধী ওয়াকাখন।
- ** রাইফেলস সদস্যবৃন্দের অংশগ্রহণে স্বাক্ষরীয় টাই শে।
- ১৪ জানুয়ারী ৯৫ : * বাংলাদেশ রাইফেলস-এর বীর শ্রেষ্ঠত্বের পরিবারবর্গের সংবর্ধনা।
- ** রাইফেলস পরিবারবর্গের অংশগ্রহণে বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশনে বিশেষ ম্যাসাজিন অনুষ্ঠান অতনু প্রহরী।
- ১৫ জানুয়ারী ৯৫ : * রাইফেলস সেক্টর কমান্ডারশ্বের সংবর্ধন।
- ১৭ জানুয়ারী ৯৫ : * বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশনে প্রেশামূলক স্ব স্ব দেশী চলচ্চিত্র 'সীত চেতনা'।
- ** সর্বসাধারণের জন্য ঢাকা ১ নম্বর জাতীয় স্টেডিয়ামে ১৯৩০ ঘটিকায় 'টাই শে' প্রদর্শনী।

বাংলাদেশ রাইফেলস
সীমান্তের অতনু প্রহরী

D-25