

Inside Today

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Russia, Chechnya begin second round of talks on ceasefire

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Good demand marks tea sale in Ctg

Asia may become rice importer after 2005 Pages 6, 7

STOCK MARKET

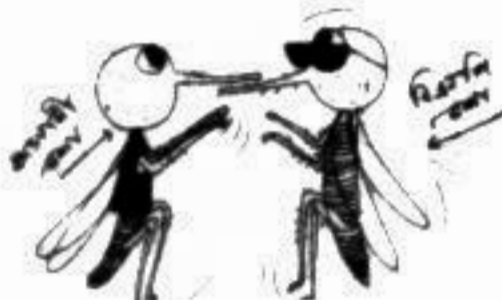
DSE Index	796.41 (-0.49%)
Market capitalization Tk	38.56 billion
Turnover in volume	20951
Turnover in value Tk	6.29 million

Women On The Move

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NEWS BRIEFS

Speaker off to Manila

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali left Dhaka yesterday for Manila to attend the Asia Pacific Leaders' Conference on climate changes to be held there from February 17 to 19. He is expected to return home on February 20, reports BSS.

NZ minister in city

The State Minister and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, Sir Robin Gray, MP, arrived in Dhaka Friday leading a five-member delegation on a two-day visit to Bangladesh. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials said the New Zealand Minister will meet the Foreign Minister and the Minister for Commerce and Information, reports BSS.

Ban on 'Dance Dance'

Government has temporarily cancelled the censorship certificate of 'Dance Dance', an imported film, on the grounds that it was displayed with naked scenes. The film was being screened at Parbat Cinema hall, reports UNB.

Train service restored

Train communications in Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet lines via Ghorashal, disrupted in labour unrest, were restored at 6 pm yesterday. Train services through Ghorashal remained suspended since February 13 when agitated workers uprooted rail tracks and damaged Ghorashal station during their blockade programme, reports UNB.

Shri, Iftar Timings

Ram	Feb	Shri	Iftar
15	16	—	5:58
16	17	5:11	5:56
17	18	5:10	5:59

Ctg stock exchange may be floated today

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman is likely to announce the floating of the country's second stock exchange in Chittagong today, official sources said.

The bourse, having a paid up capital of Tk 10 crore, is expected to start operation in May this year.

The 12-member governing body of the proposed Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) is now framing the guidelines for operation of the bourse, the sources said, adding the stock exchange would have some 75 members for dealing with the share traders.

Chairman of the new stock exchange Amir Khasru Mahmud said members of the bourse would be selected from

among the local businessmen and professionals involved in this field, since long or have good knowledge of equity trading.

"We will also encourage younger people having a lot of study on securities market to get involved in the new stock exchange," the CSE Chairman said. Any active member of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), if interested, can also be a member of the Chittagong bourse, he added.

Amir Khasru who is also a member of Parliament from the ruling BNP, said, "We are trying to introduce the central depository system (CDS) from the beginning of the bourse and would go for screen-based trading after some time."

He also said the new securities would be listed with the CSE simultaneously with the Dhaka bourse and no companies would be listed separately with the Chittagong share market.

Asked about the logic of more than one stock exchange with the same securities under the screen-based trading system, he said the CSE would create more demand for shares and would create a bigger market.

"People outside Dhaka are less aware of share trading and a lot of funds are remaining idle. We would create awareness among them and tap the idle funds for creating a bigger market of shares," he added. See Page 12 Col 1

US may raise issue of child labour at WTO

The United States would like to take the issue of child labour to the newly set-up World Trade Organisation (WTO), said a visiting top US Labour Department official yesterday.

"On the basis of multilateral

PM seeks businessmen's help for industrialisation

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday sought cooperation from the business community in implementing the government programmes for rapid industrialisation, reports UNB.

Begum Zia was talking to a delegation of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) that called on her at her office in the afternoon. DCCI President R Maksud Khan led the delegation.

The Prime Minister said her government has undertaken a massive economic and

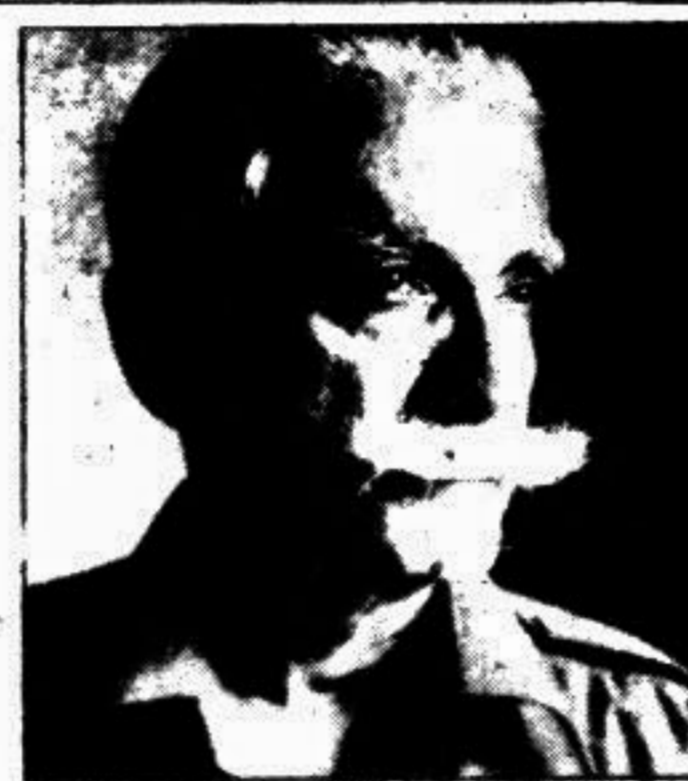
consensus we would like to have a discussion on the issue of child labour at the WTO," said Andrew Samet, Deputy Associate Under-Secretary of the US Department of Labour.

"It's not only a concern of the US government, the concern about child labour has been expressed even by the Bangladesh government, which signed the Delhi Declaration on the elimination of child labour," he pointed out.

Samet was addressing a press briefing on "Change of time for child labour in Bangladesh" at the USIS auditorium. Along with Sonia Rosen, Child Labour Study Director, he ended a two day visit to Bangladesh yesterday.

Samet also informed newsmen that a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) is currently being prepared by the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BGMEA) to eliminate the use of child labour in the garment factories by July 1, 1997.

Outlining a programme for the phased elimination of child



Osmani's death anniversary today

By Staff Correspondent

The 11th anniversary of the death of the commander-in-chief of the Liberation War, Bangabir General MAG Osmani, is being observed today.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in separate messages paid tribute to General MAG Osmani, saying Osmani was a glaring testimony of dutifulness and patriotism. Osmani, they said, worked for the people and never compromised with the interest of the nation.

Different political parties and socio-cultural organisa-



Actress Jodie Foster (C) as "Nell" in a scene with actor Liam Neeson (R) and Miranda Richardson from the movie "Nell." Foster was nominated Tuesday for an Academy Award for best performance by an actress for her title role in the movie. Richardson was also nominated for best performance for an actress for her role in "Tom & Viv." — AFP photo

Oscar: Forrest Gump piles up 13 nominations

LOS ANGELES, Feb 15: The feel-good box-office hit "Forrest Gump" dominated the academy award nominations on Tuesday as it was honoured in 13 categories in one of the best showings in Oscar history, reports Reuter.

"Forrest Gump," the whimsical tale of a simpleton and his inadvertent brushes with fame, was nominated for best picture, best actor (Tom Hanks), best director (Robert Zemeckis) and best supporting actor (Gary Sinise).

It was the first time a film has piled up 13 nominations since the 1966 classic drama "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" The record is 14 Oscar nominations, earned by "All About Eve" in 1950.

Also in the running for best film are the ultra-violent satire "Pulp Fiction," Robert Red-

Speaker violated the law, High Court told

Supreme Court Correspondent

The counsel for the petitioner in the second writ relating to the *en masse* resignation of opposition MPs submitted before the High Court yesterday that the Speaker had violated both the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure (ROP) while handling the matter.

The hearing on the writ filed by Advocate Alauddin Khalid challenging the Speaker's withholding of the resignation letters of 147 opposition members of Parliament, resumed yesterday afternoon before a three-man special bench with Advocate ABM Nurul Islam continuing his submission on behalf of the petitioner.

Replying to the affidavit filed earlier on behalf of the Speaker, Shaikh Razzak Ali, Advocate Islam said that it was submitted on the Speaker's behalf by the Parliament secretary. He argued that the affidavit was not proper because the secretary did not annex either the authorisation letter of any power of attorney signed

by the Speaker.

Advocate Islam also termed the Speaker's discussion about the resignation letters with the Chief Whip and Attorney General as 'illegal', saying,

Promotion of judges Govt has violated Constitution, counsel tells court

By Staff Correspondent

The government has violated the Constitution by promoting three junior district judges to the post of joint secretaries in the Ministry of Law without consultation with the Supreme Court, argued the counsel for the petitioner in the hearing of a writ challenging the government order in the High Court yesterday.

Filed by Md Aftabuddin, Divisional Special Judge of Chittagong, the writ also challenged the promotions for superseding the senior district

The Constitution does not permit the Speaker to play such a role.

Bringing charges of violation of different articles of the Constitution as well as the rules of procedure, Advocate Islam said that after a resignation of membership from Parliament, there was no scope for reconciliation, compromise, reconsideration or withdrawal of the resignation letters and as such any time consuming over the matter was motivated.

Quoting press reports and the Speaker's various published interviews, the counsel said that the Speaker had given a 'ruling' from his residence and hospital bed in violation of the ROP. He has no such authority, the counsel argued.

Advocate Islam pointed out that the Speaker also violated the law by keeping the resignation letters 'in his custody' since, according to law, all documents should be with the parliament secretary. See Page 12 Col 7

8 feared killed in accident

COMILLA, Feb 15: Eight people were feared killed and 40 injured when a bus tumbled into a canal breaking the railing of a road-bridge at Kanara in Gouripur thana today, reports UNB.

Kotwali police, however, confirmed three spot deaths and 34 seriously injured in the accident. All the injured were admitted to Gouripur Health Complex.

Unofficial sources said five of the fatally injured succumbed to their injuries on way to the Health Complex.

The driver and the helper of the ill-fated bus, which was bound for Dhaka from Comapanganj in the district, were among the dead.

2 arms factories unearthed in city: One held

By Staff Correspondent

Police unearthed two illegal arms manufacturing factories and arrested one person in this connection at Labagh in the city Tuesday night.

Labagh police in another raid also recovered five revolvers, hand bombs and huge materials for manufacturing firearms.

The arrested person was identified as Rezaul Khan alias Selim.

Police first raided a house at Kazi Rezauddin Road, found the illegal factory and arrested Selim. As disclosed by Selim police rushed to a house at Haji Rahim Baksh Lane and recovered huge arms manufacturing materials from there, police sources said.

During the raids, police seized revolver butts, magazines, springs, drill machines, firing pins, barrels, chemicals and a catalogue. American

See Page 12 Col 3

Mid-term BGMEA polls today

By Staff Correspondent

Elections for one-third of the 27-member Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters' Association's (BGMEA) executive committee posts will be held today at its Kawan Bazar headquarters in the city.

Under the newly-promulgated Trade Organisation Ordinance, '94, all trade bodies having a full-fledged executive committees for two or three-year terms, have to organise mid-term elections for one-third of the posts, to be vacated through resignation of the members. The resignations, under the law, has to be decided through lottery.

Two panels are vying for the nine EC posts. One is led by

See Page 12 Col 1

Mail applications for DV-96 lottery by Feb 22

By Staff Correspondent

The Press Information Department in a handout has requested all concerned to mail their DV-96 lottery applications within February 22 to meet the deadline set by the US immigration authority.

A PID handout yesterday said that the application for DV-96 visa should reach the US immigration authority within March 1 next. Applications reaching the US immigration authority after March 1 will be considered disqualified.



Yet another target of policemen's wrath at Tophkhana Road in the city during a half-day hartal called by the Left Democratic Front. — Star photo

Half-day hartal: 10 hurt, 2 held

By Staff Correspondent

A six-hour hartal to protest the killing of jute and textile workers went largely unheeded in the city yesterday.

During the hartal called by the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in the capital from 6 am to 12 noon, clashes with police at Tophkhana Road left at least ten party workers and leaders injured at around 10:15 in the morning.

The clashes took place when left party workers tried to prevent a traffic police from forcibly letting a rickshaw through a barricade at Tophkhana Road. Riot police deployed in the area immediately started baton charge apparently without any provocation, witnesses said. Police lobbed at least eight rounds of tear gas shells, of which some were aimed at the LDF office, they added. See Page 12 Col 3

'Wrong policy destroying jute spinning sector'

By Staff Correspondent

The export-oriented jute spinning sector is seeking redress from what it called, the government policy-induced distortions which is forcing it to lose its competitive edge both domestically and internationally.

"Despite tremendous growth potential in the global market, the jute spinning sector in Bangladesh is going to collapse due to the policy induced distortion created by the government under the World Bank funded jute sector adjustment credit (JSAC)," cautioned Shabbir Yusuf, Chairman of the Bangladesh Jute Spinners' Association (BJSJA), yesterday. Employing some 25,000 people and with an annual export earning of 65 million US dollars, the 34 jute spinning mills are facing un-

even competition from the composite jute mills, which are enjoying bank financing at a subsidised rate under the JSAC programme. In addition, Yusuf pointed out, the spinning mills are also finding it difficult to compete with Indian mills in the international market because of a more effective exchange rate management by Delhi and a 10 per cent export performance incentive provided to the Indian mills. The BJSJA has already made representations to the government seeking resolutions of the problems afflicting the spinning sector, which grew at an average of 20 per cent over the past several years and now controls some 57 per cent of the global market. A meeting See Page 12 Col 4

Jute, textile workers' agitation ends

By Staff Correspondent

The four-day strike and the road-rail barricade programme of the jute and textile workers ended yesterday. There was no report of violence.

During the 4-day programme at least two workers were killed in clashes between the workers and the police.

ROK to start 'work permit' system from '96

SEOUL, Feb 15: South Korea has decided to open its job market partially to unskilled foreign workers, the Labour Ministry announced here yesterday, reports Xinhua.

The ministry said South Korea will introduce a work permit system next year which will enable a designated number of unskilled foreign workers to be employed in South Korea, receiving legal protection on an equal basis with the Korean nationals. See Page 12 Col 4

Welcome spring shower in city

By Staff Correspondent

A little tab on the free flight of the city's menacing mosquitoes and a pleasant breeze without the dust and chill of a waning winter, were the most immediate realisation of the city dwellers as a short burst of shower celebrated the advent of spring yesterday.

With a majority of the people still in the act of taking care of their starving stomachs at the end of a day-long Ramadan fast, the grey welkin on the north western horizon laden with rain clouds just gave way from 6:10 pm for a welcome 15 minute spell of celestial pouring.

The Met Office said that the wind speed of the Norwester was around 44 kilometre per hour.

The weathermen also recorded a 5 mm rainfall in Dinajpur and 1 mm in Mymensingh yesterday. Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Comilla, Sylhet, Khulna and Barisal is forecast till 6 pm today.



Phoolan Devi converts to Buddhism

By Staff Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 15: India's 'bandit queen' Phoolan Devi, at the centre of a controversy over a movie on her life, converted to Buddhism today, the United News of India (UNI) said, reports Reuter.

The low caste Hindu, who was charged with massacring 22 high caste Hindus in 1981, embraced her new religion in the central Indian city of Nagpur where her high caste husband Umed Singh, the news agency said.

Body formed to study nurses' demands

By Staff Correspondent

The government has constituted a high level committee with the principal of the Dhaka Medical College as its head to prepare an evaluation report on the Centre for Management Excellence and Quality Assurance (CMEQA) programme.

The committee was set up at an emergency meeting held Tuesday night with Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf in the chair.

The committee was formed against the backdrop of the strike by nurses and class four employees in government hospitals. They went on strike apprehending that the government might either give autonomy or privatise the state-run hospitals by implementing CMEQA programme in phases.

Talking to this correspondent last night, the Health Minister said the committee, which comprises health officials and representatives of the nurses and employees, will submit its report within a month.

Bombs hurled near Badruddoza's clinic

By Staff Correspondent

Some unidentified persons hurled two hand bombs near the clinic of Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury at Outer Circular Road, Maghbarah in the city yesterday afternoon.

Staff of the KC Memorial Clinic owned by Prof Badruddoza, who is also the Deputy Leader of Parliament, told The Daily Star yesterday over telephone that the incident took place at around 4 pm. Ramna thana, when contacted, said they had not been informed of the incident.