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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 881.39 (+0.34%)
 Market capital Tk 5640.40 cr
 Transactions in volume 198523
 Transactions in value Tk 5.31 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 427.74 (+0.14%)
 Market capital Tk 2115.56 cr
 Transactions in volume 680
 Transactions in value Tk 1.28 lakh

NEWS BRIEFS

8 civilians killed in Afghan war

ISLAMABAD, Nov 8: Rockets fired by the opposition Islamic Taliban militia killed eight civilians and wounded 24 in the Afghan capital Kabul today, Kabul radio said. The government-controlled radio, monitored in Islamabad, said at least 14 rockets fired from south of Kabul had slammed into residential areas of the city, reports Reuter.

Human chain tomorrow

The Nagorikbrinda, a group of citizens expressing their anger at the present political situation, has planned to form a human chain here tomorrow, a press release of the group said yesterday. The human chain will stretch along Manik Mian Avenue at 4 pm on the day and citizens irrespective of political opinion have been invited to participate in the programme, reports BSS.

25 die in Himachal bus accident

NEW DELHI, Nov 8: About 25 people were killed when an overcrowded bus in which they were travelling fell into a ravine in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said today. The accident occurred at Khalu Nallahin Shimla district, about 250 kilometres (155 miles) from here. The bus was carrying about 55 passengers, the agency said, reports AFP.

Walesa defeated in first round

WARSAW, Nov 8: Former communist Aleksander Kwasniewski won the first round of the Polish presidential elections with 35.11 per cent of the vote, beating incumbent Lech Walesa's 33.11 per cent, according to official results released today. The two will square off for the second round of November 19, reports AFP.

Int'l arrest warrant

PARIS, Nov 8: France issued an international arrest warrant Tuesday for an Algerian under detention in Britain and suspected of masterminding a wave of bombings in France over the past three months, judicial sources said. The warrant was issued against Abdelkader Benouiss, alias Abu Fares, reports AFP.

Solve crisis without wasting time: Hasina Hartal relaxed

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced a revised timing for the 6-day countrywide hartal, beginning from November 11 "in consideration of the problems faced by the people."

A countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal will now be observed only on November 11, the first day of the programme.

As per the modified programme for the rest five days, announced at a press conference, a 9-hour hartal from 6 am will be observed on November 12, 8-hour hartal (6 am to 2 pm) on November 13 and half-day

hartal (6 am to noon) on November 14, 15 and 16 in Dhaka city.

Outside the capital, half-day hartal will be observed on November 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

Rajshahi division has been exempted from the hartal programme because of the recent floods there.

"The hartal hours have been relaxed in view of the problems faced by the people," Hasina said.

Jatiya Party also announced the same revised timing for the hartal. JP's revised programme was announced yesterday.



Hasina addressing a press conference. — Star photo

50 hurt as BCL, Jubo League activists clash with police

By Staff Correspondent

At least 50 persons, including a police inspector and four constables, were injured in a series of clashes between Chhatra League and Jubo League activists and police at Furana Paltan and Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday evening.

During the clash at the Bangabandhu Avenue, police entered the building housing the central office of Awami League, chasing the workers of the party and its front organisations.

Of the injured persons, Mashhur Rahman, (20), Mezhhaul Achchu (28), Mazharul



Begum Khaleda Zia, along with senior party colleagues, placing wreath at the mazar of late President Ziaur Rahman Monday on the occasion of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day. — Star photo

Pakistan threatens to expel 1.6m Bengalis in 6 months

KARACHI, Nov 8: A government decree that two million immigrants must prove they are legal residents or face deportation within six months has sparked a controversy over the status of Karachi's large Bengali community, reports AFP.

All immigrants in Pakistan "shall have to obtain a work permit or face expulsion," within six months, Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar said over the weekend.

Security agencies said there were more than 1.6 million Bengalis, 654,000 Afghans, 200,000 Myanmar nationals, 2,320 Iranians and Filipinos and about 200 Nepalese, Sri Lankans and Indians living in Karachi.

Karachi, Pakistan's commercial hub and main port, attracts many immigrants because it offers better job op-

portunities and higher wages for unskilled workers than some neighbouring countries.

The government's current campaign has focused on Bengalis, who the government charges with causing unemployment and being involved in criminal activities.

The Bengalis claim they are legal residents, who were here before Pakistan's eastern wing became the independent state of Bangladesh in 1971.

A foreign-office spokesman in Dhaka said the government was not aware of any Bangladeshis living illegally in Pakistan.

"What we know is that there are Bengali-speaking Pakistanis settled and living in Pakistan for decades," the spokesman said.

The crackdown has sent a wave of fear through the Ben-

gali community, with some members now preferring to stay indoors.

"The police take away our money and treat us like animals," said Shah Jalal, chairman of the Young Bengali Muslim Welfare Organisation.

Officials said Bengalis had obtained fake passports and identity cards by bribing police and immigration officials.

The city has several Bengali neighbourhoods, mainly slums, which residents say have housed Bengalis since before East Pakistan became the independent country of Bangladesh in 1971.

The community also publishes its own Bengali-language newspaper, the Qaumi Bandhan.

Although the Bengali immigrants provide cheap

Khaleda sees no solution beyond Constitution

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday categorically said there was no scope for realising the demand for opposition-styled caretaker government, reports UNB.

She made it clear that the BNP would not move an inch from the constitutional framework and there could be no discussion by agreeing to any precondition set by the Opposition.

Addressing a huge gathering of newcomers to her party at 30 Hare Road that last night, the BNP chairperson said all problems should be resolved within constitutional framework. "Nothing will be done beyond the bounds of the Constitution."

Former VP of the Chittagong University Central Students' Union (CUCSU) and former Vice President of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers' and Ex-

Rallies banned: Teachers assaulted JCD, Shibir clash at RU: 25 hurt

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Nov 8: At least 25 persons, including the Officer-in-Charge of Motihar thana, were injured in a clash between the activists of two students organisations on Rajshahi University campus yesterday morning.

Police imposed a ban on holding rallies and proces-

sions around the campus till November 10 while the varsity authorities sealed off two main entrances of the university campus.

Some unruly students today also assaulted four teachers including the Proctor, Prof Nazrul Islam and damaged his microbus.

At least eight houses and shops outside the campus were looted during yesterday's clash. The clash between the pro-BNP Jatiyatibadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Jamaat-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) took place at 10 am near Kazia Gate of the varsity gate, witnesses said.

Three students were picked up by police from the area.

JS summoned on Nov 15

President Abdur Rahman Biswas on Tuesday summoned the Jatiya Sangsad into a session on November 15 at 6:30 pm, reports UNB.

This will be the 22nd session of the fifth parliament, said a press release of the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat.

Businessmen observe token strike

By Staff Correspondent

The city came to a half for 15 minutes yesterday at 12 noon when the business community enforced a token strike protesting the political impasse.

Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) pickets stopped traffic movement on all major roads for 15 minutes while shopkeepers voluntarily closed shutters demanding an immediate solution to the on-going political deadlock which, they said, was seriously hampering economic activities.

From small traders to big company owners participated in the token strike. Traders were seen picketing with posters for the duration of the token strike.

The 15-minute strike

No plan to roll back agri sector reforms

By Staff Correspondent

The government has no plan to reverse the reform process in the agricultural sector, said Agriculture Secretary M Akhter Ali yesterday.

"There is no question of rolling back the reforms," said Ali while speaking at the concluding session of a two-day workshop on "Bangladesh Agriculture in the 21st Century," jointly organised by Ministry of Agriculture and the World Bank (WB), in the city.

A WB official, summarising draft recommendations on policies for agricultural growth, said, "Policy reforms in the past have been impressive, but now there is a lull."

Chaired by the chief economist of the World

Bank's South Asia Country Department, Joanne Salop, the panel discussion was participated by M Akhter Ali, Secretary of the Agriculture Ministry, Ridwan Ali, chief of the Bank's Agricultural and Natural Resources Division for South Asia, Prof Ainun Nishat of BUET and Dr Z Karim of BARC.

Rashid Faruquee of the World Bank, placed draft recommendations of the working group on "Policies for Agricultural Growth" while Dr Mahub Hossain of IRR, Philippines summed up the suggestions on "Diversification, Institutions and Agricultural Projects."

Suggesting "complete" privatisation of the urea market to allow efficient policy



A cultural troupe from the Republic of Korea presenting a Korean Traditional Dance at the Osmany Memorial Auditorium yesterday. — Star photo

PSI to continue, says NBR Chairman Customs and VAT Tribunal to start functioning shortly

By Staff Correspondent

A special tribunal styled Customs and VAT Tribunal will start functioning soon to expedite settlement of cases over revenue collection.

A judge has been appointed and the Tribunal will start working as soon as he joins. Akbar Ali Khan, Chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) said during the NBR's regular quarterly meeting with the Metropolitan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (MCCI) held here yesterday.

The Tribunal will comprise representatives from the judiciary and the NBR, Dr Khan said.

Exchanging views with the MCCI members on various issues regarding tax and duty, the NBR Chairman dispelled confusions over the fate of Pre-shipment Inspection (PSI), a system where duty is charged on invoice value certified by independent agencies, saying that the authorities were very much willing to retain the system.

"We would like to continue it unless there is serious revenue losses," he said.

Dr Khan observed that the PSI was an effective trade facilitatory measure. "We do

not have sufficient evidence that it (PSI) is not working well," he said admitting lapses in updating the tariff value.

Even if there had been some revenue losses, he said, the exchequer would ultimately be benefited more by way of increased imports. "Losses are static but PSI has a dynamic effect on import trade, and the overall revenue earnings," he said attributing to PSI the current phenomenal growth in import trade.

DDT being used in dried fish: BAEC chief

DDT, a banned and highly toxic pesticide, is being used randomly for preserving dried fish in the country, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) Chairman MA Quayum said yesterday.

Addressing a lecture series, Quayum said the Institute of Food and Radiation Biology in a recent research found 100 times more DDT

Dr Khan said PSI should be retained even if there had been a "static" revenue loss of Tk 20 crore every year.

While the importers are increasingly relying on PSI finding it a less hazardous procedure, resistance within the customs authorities is rising. Ban was slapped recently on the import of some items, including cigarettes and powdered milk, through PSI, triggering concern in the private sector over the fate of the scheme.

At the meeting, MCCI President Anis Ud Dowla sought an announcement from the NBR that the PSI system would continue which, he said, would dispel misgivings.

The chamber also proposed an independent high-power committee to make a thorough review of the VAT (Value Added Tax) scheme and then recommend improvements "which will benefit the trade and industry better in the emerging competitive trade regime."

Anis Ud-Dowla gave some suggestions regarding the PSI, VAT and Duty Drawback System.

BGMEA hunger strike today

By Staff Correspondent

Members of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and other export-related organisations plan to stage a symbolic hunger strike today to save garments industry from ruin.

The export-oriented garments industry and the total export sector of the country are now in a precarious state due to the prevailing political unrest, said a BGMEA press release yesterday.

The strike would be staged in front of the BGMEA office in the city from 9 am today, the press release added.

Biman-KLM talks inconclusive

By Staff Correspondent

Talks between the Bangladesh Biman and the KLM for resumption of Biman's stopover facility at Amsterdam and increase of KLM's flight frequency to Dhaka failed here yesterday.

"We could not draw a conclusion," FHMM Swaging Director, Foreign Relations and Cooperation of the KLM said at a press conference at a city hotel. He refused to give details of the talks saying "We better not disclose it for the

Sajib Knitwear and Garments Ltd.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to notify to all the valued applicants for the Initial Public Offer (IPO) of Sajib Knitwear and Garments Ltd, that the lottery for the allotment of shares will be held, as per instruction of Securities and Exchange Commission, on 9th November 1995 at 3.00 PM at the premises of Sotys Engineering Ltd, House No 56, Road No. 13, Block-E, Banani, Dhaka.

Further, it is informed that the allotment letters and refund warrant as the case may be, will be available from the same premises of SOTSYS Engineering Ltd.

The bank wise allotment/refund warrant distribution date is as follows:

Bank	Date of distribution
ICB/Janata Bank	18.11.95
AB Bank/Uttara Bank	19.11.95
UCBL/Rupali Bank	20.11.95

Therefore, all concerned persons are requested to collect their allotment Letter/ Refund Warrant during working hours.