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DSE MARKET
 DSE price index 886.65 (-0.83%)
 Market capital Tk 55.53 billion
 Transactions in volume 409653
 Transactions in value 65.65 million

CSE MARKET
 CSE price index 428.71 (-0.59%)
 Market capital Tk 1009927680
 Transactions in volume 825
 Transactions in value Tk 265383

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NEWS BRIEFS
 PM returns today

11 bogies of Parabat Express derail 5 killed, 150 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, OCT 25: At least five persons were killed and over 150 injured when a Sylhet-bound inter-city train derailed at a place between Rashidpur and Saigon stations under Moulvibazar district this afternoon.

Eleven out of 15 bogies of the Parabat Express train from Dhaka derailed at about 12:45 pm. Three of those killed were identified as Badrunnesa, 60, of Sylhet town, Jalal Ahmed, 30, an attendant of the train. Two others could not be identified.

Train communication between Sylhet and rest of the country remained suspended till the writing of this report at about 10pm.

According to eye-witnesses, 11 bogies from the rear of the inter-city train suddenly got disconnected. Fire service personnel, BDR, police and local people rushed to the spot, rescued the injured passengers and sent them to hospitals.

Four of them were admitted to Moulvibazar Hospital, 17 to the Srimangal Thana Health Complex and 4 to Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital with serious injuries. The others were released after first aid.

Two relief trains from Akhaura and Kulaura junctions have started salvage operation. But, it will not be possible to use the rail-track till Thursday afternoon, Railway sources said.

The Railway authorities have constituted a four-member probe body.

Meanwhile, two wagons of a goods train derailed at a place between Majgaon and Moglabazar Stations on the Sylhet-Kulaura section at 7-40 tonight.

BSS adds: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed lastnight condoled the death of those who were killed in the inter-city Parabat Express accident earlier in the day.

Gunfight at KPM: 25 injured

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 25: At least 25 people including three police personnel were injured, 10 with bullet in a gunfight between activists of two rival workers' unions at the Karnaphuli Paper Mills at Kaptai this morning, police said.

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Winter may be late

By Reaz Ahmed

Winter may come late this year.

The average temperature in the country was one to five degrees Celsius more than normal during the first half of the current month, according to the Meteorological Department here yesterday.

Northerly wind and early morning fog - the two symptoms of winter season - have appeared but weathermen see a "moody advancement" of winter this year.

Recurrent floods and 'too much' surface water till now is deterring the normal fall of temperature, they said.

Water has more heat absorption capacity than land during day-time and evaporation of the heat thus absorbed is adding to the atmospheric temperature. So, the process of cooling of the climate is being delayed, they explained.

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Saplings of cauliflower, a delicious winter vegetable are still in seed beds this year. — Star photo

Business
 Non-availability of govt funds hinders formation of EPF
 Severe petrol shortage grips Pakistan Pages 6, 7



Sathi Bilkis Yasmin of Bangladesh and Preeti Mankotia of India who are now in Dubai, UAE for rehearsing for the Miss World Pageant '95 in Sun City on November 18 next, pose for photographs. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Miss Bangladesh rehearsing for world contest

From AKM Mohsin

DUBAI, Oct 25: Miss Bangladesh Sathi Yasmin Bilkis, now here for a week-long preparation and photo session will leave for South Africa next week to take part in the Miss World 1995 contest to be held in Sun City on November 18.

This is for the second time that a Bangladeshi beauty is going to participate in the pageant. Last year, Anika Taher represented Bangladesh in the annual congregation of the beauties from all over the world.

Yasmin is among the 32 others beauties taking part in the week-long programme arranged by the Emirates, the UAE airlines one of the sponsors of the Miss World '95 contest. The Emirates also accorded a reception to the beauties. Yasmin arrived here on October 21.

Addressing a press briefing here today Julia Morley, President of the Miss World '95 Pageant said, "We are here to film the contestants at various spots in the city and in the desert." "The film we make here will be telecast as part of the live coverage of the Miss World Pageant in Sun City on November 18."

For making the film the locations which have been selected are - Creek Golf and Yacht Club, Emirates Golf Club, Wafi shopping mall, Dubai Museum, Dubai International Marine Club and Hilton Beach Club, said Morley.

In all, some 16 minutes of footage would be telecast live to about 500 million people, in 80 countries, she added.

BB directive to realise overdue loans by Nov

Star Report

The Bangladesh Bank has directed the scheduled banks to take measures for realising overdue loans from their top 20 defaulters by next month, according to banking sources.

The move is part of the government's emphasis on better portfolio management of the banks and bringing discipline in the banking sector.

The banks have been instructed to set up special cells in their headquarters to single out the top 20 defaulters and then go for recovery of the loans.

The central bank, in its directive in September, asked the banks to make "all out" efforts including negotiations to reach an 'amicable settlement' where possible as regards the overdue loans within two months of issuance of the directive.

The deadline for these measures expire early November.

If the banks fail to realise the non-performing loans within the stipulated time, they have been further advised to go for legal suits in the Rin Adalat.

In cases of loans having government guarantees, the banks have been told to discuss the issues with the Finance Ministry before taking actions.

When contacted, several banks said they were taking steps to meet the deadline.

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Anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla's birth today

The 122nd birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq will be observed today, reports UNB.

Various socio-cultural organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes to mark the occasion.

Sher-e-Bangla National Research Council and Bangladesh National Personality Research Centre have jointly taken up various programmes to observe the day.

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Metropolitan
 Dhaka Day by Day

Get Your Fish, Meat Delivered at Home Page 3

Draft of law under study Ordin soon to debar loan defaulters from polls

By Nurul Kabir

President Abdur Rahman Biswas is expected to promulgate an ordinance within a fortnight debarbing the bank loan defaulters from taking part in parliamentary polls, highly placed sources told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Law Ministry is likely to finalise the draft of the proposed law in a week, the sources said.

Once the draft is finalised, it would be placed before the cabinet for approval. The President would then promulgate the ordinance to that effect, the sources said.

The text of the law would be incorporated in the People's Representation Order, 1972, sources in the Election Commission said.

If the ordinance is promulgated, any person failing to repay an instalment of loan taken from a scheduled bank, will be considered disqualified for contesting the national polls.

In the draft legislation, the EC had proposed that the owner or partner or director of any company will also be considered disqualified for contesting parliamentary polls if the company is

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Over 61000 likely to miss admission at degree level

By Mizan Ali

At least 35 per cent of the students who passed the HSC examinations this year will not be able to enroll themselves in universities, degree colleges and other institutions of higher education.

According to data available from the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS), government and private educational institutions in the country have a total capacity of enrolling nearly 156,500 students at degree level. This year, 217,546 students passed the HSC examinations held under 4 education boards and of them over 61,000 will not get chance for admission.

All the 221 government and 391 non-government degree colleges can admit 135,000 students and 9 government universities including the BUEJ and 5 private universities can enroll another 18,000 students.

Thirteen government medical colleges and five private medical colleges have an approximate strength of absorbing 2000 students.

The Bangladesh Institute of Technology, Institute of Glass and Ceramics, Institute of Leather Technology, Institute of Textile, Institute of Marine Engineering and Agri College have a total intake strength of about 1500 students.

When asked what would be the fate of the students who would not be admitted, a high official of the Directorate of Higher Education said "some will drop out for financial constraints and some others will go abroad."

Asked if any effort was being made to increase the capacity, he said "enrolment capacity at the degree level has increased many times from the earlier strength."

Four of G-5 meet CEC

By Staff Correspondent

Four of the group of five eminent citizens mediating between the government and the Opposition to resolve the political crisis met Chief Election Commissioner Justice A K M Sadeq yesterday morning at his office.

During the two-hour meeting, Prof Rehman Sobhan, Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Fakhruddin Ahmed and Faiz Ahmed discussed with the CEC election laws, voters list, issuance of ID cards and other related matters. Another member of the group, former chief justice Kamaluddin Hossain could not attend the meeting due to his preoccupations.

A source close to the group told The Daily Star that

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AL sees no alternative to agitation

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League yesterday resolved that the party had been left with no option but to intensify its anti-government agitation to realise the demand for holding the next general elections under a non-party caretaker administration.

The party also decided that its chief, Sheikh Hasina, could accept the offer for a dialogue with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia if the latter gave a prior announcement that the ruling party was ready to accept the concept of a non-party caretaker government.

The resolutions were adopted at an eight-hour meeting of the party's Central Working Committee yesterday. The meeting, chaired by Sheikh Hasina, was spread over two sessions. The four-hour morning session began at 11 am, while the evening session continued till 10 pm.

The possibility of a "confrontation" on the streets between the Opposition and the ruling party also came up for discussion but party leaders deliberating on the issue felt that such a "confrontation" would eventually benefit the Opposition in realising its demand, a senior member of the ALCWC who attended the meeting told this correspondent last night.

The meeting also decided

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Farakka not an int'l issue, says Pranab

CALCUTTA, Oct 25: India today said that the Ganges water issue between it and Bangladesh was not an international one and should be resolved through bilateral dialogue, reports PTI.

Even during the last SAARC meeting the prime ministers of both countries agreed to settle the issue through bilateral dialogue, the External Affairs Minister, Pranab Mukherjee told a press conference here.

The Tin Bigha issue was settled earlier and the water

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NEWS BRIEFS
 PM returns today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia returns home this morning after attending the special session of the United Nations General Assembly marking the 50th anniversary of the world body. She left Dhaka for New York on October 21 on a five-day official tour, reports UNB.

One stabbed to death

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 25: Halkim Uddin, 48, son of late Danesh Uddin of village Brahmanboira under Sirajganj Sadar thana was stabbed to death last night. The body was recovered from the Zia Square in the town today.

Foreign medicine recovered

From Our Correspondent

COXS BAZAR, Oct 25: The anti-smuggling Task Force recovered foreign medicine worth about Tk three lakh from an abandoned boat near the No. 2 sluice gate of the Naaf river today. The medicine carrying the names of manufacturing companies of Thailand was handed over to the customs.

Sirajganj College students clash

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 25: At least five persons were injured in a clash between two groups of students at the Sirajganj Government University College today. The rival groups used bricks and cocktails during the clash that started over taking seats on the class bench. Police later brought the situation under control.

US to ease restrictions on arms shipment to Pakistan

WASHINGTON, Oct 25: US House of Representatives and Senate negotiators agreed just before midnight Tuesday to ease restrictions temporarily on arms shipment to Pakistan as they approved a reduced 1996 foreign aid budget that still faces major hurdles in Congress, reports Reuter.

The conference committee adopted a 12.125 billion dollar foreign aid package, a slight increase of 125 million dollar above the level passed by the House. But the amount is below the 13.6 billion approved last year and the 14.9 billion dollar requested by the White House.

Meeting well into the night, the panel dropped most of the provisions, except abortion restrictions, that the administration had said would guarantee a presidential veto. And it approved other provisions important to the White House.

The panel agreed to the administration's request for a one-time waiver of a ban on arms shipments to Pakistan, permitting that country to take delivery on 1.4 billion dollar worth of military equipment and 28 F-16 A fighter jets held up since 1990.

Pakistan purchased the items in 1990 but was barred by law from taking delivery until it could be certified that the country was not seeking nuclear weapons. The certification has not been made but the President appealed to Congress for the waiver on grounds that it was unfair to hold up both the arms shipments and refuse to return the funds.

The plan also makes Pakistan eligible for US economic aid and funds for efforts to control narcotics and terrorism.

The administration would also be authorised to sell the planes and reimburse Pakistan.

The equipment package includes Harpoon surface-to-surface missiles, three Orion anti-submarine aircraft, 360 sidewinder air-to-air missiles 135 tow anti-tank missile launchers, radar equipment and parts for F-16S and Cobra helicopters.

Meanwhile India has told the United States American business interests will probably be harmed by a decision allowing Pakistan to take delivery of US military equipment, domestic news agencies in Delhi said today.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) and United News of India (UNI) quoted an Indian statement in the United States as denouncing the decision by the congressional committee.

Traffic congestion at Aricha Ghat worsens further

MANIKGANJ, Oct 25: The traffic congestion at Aricha ferry ghat worsened further today as the queue of vehicles continued to increase, disrupting road communication between the capital and 36 northern and southern districts, reports UNB.

BIWTC sources said about 7,500 trucks, 1,000 buses and other vehicles with nearly 60,000 passengers remained stranded at the ghat, making a 15 km queue on Aricha-Dhaka highway.

They said the congestion at the ghat began on Sunday evening following sudden rush of loaded trucks, inadequate number of ferries and fall in the water level of the

See Page 12 Col 6

Maldives minister due in city today

Minister for Health and Welfare of the Republic of Maldives, Ahmed Abdullah, arrives in Dhaka today on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

During the visit, the Maldivian minister will discuss with his Bangladeshi counterpart Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf on matters of mutual interest and cooperation among the SAARC countries.