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# The Daily Star

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**STOCK MARKET**

DSE Index	832.89 (+1.02%)
Market capitalisation Tk	48.22 billion
Turnover in volume	46,247
Turnover in value Tk	3.36 million

**Supplement**

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Dhaka Day by Day



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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Hasina leaves for Ctg this morning**

By Staff Correspondent  
Awami League president Sheikh Hasina will leave Dhaka for Chittagong this morning. She will address the concluding session of the 39th Annual Conference of the Engineers' Institution, Bangladesh at the Institution centre in the evening as chief guest.

**New BNP nominee for Sherpur-3 by-polls**

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has nominated Md Hedayatullah for the by-election to the Sherpur-3 constituency by changing its earlier nominee. The party had nominated Mahmudul Haq for the by-election as its candidate. According to the latest decision of the party, Md Hedayatullah is the BNP's candidate, reports BSS.

**Mahila Dal meets Jan 14**

An emergency meeting of the Bangladesh Nationalist Mahila Dal will be held on January 14 at 4:00 pm at its 28/1, Nayapalton office. Women MPs, central committee members and presidents and secretaries of all thana units of Dhaka city have been requested to attend the meeting, reports BSS.

**One killed in road mishap**

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Jan 11: One person was killed and at least five others were injured in a road accident in Malibagh area under Bandar Thana here early today. The deceased was identified as the helper of a truck involved in the accident but his name could not be known immediately. The injured were released after first aid. The mishap happened when one Chittagong-bound truck (ICG Metro Dha-1496) hit another Chittagong-bound truck (ICG Metro Na-3000) from behind at Malibagh.

## Dudayev for talks to end bloody war



Dzhokar Dudayev

GROZNY, Jan 11: Appearing publicly for the first time in days, Chechen President Dzhokar Dudayev said today he was still willing to hold talks with Russia and stressed that the war had to end because of the senseless casualties, reports AP.

But there was no evidence of peace in the battered Chechen capital. Heavy artillery shelling rocked the centre and Russian and Chechen forces engaged in fierce fighting, shattering an uneasy calm that had prevailed early in the day.

Russia's parliament held an urgent discussion on the war. One lawmaker said Russian forces appeared en route to a

pyrrhic victory, and another said 1,500 Russian soldiers had been killed in the month-old conflict.

In Brussels, the NATO allies urged Moscow to end the violence and negotiate a peaceful solution.

Looking pale and drawn as he spoke with journalists in Grozny, Dudayev spoke less harshly than in the past. He did not set any conditions for negotiations and said only a peaceful solution could end the war.

There is no other resolution but a peaceful one, he said. We were and still are ready for the fourth year now. See Page 12 Col 8

## 2 accords for oil, gas exploration signed

By Staff Correspondent

The Occidental International Exploration and Production Company, a subsidiary of the US-based petroleum giant, entered into two separate production sharing contracts (PSCs) with Bangladesh yesterday for exploring, and developing oil and gas fields in the northeastern part of the country.

Under the contracts, Occidental will explore oil and gas in three pre-determined blocks — numbers 12, 13 and 14 — encompassing an area of 12, 140 square kilometres in the Surma basin of the greater Sylhet district.

Deputy Secretary of the Energy Ministry M A Khair, Petrobangla Secretary A Jalil Khan and Occidental representative Gary Burchaell signed the contracts on behalf of their respective sides yesterday evening at a ceremony at a local hotel.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Planning Dr Moyeen Khan, US ambassador David N Merrill and senior officials of the Energy Ministry and Petrobangla were also present during the signing ceremony.

During the initial exploration period, Occidental will conduct at least 1,250-kilometre seismic survey and drill a minimum of two exploratory wells at an estimated cost of US dollars 43.2 million.

The contracts will remain valid for seven years. If any commercially viable oil or gas field is discovered, the contracts will then be valid for 20 years. See Page 12 Col 7

## Opposition brings out processions

By Staff Correspondent

Three major opposition parties yesterday brought out processions as part of their 9-day programme to press the demand for general elections under a caretaker government.

The Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami announced their latest programme on January 4. The programme will culminate into a country-wide rail-road blockade on January 19.

The Awami League (AL) brought out processions in different wards of the capital chanting slogans for dissolution of Parliament and general elections under a caretaker government.

The AL will also bring out processions in different thanas in the city today. A procession will be brought out tomorrow. See Page 12 Col 6

## Radars purchase scandal Ershad, two ex-BAF chiefs arraigned

Two former chiefs of the Bangladesh Air Force were yesterday arraigned in a special judge's court which is to take up a corruption case against them along with deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad, reports BSS.

Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Sultan Mahmud and Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Momtazuddin Ahmed are co-accused with Shahzad Ali and AKM Musa, both directors of United Traders, Dhaka, a business firm, in a radar purchase deal where Ershad is the principal accused, according to the FIR.

District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka and Special Judge, M Abdus Salam adjourned the hearing following several prayers for the defence and fixed January 31 for the hearing of the charge and a bail prayer of accused Ershad.

All the accused with the exception of Musa were present in the court.

According to the first information report (FIR) lodged with the Cantonment thana on May 4, 1992 the accused, in collusion with each other, procured three radars from Westinghouse, a company in the United States, by misusing their official powers and

thereby caused the state to suffer financial loss to the tune of Taka 64,04,42,918.10.

The accused, by their acts, have committed offence under Section 109/409 of the Penal Code and Section 4 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1947, the charge said.

According to prosecution sources, a proposal to procure radars were taken up in 1980 and late president Ziaur Rahman approved a deal to buy the equipment from the Thompson CSF, a French company, at a cost of 20.48 million dollars. However, because of a paucity of funds and other reasons, the procurement was delayed and the matter was taken up in 1983 following the change of governments. Westinghouse's offer came up at that time.

Defence Secretary Anisuzzaman, in his summary to the then president Ershad, had highlighted the comparative advantages of the two offers. Westinghouse's offer was 40.96 million dollars. The secretary also stated in his note that the French company was also willing to supply the radars at half the price, of its. See Page 12 Col 7

## Rao sacks Tamil Nadu Cong chief

NEW DELHI, Jan 11: Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao today sacked a top Congress Party official in a southern state who defied his leadership, a party spokesman said, reports AP.

Rao punished V K Ramamurthy, who heads the party in Tamil Nadu state, for boycotting his visit to the state last week.

Ramamurthy also annoyed the prime minister by joining his biggest critic, Arjun Singh, who resigned from Rao's cabinet last month.

Rao may expel Arjun Singh from the Congress party, news reports said.

Singh, who hopes to become India's next prime minister, resigned as human resources minister December 24, saying he could not remain part of a corrupt government.

Ramamurthy has long been bickering with the regional party in power in Tamil Nadu state under the leadership of Jayaram Jayalalitha, a charismatic former film actress.

She enraged Ramamurthy by not inviting him and his supporters to a conference on the language, mythology and literature of Tamils where Rao was invited to make a speech.

Ramamurthy vainly pleaded with Rao to decline the invitation. See Page 12 Col 4

## PM to visit Sri Lanka from Jan 25

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is also the current Chairperson of the SAARC will pay a two-day official visit to Sri Lanka from January 25. It was learnt yesterday.

The trip is part of the traditional visit to all SAARC countries by the Chairperson before the summit conference is held. The next SAARC summit is due to take place in New Delhi in April this year.

Sri Lanka is the fourth SAARC country Begum Khaleda Zia would be visiting before the next summit. She has already visited Bhutan, Nepal, and the Maldives. The dates for trips to two other countries, India and

See Page 12 Col 1

## Speaker's ruling delayed again

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali needs some more time to give his decision on the resignation of 147 Opposition MPs since, he said. The matter is very complex from the constitutional, conventional and legal points of view.

The Parliament Secretariat, in a press release yesterday evening, said the Speaker had hoped it would be possible on his part to give the decision by Wednesday. But since the matter is very complicated from the constitutional as well as legal points of view and is of national importance, it is essential to examine the issue in details, it added.

He (Speaker) is working on it. The ruling would be given as soon as possible, the press release said.

The MPs belonging to three major opposition parties submitted their resignations on December 28 following boycott of Parliament sessions since March last year in demand for a caretaker government to supervise the general elections.

Meanwhile, political circles said that Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's latest speech at a public meeting in Dhaka Tuesday indicated a 'positive view', and appeared to hold out some hope of an amicable resolution of the present political impasse.

Hasina said the Opposition could accept an advisory council. See Page 12 Col 3

## US trade show begins today

By Staff Correspondent  
The fourth annual US Trade Show begins in the capital today.

Jointly organised by the US Embassy and the American-Bangladesh Economic Forum (ABEF), the three-day exhibition will be participated by 42 exhibitors representing some 120 US companies.

Minister for Information and Commerce M Shamsul Islam is likely to inaugurate the trade show at 10 am at the Sheraton Hotel.

The US companies to be represented at the trade show includes American Life Insurance Company, Compaq Computers, Caterpillar, Motorola, United Airlines, Cargill, Coca-Cola, Hewlett Packard, Novell, Federal Express, Citibank, Apple Computers, IBM, Caltex, Bose Corp, and American

See Page 12 Col 7

## FBCCI to hold nat'l convention of businessmen

By Staff Correspondent

The executive committee of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday decided to hold a national convention of the businessmen shortly to discuss their problems and find out ways to resolve those.

The committee, at an emergency meeting chaired by FBCCI President Saiman F Rahman, also decided to publish a white paper on how political unrest has been affecting the business and the economy as a whole.

The meeting held at the conference hall of the federation said that the white paper would be distributed among the politicians both in the ruling party and in the Opposition to make them aware of the effects of hartals and such other. See Page 12 Col 8



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inspecting the march past on the occasion of bicentennial celebration of the Bangladesh Rifles at its headquarters at Peelkhana in the city yesterday. — PID photo

## BDR asked to crack down on smuggling

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the BDR to crack down on smuggling which, she said, was a curse on the national economy and an impediment to industrialisation of the country, reports UNB.

She was addressing a reunion of the BDR men on the occasion of the bicentennial celebrations of the Bangladesh Rifles at the BDR headquarters in the city yesterday.

"In the greater interest of the nation and for maintaining the tempo of the development drive, smugglers should be dealt with an iron hand," the Prime Minister told the border guards.

"You have to keep in mind that none can be allowed to harm the national interest for personal benefit," she said and urged the BDR personnel to perform their duties faithfully, with determination and courage, rising above all temptations.

Begum Zia lauded the performance of the BDR and said it would be possible to curb smuggling through sincere effort and aloof cooperation from the people.

Besides safeguarding the frontiers, the BDR force has made commendable contributions in various important. See Page 12 Col 3

## Resist destructive activities: PM

RIKABI BAZAR (Munshiganj), Jan 11: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here today that Bangladesh has progressed a lot both in respect of development and reputation at home and abroad, reports BSS.

Addressing a big public meeting at the Rikabi Bazar field here, she said that the development programmes initiated by the BNP government had resulted in the construction and repair of a large number of roads, bridges, schools and colleges and the supply of electricity.

Begum Zia said that there were now two clear trends in the country — one of development, being carried out by the government, and another of welfare of the people, creating employment opportunities, and spreading education and solving innumerable other problems.

"The people want more development solution to their problems," she said, urging the people to continue their cooperation with the government and resist all sorts of activities hampering public life, disrupting development and democracy.

Begum Zia said that there were now two clear trends in the country — one of development, being carried out by the government, and another of welfare of the people, creating employment opportunities, and spreading education and solving innumerable other problems. See Page 12 Col 1

## Night navigation at Ctg port resumes today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 11: Night navigation will resume tomorrow at Chittagong Port channel after over a month of trial, operation official sources said.

The inaugural function, organised by the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), will be held on board a ship — BLV Lusai.

Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdus Salam Talukder will attend the function as the chief guest and Minister for Shipping M K Anwar will be the special guest.

Night navigation at the port. See Page 12 Col 6

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Shinepukur Jute Spinners Ltd (SJS) has offered rights shares to its existing shareholders on 1:125 basis at par @ Taka 100/- per share for diversifying its business into real estate and property development and in the proposed Hyatt Regency 5 star hotel project details of which have been provided in the "Offer to Shareholders" dated 26th December 1994.

Existing shareholders have been given the option to renounce their rights in full or in part in favour of any sane adult person(s).

New Dacca Industries Ltd, a shareholder of SJS intends to renounce part of its rights to any interested investor(s) on a "first come first served" basis at a price of Taka 10/- for each new share.

Interested investors may collect renunciated forms from IFIC Bank Ltd, Federation Branch, Motijheel C/A Dhaka against payment latest by 15th January 1995. Renunciated forms are also available from the members of the Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd.

Interested investors are advised to carefully study the "Offer to shareholders" issued by SJS dated 26th December 1994 prior to making any investment decision. This announcement in no way should be treated as a promotion on behalf of SJS, the issuer.



AN EXCEPTION: Banya, an Indian lioness at the Dhaka Zoo, seen with her four newly-born cubs. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## Lonely souls at Dhaka Zoo

By Morshed Ali Khan

The clouded leopard, one of the country's endangered species, has spent about twelve years in the Dhaka Zoo without a partner. With loneliness taking its toll on the health of this beautiful cat, his days now seem numbered.

Of the 312 species of animals in the Dhaka Zoo, many live in total isolation. The orangutan, giraffe, zebra are sick in their cages and pens because they also do not have partners. Last year the authorities tried in vain to arrange partners for these animals, but tenders for that went without any response.

The zoo's latest inmate is a 162kg sea turtle, scientifically known as Selinia Chelonia. It is 30-40 years old and may live up to 100 years. It was caught by fishermen in Banakkhalir Char, Noakhali, recently. The fishermen claimed they struggled to bring it to the zoo. See Page 12 Col 6