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STOCK MARKET
DSE Index: 815.90 (+0.27%)
Market capitalization Tk: 38,40 billion
Turnover in volume: 39,095.75
Turnover in value Tk: 724 million

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16 killed, 15 missing as bus falls into river

PABNA, Jan 26: At least 16 people were killed when a bus fell into the Ichhamati river breaking the railing of a bridge on Bogra-Nagarbari highway at Karamja in Sathia thana today, reports UNB.

The death toll in the road accident might go up as officials said another 15 people, including the driver and helper of the bus, were missing.

Police said a Bogra-bound bus of Reza Paribahan carrying 4 murdered in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Jan 26: Four persons were murdered in Chittagong in the last two days. Police said a house maid Kohinor, 12, was allegedly tortured to death on Wednesday night in the house of PDB Sub-Assistant Engineer Jinal Abedin at Hajar Dighir Par of Edgah here.

Doublemooing police recovered the body of the girl from her master's house this morning and arrested the From Page 1 Col 7

at least 50 passengers tumbled into the river smashing the bridge railing at about 2 pm while trying to give way to another bus coming from the opposite direction.

Till 8 pm, firemen and police with the help of local people recovered 16 bodies while 15 are still missing, official sources said. The rest of the passengers swam ashore.

The dead were identified as Moksed Ali, 35, and Jamal Uddin, 40, of Bera, Pabna; Nizam, 5, and Gautam Kumar, 25, of village Gangaprasad, Shahjadpur, Sirajganj; Monwar Hossain, 38, of village Karamja, Sathia, Pabna; Moktar Hossain, 35, and Abdus Sabur, 35, of village Zamirra, Shahjadpur, Pabna; Alauddin, 28, of village Tithulia, Chouhall, Sirajganj; Alam, 12, and Shamsuddin, 28, of Belkuchi, Pabna; Amzad, 25, of Nagarbari, Akher Pramanik, 46, of Roumari, Kurigram; Sakhina Bibi, 25, of village Masampur, Sirajganj; Layek Uddin, 30, of Rasulpur, Lalmonirhat; Mazdar Hossain, 25, of Zhaulata, Bogra, and Mazeda Khatun, 40, of Ramdhanbari, Sirajganj.

Ten of the dead were handed over to their relatives while the rest were at Pabna Sadar Hospital morgue, district administration and hospital sources said.

Deputy Commissioner and Police Superintendent of Pabna visited the spot immediately after the accident.

A pall of gloom descended on the scene as hundreds of people kept looking for their near and dear ones.

Fire brigade sources said they salvaged the bus from the river in the evening. A case has been filed with Sathia thana.

Bank murder: 3 more arrested

By Staff Correspondent
The detective police arrested another woman and two other men yesterday for their alleged involvement in the recent dacoity and murder in the city's Sonali Bank corporate branch.

Declining to name the nabbed persons, a senior Detective Branch (DB) officer told The Daily Star "We've almost found all the clues. Now it is a matter of time and arrest of a few more involved in See Page 8 Col 7

JS by-polls: 3 unofficially elected

By Staff Correspondent
Unofficial results of three out of four parliamentary by-elections held Wednesday were declared yesterday. The counting of votes in the other constituency was not completed till filing of this report late last night.

BNP nominees Kazi Golam Morshed and Principal Abdul Rashid Khan were unofficially declared winners in the Natore-3 and Bakerganj-6 constituencies respectively while Md Mahmudul Haq, an independent candidate, was also unofficially declared elected from the Sherpur-3 constituency by the returning officer.

Vote counting in four out of 69 polling centres in the Brahmanbaria-6 Jatiya Sangsad constituency was either suspended or delayed due to various reasons. Election Commission (EC) sources said last night.

According to EC sources, voting at one polling centre in Brahmanbaria-6 (Bancharampur) was postponed due to violence that left one person dead and at least 14 others injured during Wednesday's polling. Votes of See Page 8 Col 8



Popular singer Runa Laila held a concert in a city hotel yesterday. — Star photo

Attack on motorcade

Search to round up culprits on, Matin tells JS

By Staff Correspondent
Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury yesterday told Parliament that actions are being taken against those involved in hurling bombs at the Prime Minister's motorcade on January 24.

Making a statement on the incident, the Home Minister said that the Additional Police Commissioner has been asked to investigate the matter and that a search was on to round up the culprits.

He said some Opposition supporters who were enforcing a hartal, had thrown the bombs from a lane near the Tejgunipara area when Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was returning after inaugurating the investment conference at Hotel Sonargaon.

Earlier, on Wednesday, Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury expressed concern at the incident and demanded a statement from the Home Minister.

Matin Chowdhury said that the Opposition-called hartal was designed to foil the conference which was attended by See Page 8 Col 1

Saudi troops closing in on border, says Yemen

SANAA, Jan 26: Yemen accused Saudi Arabia of deploying troops within three kilometres of the frontline on their disputed border today, as diplomats disclosed 54 people died in a clash two weeks ago.

Western diplomats in the Gulf added that Saudi Arabia had been massing its forces along the border for 48 hours as the two sides held talks this week in Riyadh to try to settle the dispute.

The Saudis were now "three kilometres (two miles) from our first lines of defence," an officer in the Yemeni army told AFP.

"Our troops are keeping their initial positions, with the normal numbers and without any reinforcements," he said. But the Saudis are massing troops on the border for the third straight day.

Diplomats and political sources here said Wednesday that Saudi Arabia had massed troops, tanks and missile batteries along the southwestern part of its border with Yemen.

It has also deployed F-15 and F-16 warplanes and Apache attack helicopters flown from Tabuk Air Base in the northeast to Khamis-Mushayt and Jizan in the southwest, Yemeni political sources said.

The Saudi troop movements took place near the Saada region of northwest Yemen and opposite the communities of Al-Wadi and Al-Shurura, they said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Fawzi Al-Shara, whose country led mediation efforts after clashes earlier this month, told AFP he had been in contact today with both sides in Riyadh.

Both parties expressed their wish to contain the situation on the border, and it was not necessary to send mediators to the two countries, Shara said.

One Yemeni political source who declined to be named said the Saudi Kingdom's military deployment was "a kind of pressure on the Yemenis for them to make concessions" during the talks that began Monday in Riyadh.

But Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh had pledged that "even in case of Saudi aggression, Yemen will not respond."

JS to decide HC ruling: Speaker

By Asituzzaman
Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali yesterday said that the matter of the High Court ruling relating to him would be decided in Parliament.

"Let Parliament decide (the issue). I have no comment," he told The Daily Star in a brief impromptu interview last night.

When asked whether he had replied to the show-cause notice served on him by the HC bench, he said: "No reply has been given from my side till today."

He evaded several other questions as he was getting into his car to go home after yesterday's Sangsad session around 9:50 pm.

On January 18 a division bench of the High Court issued a rule nisi

on the Speaker to show cause why action should not be taken by him, as required by the Constitution, regarding the resignation letters of 147 Opposition MPs who quit Parliament en masse December 28 last.

The Opposition MPs' resignation letters were still pending with the Speaker for a decision regarding their validity and procedural action.

The bench comprising Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman and M Hamdul Huq yesterday referred the matter to the Chief Justice.

Dhaka, Colombo for jute trade, direct airlinks

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have agreed to bolster relations between the two countries, particularly in trade and economic fields, to the mutual benefits of the two peoples, reports UNB.

The agreement was reached during the two-day official visit of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to Sri Lanka, said a joint communique issued simultaneously in Dhaka and Colombo at the end of the visit yesterday.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister and Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga, during their official talks, expressed their determination to further enhance the existing warm, friendly and cooperative ties between the two countries.

They observed that there was scope for even further expansion and diversification for mutually beneficial cooperation, specially in the field of trade.

The two leaders laid emphasis on the trade of jute products between the two countries.

The communique said that the two sides reiterated the need for working towards early establishment of direct airlinks between Dhaka and Colombo and agreed to in-

See Page 8 Col 4

Chandrika to visit Bangladesh

President Chandrika Kumaratunga of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has been invited to visit Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, extended the invitation to President Kumaratunga during her just concluded visit to Sri Lanka.

The Lankan president has accepted the invitation and agreed to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time.

Resignation of MPs: Writs referred to CJ

Supreme Court Correspondent
A division bench of the High Court yesterday referred the two writs concerning the resignations of 147 Opposition MPs to the Chief Justice for his decision on the prayers for constituting a larger bench to hear the petitions.

The bench, comprising Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman and Justice M Hamdul Huq, announced the decision after hearing three separate applications filed by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed and Jamaat leader Matur Rahman Nizami for a larger or special bench to hear the cases.

The first writ was filed by Advocate Tawfiq Hossain challenging the constitutional and legal validity of the en masse resignations by the 147 MPs and demanded that the said resignations should be declared illegal.

Opposition leaders Sheikh Hasina, Moudud Ahmed and Matur Rahman Nizami, as well as the Speaker, Shaikh Razzak Ali, are among the respondents named in the writ moved by Advocate Md Moksudur Rahman on January 18.

The other writ, against the Speaker and the Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat, has been filed by one Md Alauddin Khaled, challenging the respondents' delay in disposing of the MPs' resignations.

That writ was also moved on January 18 by Advocate A B M Nurul Islam.

The HC bench issued rules on the respondents in both the writs, asking them to show cause within seven days. The judges also ruled that both the writs would be heard analogously.

During yesterday's hearing See Page 8 Col 6

Prokrichi-BCS plan 120-hour strike in Apr

By Staff Correspondent
Members of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council will launch a 120-hour strike in April to force the government accept their 17 point demand.

Besides, they would also submit a memorandum to the Chief Election Commissioner and hold rallies across the country.

The programme was announced at a meeting of the Action Council in Dhaka yesterday.

The nearly one month-long programme of the Prokrichi includes rallies at all districts, publicity campaign and meetings with the political parties, student organisations and professional groups.

At the meeting, leaders of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council blamed the political leadership for the existing crisis in the country.

People don't want BNP govt anymore: Hasina

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the agitation of the people would continue until the fall of this 'illegal and corrupt' government, reports UNB.

"The people don't want this government anymore, so it should quit as soon as possible," the Awami League President told a rally before leading a mass procession from Pallabi at Mirpur in the city in the afternoon.

The two-hour mass procession, arranged as part of the action programme designed to press the demand for a caretaker government, ended at Kalyanpur at about 6:45 pm after parading through Mirpur and Ghabali.

During the nearly seven-kilometre march, the processionists, waving placards and festoons, chanted anti-government slogans.

The BNP government has no right to stay in power because it became illegal with the en masse resignation of the opposition MPs, Hasina said, demanding immediate resignation of the government.

As many as 147 opposition MPs resigned from Parliament on December 28 to protect the people's rights of voting and food, she added.

"We tried our best to speak about the problems of the people in Parliament, about the corruption of the ministers See Page 8 Col 5

James P Grant quits Unicef

The Executive Director of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant tendered his resignation to UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali, UNICEF announced in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

Grant, who assumed office of the third Executive Director of UNICEF with the rank of Under Secretary General of UN on January 1, 1980, resigned on health ground, said a UNICEF press release.

United Nations Secretary General asked Richard Jolly to continue as acting Executive Director of UNICEF during the interim period.

"Serving as UNICEF Executive Director for 15 years has been the greatest privilege of my life, the capstone of my 50 years of international service," Grant said in his resignation letter.

During his tenure Grant showed an unflinching commitment, vision and dedication to improving lives of children of world's least developed See Page 8 Col 7

Political unrest may spoil reforms, fears Saifur

By Staff Correspondent
The ongoing economic reform programme may be the first casualty if the current political unrest persists, feared Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday.

"I feel extremely disturbed because all the hard work has already been done. We are halfway there and until we carry out the remaining reforms, we won't get the expected results," the worried minister told members of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

"We are trying to find a solution and as the Finance Minister I am the most disturbed man," he said. "A market-driven economy cannot work without a democratic set-up and rule of law, these are sine qua non for allowing free play of action."

The main stumbling block in the current negotiations between the ruling and opposi-

tion parties is allowing elected members of the Fifth Parliament to become cabinet members in a caretaker government under the President, Rahman explained.

Describing the political uncertainty as a "peculiar situation," he said, "The government went the whole hog to resolve the situation and to weather the political storm."

The ruling party, he added, agreed to the formation of a 'national' government under the President, with the Prime Minister resigning before the elections as per constitutional provisions.

Under the formula, the elected members of the Fifth Parliament, including those who resigned, are eligible to become a minister in the national government, the ministers See Page 8 Col 2

TU leaders may announce fresh programme

Star Report
Trade union leaders of the jute and textiles sectors are scheduled to meet at a convention in the city this morning to chart out a fresh agitation programme to realise their demands.

The new action programmes of the workers may include road-rail barricades and strikes early next month, trade union sources said.

Today's convention will be held near the CPB office at 10 in the morning.

Four trade unions and federations of this sector enforced a 72-hour road-rail blockade and strike during January 22-24 to press their demands which include an official declaration by the government that it would implement the mid-1992 government-trade bodies accords.

The fresh agitation will also be in protest against alleged police atrocities which resulted in the deaths of two industrial workers and injuries to several hundred during the just-concluded nationwide barricade programme. Punishment of those responsible for the deaths, compensation for the victims' families and release of those arrested during the recent unrest are also among the labour leaders' demands.

The 1992 agreements provided for a new wages commission for the workers, consultation with the relevant labour leaders prior to disinvesting any industrial unit, re-

See Page 8 Col 3

Dilip Kumar calls on President

Visiting Indian film star Dilip Kumar alias Yusuf Khan and members of his delegation called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

During the meeting the President exchanged pleasantries with the actor and his delegation and appreciated Dilip's success in the film industry through hard work and devotion.

Dilip Kumar expressed gratitude to the President for the love and hospitality extended to him and to the members of his delegation during his visit to Bangladesh.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahanara Begum, former state minister Nurul Huda, Secretary to the President Ataul Huq, Military Secretary to the President Major General Sardar Md Ali Hasan were among those present on the occasion.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কয়লা পরিদপ্তর (বিলুপ্ত), বিলুপ্তিকরণ সেল
৪৮, মতিবিল বা/এ, ঢাকা।
২. বন্দি/কয়লা বিক্রয়/১৪৮/৩৬-১/১৪৮/১৬ তারিখ: ১১-১০-১৯০১ বা ২৪-০১-১৯৯৫ ইং

কয়লা বিক্রয়ের সংক্ষিপ্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১. বন্দনা-২ নম্বর ও কয়লা সেক্টর সরকারী কয়লা ভিপোতে মজদুরকৃত কয়লা সীত চৌধুরীর মাধ্যমে বিক্রয়ের জন্য আর্থী কেডেনের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত কয়লা দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হইতেছে। উক্ত ভিপোতে মজদুর কয়লার পরিমাণসহ বিস্তারিত তথ্যকালী দরপত্র তফসীলে উল্লেখিত আছে। নিম্নলিখিতকর্তার দরপত্র, বন্দনা ও মৌলভীবাজার জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয় এবং সরকার অনুমোদিত নিলামকারী মেসার্স এলজেস ট্রেডার্স, ১২, জহুরা হাট, বালাঘাট, ঢাকা হইতে নগদ ২০০/= (দুইশত) টাকা (অফিসেরযোগে) প্রদান করিয়া আর্থী ০১-০২-১৯৯৫ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দরপত্র তফসীল সম্বন্ধে করা হইবে।

২. দরপত্র তফসীলের সহিত সেল প্রদান, কয়লা পরিদপ্তর (বিলুপ্ত), বিলুপ্তিকরণ সেল-এর অনুসন্ধান বিভাগের মূল্যের উপর ২-২ ১/২% (আড়াই শতাংশ) হারে আবেদনহীন ভাবে কোন তফসীলভুক্ত ব্যাংক কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত পেম-অর্ডার করে দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

৩. আর্থী ০১-০২-১৯৯৫ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ভিপোর কয়লা পরিদপ্তর করা হইবে।

৪. নিম্নলিখিতকর্তার দরপত্র এবং বন্দনা ও মৌলভীবাজার জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়ে প্রাপ্ত টেন্ডার করে আর্থী ০২-০২-১৯৯৫ ইং তারিখে সকাল ১০-০০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র দাখিল করা হইবে। উক্ত দিন বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার পরপর দাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) টেন্ডার বাতিল হইবে।

৫. একজন দরপত্রদাতা ভিপোর সমস্ত মজদুর কয়লা বা ১০০০ মেট্রিক টনের কয়লা দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে পারিবেন। সমস্ত মজদুর কয়লা সন্তোষজনক দরপত্রের পর্যায়ে সেল করা প্রদান পাইবে।

৬. প্রাপ্ত দরপত্র সম্বন্ধে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত অতি জরুরী ভিত্তিতে প্রদান করা হইবে।

৭. কোন কারণ দর্শাতে হুজুরী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

এম. শহিদ উদ্দাহ
সেল প্রধান ও আহ্বায়ক, টেন্ডার কমিটি,
ফোন ৪-২৩৩১১০

NEWS BRIEFS
BR probe body on Kamalapur incident
Bangladesh Railway authorities have formed a one-man enquiry committee to probe into the January 20 incident at Kamalapur station between passengers and railway employees over the delay of intercity Egara Sindh Express, reports UNB.

Gen Amin may become envoy
The services of Major General Amin Ahmed Chowdhury have been placed under deputation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. General Amin is expected to be appointed as Ambassador of a Bangladesh mission abroad, said an official handout last night, reports UNB.