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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	866.86 (-1.25%)
Market capital Tk	5546.07 cr
Transactions in volume	130448
Transactions in value Tk	2.56 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	425.95 (-6.15%)
Market capital Tk	2183.29 cr
Transactions in volume	1640
Transactions in value Tk	3.20 lakh

Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a five-page special supplement on Armed Forces Day Pages 7-11

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NEWS BRIEFS

President assents to Granthakendra Bill

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday assented to the "Jatiya Granthakendra Bill, 1995" which was adopted by the Jatiya Sangsad, according to an official handout here, reports BSS.

One stabbed to death

JHENIDAH, Nov 20: Da-cots ambushed a truck on the Chuadanga-Kaliganj road and stabbed its driver to death early today. Police said Rezaul Islam, 27, came under attack by a gang near Purandapur in Moheshpur thana at about 12:30 am and later died at Moheshpur thana health complex.

Two killed in road mishap

COMILLA, Nov 20: Two people were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Gumta in Chandina thana today. Witnesses said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound microbus and a truck collided at about 1 pm.

BSP meet today

An emergency meeting of the executive committee of Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP) will be held today at 2 pm at its office

Kwasniewski new Polish president

Walesa defeated



Lech Walesa

WARSAW, Nov 20: Former communist Aleksander Kwasniewski won the race for Poland's presidency, winning 51.72 per cent of the votes in the final round of the election. PAP news agency said, citing final official results, report agencies.

PAP said Kwasniewski's opponent, incumbent President Lech Walesa, secured 48.28 per cent of the ballots in Sunday's run-off poll.

PAP said it compiled the results from complete official results provided by the country's 49 voivodies or regions.

The vote will put both the executive and legislative branches under the control of the former communists. A coalition led by Kwasniewski's democratic left alliance (SLD) won a majority in parliament in 1993.

It also marks a defeat for the Roman Catholic church, which had endorsed Walesa, the portly electrician-turned-statesman whose Solidarity Labour Movement effectively ended communist rule in Poland in 1989 and signalled the beginning of the end for Stalinist regimes across Europe.

Kwasniewski's SLD, a social democratic party that is a direct descendant of the former ruling communist party, has dominated parliament over the past two years in an often stormy power-sharing with Walesa.

New Polish President Kwasniewski said today that democracy had won in



Rep John Kasich, Senate majority leader Robert Dole and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (L-R) speaking to journalists at the Capital in Washington Sunday. The White House and the Republican-run Congress have reached a compromise accord to reopen most of the US federal government unblocking the budget impasse (Story on page 6). — AFP/UNB photo

16 BSEC enterprises fail to reach 50pc of targets

By Govinda Shil

The 16 different state owned enterprises of the Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) have failed to achieve even 50 per cent of their production and trading targets during the first four months of the current fiscal (1995-96).

The BSEC enterprises produced goods worth Tk 71.24 crore as against its target of Tk 158.32 crore during this period, shows the latest official statistics.

The statistics showed that total sales, including exports of the BSEC during this period was Tk 78.86 crore as against its target of Tk 177.63. The corporation exported goods worth Tk 3.13 crore as against its target of Tk 10.05 crore.

BSEC's 16 different factories and mills had a bank overdraft of Tk 451.53 crore as of October 25 this year. The largest bank debtor was the Chittagong Steel Mills (CSM), which had an over

AL preparing for 'toughest' agitation

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League (AL) is preparing for the "toughest of all agitation programmes" if the ruling party does not concede to its demand for polls under a caretaker government, a top party leader told The Daily Star yesterday.

"All out agitations will be launched throughout the country under the programme to be announced on November 24," the leader said.

"We are now waiting to see the ruling party's steps to resolve the crisis." Party leaders are already out in the districts to create the ground for a massive agitation, the AL leader added.

If the ruling party goes for

Raushan given intravenous saline

By Staff Correspondent

Begum Raushan Ershad and her family members who are on a hunger strike were given intravenous saline yesterday, as their health condition deteriorated further, according to Jatiya Party sources.

Raushan, along with three of her family members, began a fast unto death Thursday evening demanding the immediate shifting of HM Ershad, the ailing former president, from the Central Jail to a hospital for treatment.

Ershad, who is serving 13 years imprisonment on various charges of corruption and power abuse, is suffering from viral hepatitis since November 4. Meanwhile, a High Court order asked the

Dr Kamal's call 'Choose between democracy and anarchy'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting held yesterday urged the ruling BNP and the Opposition to sit for a dialogue and resolve the political crisis in line with the Joint Declaration of the Three Alliances during the anti-autocracy movement.

The meeting, organised by the Gano Forum and chaired by its President Kamal Hossain, was also addressed by

Armed Forces Day today

The Armed Forces Day will be observed today with due solemnity and enthusiasm, reports BSS.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday issued separate messages on the occasion.

The day's programme begins with the offering of munnajat after the Fajr prayers in all mosques of army garrisons, naval ships and establishments as well as Air Force bases throughout the country.

President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister and Defence Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, Bir Bikram, Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam and Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed will place wreaths at the Shikha Anirban (the eternal flame) in the city to pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces who had embraced martyrdom in the War of Liberation in 1971.

A Reception to the next of

BNP for solution thru' 'five plus five formula'

By Nazmul Ashraf

The ruling BNP would continue to make all efforts for resolving the political impasse by implementing the 'five plus five formula' for an interim government and for this the party would seek to bring the Awami League to the negotiating table shortly.

This was decided at a meeting of the top BNP leaders with the party chief and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair at her Tejgaon office in the city yesterday.

According to meeting sources, the BNP may not seek dissolution of the present Parliament by November 22, the last date for announcement of the schedule for by-polls to 147 seats. The party has planned to continue its efforts to resolve the political crisis, by utilising the opportunity of by-polls until the last date for filing

Cabinet okays formation of hardrock, coal mining cos

The Cabinet yesterday approved proposals for forming two companies for smooth mining of hardrock and coal in North Bengal, reports UNB.

The Madhyapara Hardrock Mining Company Limited and the Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited will be formed under the jurisdiction of Petro Bangla.

An official handout said the approval was given at a Cabinet meeting held in the Cabinet room of PM office with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The Cabinet also endorsed the proposal for amendment to The Inland Water Transport Authority Ordinance, 1958.

Dense fog disrupts ferry service at Aricha ghat

From Our Correspondent MANIKGANJ, Nov 20: Ferry services in the Aricha-Nagarbari and Aricha-Daulatdia river routes were disrupted for more than four hours early today as dense fog blanketed the water ways.

BIWTC officials said the ferry Bir Shrestha Jahangir carrying 14 night coaches, 10 trucks and some 1000 passengers were stranded in the Padma river after leaving from the Daulatdia terminal at midnight last night.

Besides, eight other ferries bound for Nagarbari and Daulatdia, including four big ferries carrying 125 trucks, could not leave Aricha ghat due to dense fog.

Two other ferries remained stranded at Nagarbari ghat while one at Daulatdia.

Due to disruption of ferry movement about 700 trucks and several hundred passengers were stranded at the terminals even after traffic resumed at 8:30 this morning.

Bodies of two youngmen recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Police recovered bodies of two youngmen, one from Uttara and the other from East Goran in the city yesterday.

The Body of Shahadat, 35, a day-labourer, was found hanging from a tree near the Faidabad graveyard under Uttara thana. There were marks of injury on the body, Uttara thana police said.

Sabujbag thana police recovered the body of one Emaduddin from a drain in East Goran. Newly married Emaduddin lived with his in-

14 get life term for murder in Khulna

By Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 20: Fourteen people were sentenced to life term and were also fined Tk 2,000 each by Additional Sessions Judge for murder Sirajuddin Ahmed here today.

Each of those sentenced would have to serve two months more in case of their failure to pay fine.

The case in brief is that one Fazar Ali of village Lebudia under Terakhada in Khulna was killed on February 22 in 1988 following a dispute over land.

US embassy resumes services today

Most of the offices at the US Embassy and the United States Information Service offices which were closed due to the furlough of US government employees will resume full operation today, says a USIS special release.

The visa section will open in two steps. Today, the section will be open only for immigrant visa interviews for those whose previously scheduled interviews were cancelled during the period the section was closed. Full service operations and interviews of non-immigrant visa applicants - for travel to the US for business, tourism, study, and so on - will resume tomorrow.

The USIS library, USIS

IRRI develops 'super rice'

LOS BANOS (Philippines), Nov 20: Scientists in Asia's leading rice research institute disclosed a breakthrough today in the development of a "super rice" plant expected to combat predicted food shortages in the next century.

But Gurdev Khush, principal plant breeder of the International Rice Research Institute based in this town, just south of Manila, said the variety would not be available to farmers before 2000 because it wasn't yet pest resistant.

The breakthrough, which came five years after research began in 1990, is in the improvement of the grain quality of the plant. Dubbed by media as "super rice" because of its increased yields, the new grains are long and slender and would appeal to most of Asia's rice eaters.

The new rice plant carries 200-250 grains per panicle — compared to 100 grains of modern rice varieties — and is expected to increase yield from irrigated fields by 25

Maltreatment by employer 25 Bangladeshis seek HC's help in Malaysia

By Reaz Ahmad

Twenty-five Bangladeshis in Malaysia, who claimed they could no longer bear alleged maltreatment by their employer, sought help at the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur on November 15.

According to a report UN body approves draft measures to curb child labour

GENEVA, Nov 20: The UN's employment agency on Sunday approved a draft of measures to step up the fight against child labour and called for countries to crack down on children being used as slaves and prostitutes, reports AFP.

In a communique published here at the UN International Labour Office ruling council urged member countries to "take urgent measures to eliminate the most flagrant abuses of children servitude, slavery and

Poverty alleviation programmes by some NGOs fail, study says

By Mizan Ali

Some rural women, taking loans from NGOs, have become money lenders.

But some had to sell household goods and property while some others took loans from other NGOs in false names to repay previous loans.

There were among the findings of a study which said poverty alleviation programmes of different NGOs are failing to yield desired results due to flaws in policy and implementation mechanism.

Destitute women and widows are given the least priority in development projects run by the government and the NGOs, the study found.

Some NGO officials, requesting anonymity, corroborated the findings of the study conducted by Dr Khaleda Salahuddin and Prof Ishrat Shamim. The study on "NGO intervention and Poverty Alleviation" was conducted at Gopalganj under Ghor thana in Manikganj district recently.

Admitting some "inherent flaws" in policies and implementation mechanism, the NGO officials said that the Tk 5000-ceiling of loans under the poverty alleviation programmes is too little an amount for any income generating project to be viable.

Persons taking loan from one NGO try to take loans from another NGO to repay the previous loan, the officials admitted.

According to the findings of the study some 42 per cent of the loanees take loans from more than one NGO violating the rules. According to NGO rules, one person can not borrow simultaneously from more than one NGO, they added.

The study said that inadequacy of the assistance provided to the female loanees by a single NGO could be a reason for taking loan from more than one organisation.

The same poor loanees, taking loans from not-so-well known NGOs have joined bigger NGOs like Proshika and

Hearing of petition against Auranga's bail deferred

By SC Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday by an order kept the hearing of the government petition for stay of the HC order granting ad interim bail to Hemayet Ullah Auranga stand over for three weeks.

The Appellate Division also directed both the state and the defence to mention the appeal, now pending before the HC, for an early hearing and disposal by this time.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice MM Hoque and Justice Mahfuzur Rahman on November 9 granted Auranga an ad interim bail for six months on medical grounds.

Major breakthrough at Balkan peace talks

From Masud Hasan Khan

WASHINGTON, Nov 20: Bosnian delegations today made a major breakthrough for ending their four-year-old war.

The three rival factions, Muslims, Serbs and Croats, are discussing the details of a deal at the Balkan peace talks at the Wright-Patterson Air Base in Dayton, Ohio.

"They made a major breakthrough on the territorial issues which had been the primary focus of talks throughout Sunday," US officials said.

The final deal will be signed later today.

Croatia and rump Yugoslavia also reached agreement on prisoners and missing persons during the peace