

**Inside Today**

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**STOCK MARKET**

DSE Index 819.95 (+0.03%)  
Market capitalisation Tk 39.61 billion  
Turnover in volume 122893  
Turnover in value Tk 22.37 million

**Weekend Magazine**

James P Grant: A Man Driven by a Dream; UN System's Moving Spirit; Bibhutibhusan and the Prison House of Colonialism; Revisiting Heavenly Legacy; Gift of Dilip Kumar; Viewing Video; Weekend Sports; Teens and Twenties; Rising Stars; Living Pages 9-16

## Speaker opposes writ on ground of prematurity

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali in an affidavit filed before the High Court yesterday described the writ challenging the en masse resignations of opposition MPs as 'premature and not maintainable'.

Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandaker filed the affidavit in opposition on behalf of the Speaker, who was made one of the respondents in the writ petition by one Taufiq Hossain.

Another Additional Attorney General, Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, also filed a separate affidavit on behalf of the Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, who is also a respondent.

The affidavit containing the

reply of the Speaker was placed before the High Court yesterday at 3:15 pm when the hearing on the writ was about to end for the day. The copies of the Speaker's reply were also served to the parties concerned.

The Speaker, in his reply, said that the petition was not maintainable because it was filed before he could examine the resignation letters and arrive at a final decision.

Narrating how he received the resignation letters, the Speaker in his affidavit said that on December 28 at about 9 pm, three folders containing resignation letters of the MPs were submitted to him. One of the folders was submitted by Leader of the Opposition and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina while two other folders were handed over to the Speaker by Jatiya Party leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Jamaat-Islami leader Matur Rahman Nizami. The leaders, while submitting the folders, said that those contained resignation letters of almost all the members of Parliament of their respective parties.

Having received the folders, the Speaker announced that the letters said to be inside those folders required scrutiny and examination as per provision of Article 67 (2) of the Constitution and Rule 177 of the Rules of Procedure. The Speaker also requested the MPs to appear before him in his office for compliance with the constitutional and procedural requirements.

The affidavit further stated that the Speaker then started calling some Jamaat MPs by name but none was found. Only Salauddin Quader Chowdhury of the NDP, who was there, submitted his resignation letter in person.

After scrutiny, the Speaker said he found that signatures of two Awami League MPs, Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury and

## New SEC guidelines for investors

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday announced a set of guidelines on initial public offering to the local investors to protect investors' interest in securities, reports BSS.

According to an official source, under the guidelines, the minimum lot in the initial public offering (IPO) shall be securities worth Taka 5,000.

Fifty per cent of the amount of the net IPO (IPO minus foreign placement minus quota for ICB unit/mutual funds and employees) shall be reserved for the applicants for minimum lot.

The balance 50 per cent of the amount of the net IPO shall be reserved for applicants of securities of the following ranges:

For all applicants up to Tk 50,000 — 10 per cent; up to Tk 1,00,000 — 10 per cent; and up to Tk 5,00,000 — 10 per cent.

The rest 20 per cent of the net IPO will be reserved for financial institutions, insurance companies and financial and market intermediary companies with applications for a minimum lot of above Tk 5,00,000.

Applicants must apply for securities worth Tk 5,000 or multiples thereof.

Quota for the ICB unit/mutual funds and employees in the IPO shall be 20 per cent and five per cent respectively of the IPO available for local investors (IPO minus foreign investors). Employees shall include permanent employees of all associated companies.

Refund of over-subscription money shall be made by account payee cheque. For the purpose, the number of bank

## JS session may be prorogued Monday

**By Staff Correspondent**

The Business Advisory Committee of Parliament yesterday decided to prorogue the session on Monday following a resolution on the inaugural speech of the President, a committee member said.

The meeting chaired by Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali took the decision to prorogue as there was no business left to continue the 18th session, the source said.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain and M Majidul Huq were present at the 14-member committee meeting. Majidul Huq represented the Prime Minister at the meeting.

Earlier, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali had said they were planning to prolong the session till mid-March to avoid another session in April. According to the Constitutional provision Parliament should meet within 60 days of the previous session.

The 18th session of the fifth Parliament began on January 23.

## Govt firm to tackle jute, textile sector strike

**By Staff Correspondent**

An inter-ministerial meeting yesterday drew up a 'contingency plan' to face any 'unlawful and illegal' activities during the strike and barricade programmes of jute and textile mill workers scheduled to begin on February 12.

"We have reviewed the overall situation and decided to take measures in accordance with the existing law," Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah told The Daily Star over telephone.

The jute and textile mills workers, both in the public and private sectors, recently announced a 96-hour strike at the mills and rail-road barricade programme (from 8 am to 2 pm everyday) from February 12 to 15.

Chaired by the Home Minister the hour-long inter-ministerial meeting was attended by the ministers for Jute, Textiles and Labour and Manpower.

The Labour and Manpower

## Take firm steps to stop strike, BEA urges govt.

The Bangladesh Employers' Association (BEA) yesterday urged the government to take firm measures to stop the planned strike and barricade programme of jute and textile mill workers, reports UNB.

The Association expressed deep concern over the workers' "gherao and aborodh" programme for implementation of the wage commission award in the private sector mills.

"No one should be allowed to indulge in trouble-making in the name of trade unionism," said a statement signed by BEA President Laila Rahman Kabir.

It said the wage commission was set up to recommend wages of public sector mills and factories and there should be no confusion as to whether its recommendations are applicable in the private sector.

The BEA feared that if the workers succeed in enforcing the wage commission award in jute and textile sectors then

## Time-scale for non-govt teachers

The government yesterday sanctioned time-scale for the teachers of the non-government secondary schools, colleges and madrassahs, reports BSS.

As per the time-scales, on completion of eight years' continuous service of a teacher, the existing scale of Tk 900-1530 will reach to the scale of Tk 975-1750, the scale of Tk 1200-2335 to the scale of Tk 1300-2615, the scale of Tk 1300-2615 to the scale of Tk 1375-2870, the scale of Tk 1375-2870 to the scale of Tk 1475-3150, scale of Tk 1725-3725 to the scale of Tk 2300-4480, the scale of Tk 2300-4480 to the scale of Tk 2850-5155.

The time-scale will be effective from July 1, 1994, an official handout said.

The government had earlier increased medical allowances of the non-government teachers.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia gave away prizes to the best teachers, institutions and students at the prize distribution ceremony of the National Education Week, 1995 at Osmany Memorial Hall in the city yesterday.

## 'TCB responsible for high price of salt'

**By Reaz Ahmad**

The government's policy of importing crude salt through the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) is responsible for inadequate supply and high price of salt in the market.

This was the finding of a survey conducted recently by the UNICEF, which has so far installed 234 salt iodination plants (SIP) in Bangladesh under its Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (CIDD) programme with grants from CIDA.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Salt Mills Owners Association, which is on an indefinite strike since February 5 is demanding providing the mills with TCB-imported salt. It is also demanding of the government to permit the mill owners to import uncrushed salt and then refine and iodize those locally.

In another development, salt mill owners in Narayanganj last month sent a legal notice to the District Food Controller

## Rao expands cabinet

NEW DELHI, Feb 9: The 51-member union council of ministers was today expanded with Ajit Singh, Buta Singh and Madhav Rao Scindia sworn in as cabinet ministers and P. Chidambaram, Urmila Ben Patel and Matang Sirgh as ministers of state, reports PTI.

Along with the induction of these six into his three and a half years old ministry, Prime Minister, P V Narasimha Rao, elevated to the cabinet rank ministers of state P A Sangma (Labour) and G Venkateswamy (Textiles), beginning the exercise to revamp the ministry and Congress party after the drubbing in the recent assembly elections.

The President, D R Shanker Datta Sharma, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new entrants at a simple function at Rashtrapati Bhawan. With the inductions, the strength of the ministry has gone up to 57. Besides the Prime Minister, there are 17 ministers of cabinet rank, 13 ministers of state with independent charge, 23 ministers of state and three deputy ministers.

## 3 new MPs sworn in

**By Staff Correspondent**

Three new MPs who won last month's by-elections yesterday attended the Jatiya Sangsad session after taking oath.

Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury introduced the new members in the House.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni chaired the sitting. The new members are: Kazi Golam Morshed (Natore-3), Principal Abdur Rashid Khan (Bakergaji-6) and Mahmudul Huq (Sherpur-3). They were elected on January 25.

Golam Morshed and Rashid Khan were BNP nominees while Mahmudul Huq is an independent.

Earlier, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali administered the oaths to the newly-elected members of Parliament in a simple ceremony at his Parliament office.

The Deputy Leader of the House, the LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Water Resources Minister M Majidul Huq, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Works

## Kumaratunga to visit Bangladesh in April

COLOMBO, Feb 9: Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga today announced that she was planning state visits to neighbouring India and Bangladesh followed by another to France in April, reports AFP.

Kumaratunga said she will travel to India towards the end of March and proceed to Bangladesh before she returns to New Delhi again in April for a South Asian summit.

She said she will also address Sri Lanka's donor countries at an annual World Bank meeting in Paris towards the end of April.

The seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit will be held in New Delhi in mid-April.

## Editors' Council polls Mar 20

The general meeting and election of the Bangladesh Council of Editors will be held on March 20. A three-member election commission headed by M Haider Chowdhury, Chairman of the National Life Insurance Co Ltd was formed to conduct the election. The other members of the commission are Anwarul Islam, Editor of the Daily Desh and Hasanuzzaman Khan, Managing Editor of BSS.

## Villagers clash: 15 hurt in Sylhet

SYLHET, Feb 9: At least 15 people were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers in Chandhorang of Biswanath thana this afternoon. Of them four were admitted to the Sylhet M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital with critical injuries. The clash ensued over a land dispute of a mo-gue.

**Shri, Iftar Timings**

| Ram | Feb | Shri | Iftar |
|-----|-----|------|-------|
| 9   | 10  | —    | 5:54  |
| 10  | 11  | 5:14 | 5:55  |
| 11  | 12  | 5:14 | 5:55  |

## Moudud denies JP move to sue Shahabuddin

Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed yesterday said his party has no connection with a reported move to file a case against former Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, reports UNB.

Mahabubur Rahman and some other JP leaders are reportedly behind the move to challenge the legality of the February 27 elections of 1991, conducted by the caretaker government of Justice Shahabuddin. He retired as Chief Justice on February 1, 1995.

Moudud told reporters at the Supreme Court premises yesterday afternoon that the JP had no decision in this regard. JP presidium members Advocate Fazle Rabbi and Major General (Retd) M Shamsul Huq were present.

Legally the matter is a closed chapter, said Moudud who is now fighting a legal battle in a special High Court Division bench against a writ challenging the validity of resignation of opposition MPs.

Filing a case against the former Chief Justice will now

## EU for use of fresh water at every stage of fish processing

A European Union vigilance team yesterday said Bangladesh should immediately ensure the use of fresh water at all stages of fish and shrimp processing to attain EU standard, reports UNB.

The team also insisted on hygienic transportation of exportable fish in every step, from catch to shipment, which, it said, requires urgent attention.

The two-member team from the Union's health and sanitation unit gave their suggestions to the officials of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) yesterday at the end of a two-day mission here.

The delegation from Brussels came to Bangladesh to inspect quality control standard in the country's frozen food sector, specially in the shrimp area, as the EU has decided to strictly follow uniform regulations on import of food items.

A government official said there would be no immediate restriction on frozen fish export to Europe but the sector would have to undergo a comprehensive improvement in quality control.

The EU regulations were first introduced in July 1993, but the developing countries were given time till December 1994 to upgrade their processing facilities to the requisite standard.

A senior EPB official said although the EU team had no major complaint at the overall hygiene standard in the fish sector, it insisted on strict water control at different stages of processing to avoid contamination.

Also, he said, the team asked for immediate improvement in transportation of fish, right from the point of catch up to shipment, and maintenance of required temperature although.

The EU officials reportedly told the Bangladesh authorities to allow only those factories to export frozen fish items to European market who can ensure these improvements.

At present, 61 factories, out of the country's total 115, are recommended by the Department of Fisheries to export to EU market.

During the last two days, the EU team talked to fisheries officials on the government's legal issues and expertise regarding quality control, and visited processing plants and fish landing facilities in Chittagong. They, too, inspected fishing trawlers and vehicles for transportation of fish.

According to official sources, the inspection team also asked for amendments to the existing legal framework regarding quality control for synchronisation with the EU standard rules.

The team stressed the need for using modern equipment in processing factories and further training of manpower in the sector.

Frozen fish, shrimp in particular, is Bangladesh's major export to Euro-market. About 40 per cent of the country's frozen foods go to Europe.

Frozen fish fetched about 106 million US dollars in the first three months of the current fiscal year.

## US to provide 12 T-37B primary jet trainers

The United States will provide Bangladesh with a dozen T-37B primary jet trainers under an agreement signed in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The delivery of the training aircraft to the Bangladesh Air Force will be made under the auspices of the US excess defence articles transfer programme, according to a USIS press release.

The T-37B is a twin seat trainer aircraft, a long-used proven design and has been still in use by the United States Air Force to train jet pilots. The aircraft is not designed for and cannot carry armaments.

The agreement for the transfer — signed here at the Bangladesh Air Force Headquarters — culminated more than a year-long efforts by US Embassy in Dhaka, US Department of the Air Force, US Department of Defence and US Department of State to identify the aircraft and approve the delivery, the USIS release said.

An anti-mosquito demonstration held in the city yesterday. — Star photo