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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 866.09 (-1.11%)
Market capital Tk 5484.27 cr
Transactions in volume 222949
Transactions in value Tk 4.04 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 425.24 (-0.16%)
Market capital Tk 2149.70 cr
Transactions in volume 945
Transactions in value Tk 1.54 lakh

Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a two-page supplement on the inauguration of The Social Investment Bank Ltd
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PM's call to Opposition parties Join by-polls to help form interim nat'l govt

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon all opposition parties to help form an interim national government for holding the general elections.

"I think, there is still scope for resolving the prevailing (political) problems within the constitutional framework. The opposition parties could help in forming such a government by participating in the by-elections," the BNP chairperson said in a statement released by the party late last night.

"But if the opposition parties do not agree to join the by-elections in the interest of understanding, I will request the President to dissolve Parliament at the right time. Therefore, there will be no need of holding by-

elections," Begum Zia said. In the statement, the Prime Minister noted that the by-elections are imminent in the constitutional process, while the general election is also in the offing.

In this short span of time, it is very difficult to hold these two elections. It will also be expensive for a country like ours, and at same time, be complicated

Two leaders exchange pleasantries

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina exchanged rare pleasantries

from administrative point of view, she said.

Moreover, members elected through by-elections will have to face again the general election within a few days. This complexity is expected by none. For all this, it has already been stated that BNP is not interested in by-elections, Begum Zia pointed out.

But opposition parties can use the by-elections for the interest of a rapprochement, the Prime Minister added.

Begum Zia said as per the Constitution, the Election Commission is entrusted with the responsibility of announcing the schedule of the by-elections and general election and conducting those elections.

"Anytime they will announce the by-elections,"

Armed Forces Day observed

Armed Forces Day was observed yesterday with a renewed pledge to safeguard the national sovereignty and independence achieved through supreme sacrifices of valiant sons of the soil, reports UNB.

Glowing tributes were paid to the memory of the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country's liberation in 1971.

The day's programme was marked by placing wreaths at the 'Shikha Anirban' (the Eternal Flame), reception accorded to the families of martyred soldiers and an impressive display of military hardware and skills.

The programme began with the offering of special prayers after the Fajr prayers at the mosques of army garrisons, naval ships and establishments as well as air force bases throughout the country.

In the capital, President Abdur Rahman Biswas who is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, placed wreaths at the 'Shikha Anirban' in the morning.

Hasina threatens all-out agitation from Dec 7

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League will launch on all out agitation programme including stopping rail-road-airways if its demand for holding the next election under caretaker government is not met by December 7, party chief Sheikh Hasina said yesterday.

"There will be non-stop agitations if the people's demand is not met," Hasina said in a hard-hitting statement.

The statement follows press reports on a changed ruling party decision in favour of by-elections to the 147 parliamentary seats.

"The situation created by the government is forcing us to go for such agitations," the statement said.

The people had hoped for a neutral caretaker government following the resignation of the 147 MPs, as per democratic values and the

Constitution and holding of elections, she said.

But the ruling party has chosen the autocratic way of ruling the country, Hasina alleged.

She also questioned the integrity of the ruling party regarding holding a free and fair election and alleged that the BNP wanted to apply unfair means in the elections by not stepping down.

The government had also violated the Constitution by not holding the by-elections by March 28 following the resignation of the Opposition MPs, she said. Now, there is hardly any time left for the by-elections. So the government is deceiving the people by declaring the schedule for by-elections at this moment, the Awami League chief said.

All that the people want is

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Accord to end Balkan war

WASHINGTON, Nov 21: The warring sides in the Balkans have reached a comprehensive agreement to end the 43-month-old war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, US President Bill Clinton announced here today, reports AFP.

Clinton said the deal to end the worst conflict in Europe since World War II included a unified Sarajevo under Bosnian control. Other provisions include free elections and the return of refugees to their home.

He made the announcement in the Rose Garden of the White House after 21 days of talks at a military base in the midwestern state of Ohio bringing together the presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia.

Meanwhile, the United States and Germany asked the UN Security Council today to adopt within 24 hours two resolutions progressively lifting sanctions against the Serbs of former Yugoslavia, diplomats said.

One shot dead as rival JCD groups clash in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 21: An activist of the Jatayatnabadi Chhatra Dal was shot dead and 20 others injured in an armed clash between two rival groups of JCD on MC College campus today.

The clash erupted between the two rival groups — one led by Selim and another by Mirza and Faisal — at around 11 in the morning to establish supremacy on the campus.

Both the groups chased each other and fired gunshots creating panic on the campus and adjoining areas. At least 20 bombs were exploded during the clash which continued for 45 minutes.

Mohon Khan, a supporter of Faisal Mirza group died on the campus as he was shot by rival group in his chest.

BSP demands 300 pc increase in govt ad rate

The Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP) yesterday demanded immediate announcement of at least 300 per cent increase in government advertisement rate to help create a congenial atmosphere for starting the function of the new Wage Board, reports BSS.

In a general meeting of the BSP's executive committee held here with its president Prof Majedul Islam in the chair, it was resolved that all recommendations including reduction of electricity and telephone service charges made in the 4th Wage Board should be fully implemented before starting the activities of 5th Wage Board.



Chief of Army Staff Lt General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, Bir Bikram, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at Armed Forces Day in the city yesterday. —PID photo

By-elections schedule likely today

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission (EC) is likely to announce the schedule for by-elections to 147 vacant seats of Parliament today, Commission sources said.

The EC reportedly has chosen December 15 for balloting as the deadline falls on December 16, the Victory Day.

In case the by-polls schedule is declared today, EC officials pointed out that the last date for filing nominations will be November 25 or 26.

Tomorrow is the last date for announcing the schedule for the deferred by-election

to the JS seats vacated by the Opposition lawmakers.

"By-election is the last window for resolving the crisis within the constitutional framework — for which we may wait till the eleventh hour," said Chief Election Commissioner Justice AKM Sadek, according to UNB.

Talking to a group of reporters at his chamber yesterday evening, he said: "Parliament will be dissolved — that was our hope. We could have been saved if that would have been done."

"I will have no option other than announcing the

20000 digital phone lines in Motijheel

By Reaz Ahmed

A total of 20,000 digital telephone lines are being commissioned in the city's Motijheel area from tomorrow.

The new lines are being commissioned under the 1,50,000 Line Digital Telephone Project of the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board.

Telephone numbers in Motijheel and its adjoining areas will be converted to new numbers gradually and the analogue telephone sets will be replaced with digital sets. Conversion of numbers and replacement of analogue sets would be free of charge, said officials sources.

The 30-month 1,50,000 Line Digital Telephone Project was undertaken in June last year and scheduled to be completed by December, 1996.

Alcatel of France was awarded with the contract to commission the digital lines in five major cities of Bangladesh on a turn-key basis. The Bangladesh government is financing the project through treasury bonds.

The cities those fall under this project are: Dhaka (1,00,000 lines), Sylhet (15,000 lines), Khulna (15,000 lines), Chittagong (10,000 lines) and Rajshahi (10,000 lines).

According to AR Saber, Project Director, the main aim of this project was to ease the flow of local, nationwide dialing (NWD) and international satellite dialing (ISD) and at the same time to satisfy the registered tele-

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100 firms to join Ctg industrial fair today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 21: Around 100 industrial organisations including some multinational companies will participate in the fourth eight-day industrial fair beginning in the port city tomorrow.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), in cooperation with German Federation of Small Business (ZDH) and Techno-Asia (TA) has organised the fair at the premises of the Krira Parishad. The fair has been styled Technology Exposition-95.

The participants are from Chittagong, Dhaka, Rajshahi, Comilla, Rangamati, Kushtia and some other districts. Sarwar Jamal Nizam, president of the chamber, said at a press conference here today.

The goods to be displayed include detergent, handloom products, readymade garments, handicraft, shoes, jewellery, toys, jute products, embroidered quilts, tea, milk products, pump machines, tiles, ceramic products, pressure cooker, soap, tooth powder, aluminium products, cables, bakery and confectionery items, bulb, watches, cosmetics, slim fabrics, marble crafts, agro-products, malamine products, electrical products, plastic products and computer etc., the chamber president said.

Communication Minister Oli Ahmed will attend the inaugural function as chief guest while Charge de affaires of German Embassy

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US envoy urges political parties Resolve crisis to have 'fair look' at polls

By Staff Correspondent

US Ambassador in Bangladesh David Merrill yesterday observed that the political parties should strive to resolve the crisis for ensuring maximum participation in a free and fair election.

He also emphasised "early restoration" of a political environment for smooth sailing of the reform programme to build an enabling environment for the private sector.

He was speaking at the luncheon meeting of the American-Bangladesh Economic Forum at a local hotel.

"A resolution of the stalemate leading to an election with full participation and leading to a period of calm, would permit a fair look at whether the government

which comes to office has the will to tackle these difficult issues", the US ambassador said.

"The economic reform agenda is in turn hostage to some degree to the current political deadlock," the Ambassador observed.

"Everyday lost on this reform agenda diverts Bangladesh from achieving its potential maximum growth path, and thereby delays the day when more of its citizens can realise the fruits of economic growth with equity," Merrill mentioned.

He saw a solution of the current political impasse as the key to doing away with economic problems.

"The political environ-

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Di confesses adultery, to stay in public life

LONDON, Nov 21: Princess Diana, estranged wife of heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, confessed she had committed adultery with a dashing cavalry officer but said she did not want a divorce and vowed to stay in public life, reports Reuter.

In a frank and wide-ranging interview screened by BBC television on Monday, Diana quietly admitted she had carried on an affair with former officer James Hewitt and said his 1994 kiss-and-tell book about their relationship had devastated her.

Asked if she had been unfaithful, Diana, blinking and sniffing slightly, replied "Yes, I adored him. Yes, I was in love with him."

She added: "I was absolutely devastated when this book appeared because I trusted him."

Diana, 34, who created a furore by giving the interview without asking her mother-in-law Queen Elizabeth first, made clear she wanted to stay in public life, despite what she considered a campaign to discredit her.

"She will not go quietly," Diana said of herself. She will fight to the end. Because I have two children to bring up and because I believe I have a role to fulfill.

Some British newspapers

latched on to these remarks for their headlines. The Daily Telegraph led with the story under the headline "I shall fight to the end. I will not go quietly." The Guardian's headline over its front page story was: Diana: I will not go quietly. Diana spoke quietly and calmly about the breakdown of her marriage.



Princess Diana Wearing a sober navy blue suit she frequently flashed her trademark "shy Di" look by peering up through lowered lashes, but her answers during the hour-long interview were anything but shy.

She described how her fairy tale marriage at the age of 20 to Charles 12 years her senior, started to fall apart.

"I desperately wanted it to

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Britain plans crackdown on illegal immigrants

LONDON, Nov 21: Britain announced plans on Monday for a crackdown on illegal immigrants by making it a criminal offence for employers to hire them, reports Reuter.

Home Secretary Michael Howard, the interior minister, told Parliament he was acting to curb an alarming rise in applications for political asylum, which reached some 4,500 in October compared with an average of 2,000 a month in 1994.

"For far too many people across the world, this coun-

try is far too attractive as a destination for bogus asylum seekers and other illegal immigrants," Howard said.

"The reason is simple. It is far easier to obtain access to jobs and benefits here than almost anywhere else," he added.

Howard, whose Jewish father fled Eastern Europe in the 1930s to escape the advancing Nazis, said he will bring a bill before Parliament to implement sweeping new immigration rules.

Under the proposals, it would become a criminal offence to hire people without checking that they are legally entitled to be in Britain.

Employers organisations have already objected to the idea, saying it would make them "unpaid immigration officers" and could harm race relations.

Racketeers who bring immigrants into Britain would face a new charge of encouraging the deception of immigration officials. They would face up to seven years in jail.

Howard also said he would draw up a "white list" of countries where people, in Britain's view, were not likely to suffer political persecution. There would be a presumption that asylum applications from those countries would be turned down.

Teenaged boy shot dead

By Staff Correspondent

A teenaged boy was shot dead and four others were injured at Mirpur Road in the city yesterday.

Ravi, 17, was shot dead when an armed group opened fire on their opponents at Shukrabad bus stand. Ravi passed the SSC examinations last year.

The armed men opened fire and exploded cocktails during the attack which lasted for over half an hour, witnesses said.

Four persons were also injured in the incident.

The injured persons are:

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Businessmen to launch protest programme

By Staff Correspondent

The business community will launch a countrywide protest programme if the persisting political crisis is not solved by the end of this month.

This was resolved at a conference of the business community yesterday at the Engineers Institution. Salman F Rahman, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) was in the chair.

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Proceedings of Holiday Inn case stayed

By SC Correspondent

The High Court Division yesterday again ordered stay of all further proceedings of the Holiday Inn case, trial of which was scheduled to begin on January 3.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice M Badruzzaman and Justice Mohammad Asaduzzaman, upon a criminal revision petition filed by Barrister Maudud Ahmed, one of the accused challenging the charge framed against him, also issued a rule on the government.

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Star Fashion '96

The Daily Star Readers too become Fashion Judges

For Eid '96 your favourite newspaper will organize a fashion competition in which YOU, THE READERS will be asked to judge the Best Design for Eid '96 in 7 categories of items.

So, fashion designers start your creative work to win the hearts and minds of the Daily Star Readers.

Enter STAR FASHION '96.
(See page 11 for details)