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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 867.96 (+0.88%)
Market capital Tk 5554.41 cr
Transactions in volume 75524
Transactions in value Tk 1.83 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 419.75 (-0.74%)
Market capital Tk 2121.87 cr
Transactions in volume 1375
Transactions in value Tk 2.10 lakh

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NEWS BRIEFS

CEC calls on President

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice AKM Sadeque called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabandhu yesterday. Election Commissioner Justice Md. Abdul Jalil accompanied him. They stayed with the President for some time and briefed him on matters relating to elections, an official handout said, reports BSS.

AL rally in city today

The Awami League will hold a rally today at Panthapath in the city to force the government to dissolve parliament and hold elections under a non-party caretaker administration. Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will address the rally in the afternoon, reports UNB.

Teenaged girl kidnapped in city

A teenaged girl was kidnapped at gun point from her residence at Mirpur in the city on Wednesday night. Police said, a group of about eight miscreants in a microbus entered the house of Dilruba Jahan Mukul, 14, daughter of late Mohammad Sharifullah, at about 10:45 pm and forcibly took her away, reports UNB.

DU postpones exams

By DU Correspondent
The Dhaka University authorities have postponed all examinations scheduled for tomorrow due to unavoidable reasons.

PM addresses nation today

JS may be dissolved

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP government is likely to seek immediate dissolution of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad in view of the negative response from the Opposition to the Prime Minister's call to help form an interim national government for holding the general elections, according to highly-placed sources in the ruling party.

The BNP may opt for early general elections, preferably in mid-January, if its last-minute bids for a negotiated settlement with the Opposition over the caretaker government issue through the

by-poll process fails, the sources indicated.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is scheduled to address the nation over radio and television at 7pm today.

The Prime Minister's address is being seen as highly significant at this stage of the political developments.

BNP policy-planners were busy yesterday finalising the party stand in the light of the Opposition response to the PM's latest offer for resolving the persisting political impasse, a top party leader said, requesting

anonymity.

Meanwhile, the acting secretary general of the BNP Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told journalists yesterday evening that the PM would request the President to dissolve the Parliament if the opposition parties did not contest the by-polls to help form the proposed interim national government.

Replying to a question, he said that after the dissolution of the Parliament his party would continue in power and hold the next general elections. He also assured of taking

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467 technical flaws in Rauzan power plant identified

By Sharier Khan and RM Titumir

The newly-built 210-MW power plant at Rauzan was found to have 467 technical flaws and it is likely to continue tripping for the rest of its life, according to a critical analysis included in the Power System Master Plan (PSMP).

The PSMP, finalised recently, identified the location of the plant as "far from ideal" and noted there was no remedy to the plant's major flaws.

While the construction of the second unit of the Rauzan power plant was started earlier this year by the same Chinese builders of the first phase, the PSMP cautions about the repetition of the same flaws. The plan warned against setting up any more units at the faulty site.

The first plant was built by the China National Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Corporation (CMEC) under a turn-key project at a cost of Tk 552 crore and was

commissioned in March 1993. Since then, the plant has tripped more than 50 times due to technical flaws.

Yet when asked by the press on different occasions recently, the Energy Minister and the PDB authorities praised the performance of the Rauzan plant as "very satisfactory," adding that the plant had rarely malfunctioned in the last one year.

The plant, however, tripped several times in the recent months causing a shortfall in the country's total power supply.

Despite protests from engineers of the Power Development Board (PDB), the government signed a second contract with the CMEC earlier this year for the construction of the second unit. The CMEC agreed to improve the designs of the second plant and placed 55 design drawing packets before the Directorate of Design for ap-

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JP activists go on rampage, damage many cars in city

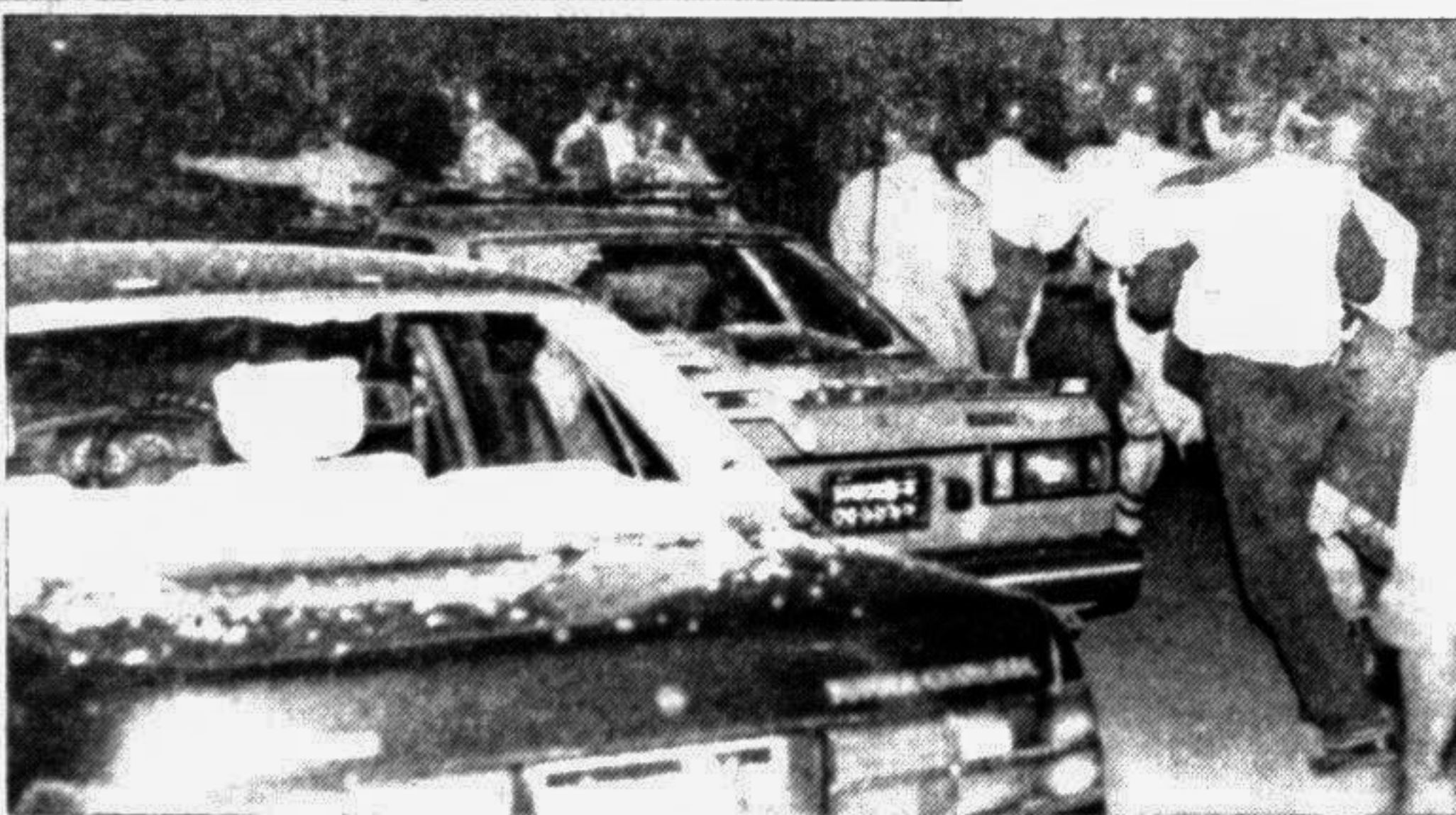
By Staff Correspondent

Activists of Jatiya Party and its student wing Jatiya Chhatra Samaj damaged around two dozen cars and auto-rickshaws in Motijheel area of the city yesterday evening.

Activists of the JP and the Chhatra Samaj brought out a torch procession from in front of the Jatiya Press Club to drum up support for their proposed half-day hartal tomorrow and proceeded towards Motijheel. Near the Danik Bangla intersection, the processionists suddenly became violent and started pelting bricks and stones and used bamboo sticks of their torches to damage the cars passing by, witnesses said.

The processionists also damaged three auto-rickshaws and set fire to those in front of the Hawkers Samity office. The fire was later doused by people there.

Later, the activists spread out towards Motijheel where they badly damaged several cars.



Jatiya Party activists damaged some cars at Motijheel in the city yesterday protesting announcement of the by-polls schedule. — Star photo

Jaffna totally cut-off, may fall by Sunday

COLOMBO, Nov 23: The Sri Lankan army has cut off the rebel-held Jaffna town completely, leaving no way for an estimated 2,000 guerrillas holed up there to escape, an army spokesman said today, reports Reuter.

"We have effectively cut off Jaffna town from the rest of the peninsula," Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe told a news conference.

"Tigers are trapped in the town. They have to jump into the sea, bite cyanide or surrender," Munasinghe said of the Liberation Tigers of the Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who usually carry a cyanide capsule to avoid getting caught alive.

He said troops had advanced further south from Nallur on the Jaffna city limits into Ariyalai east and Colombuthurai, completing their south-bound march to the bottom of the Valikamam division.

Munasinghe said troops had killed at least 100 rebels in heavy fighting on Wednesday and wounded more than 250. Seventeen soldiers were also killed, while five officers and 88 soldiers were wounded.

The capture of the Jaffna-Kandy highway, a supply lifeline for Jaffna, and a ban on travel across the Jaffna la-

goon, a waterway used by civilians and Tamil Tiger rebels to reach the mainland, had also helped tighten the army's grip on the rebel capital, he said.

Defence analysts said any rebels remaining in Jaffna town would be cut off once the army reaches the coast and blocks the highway and other roads to Chavakachcheri, further east.

The final battle for Jaffna is being waged by elite commandos who took over from regular soldiers last Monday.

Some officials have said Jaffna, now surrounded by

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British trade team due today

A British Trade Mission, the second in a year, arrives in the city today on a week-long visit, reports UNB.

British businesses are eager to expand non-aid trade relationship with Bangladesh in view of the Dhaka's switch over to private sector led economic policy, sources in the diplomatic and business circles believe.

According to British High Commission sources the mission will be essentially a fact-finding trip.

Bangladesh is the second

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Ctg city to have 47000 digital phone lines

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Nov 23: Chittagong will have 47,000 digital telephone lines by the end of 1997, official sources said.

The authorities took the plan to install the lines against the backdrop of a growing demand of telephones here and a French company has already started work on two projects.

Of the total, 37,000 connections are likely to be completed by the middle of next year. The rest 10,000 lines are supposed to be given later under a separate project, sources said.

In addition to providing fresh connections to the people here, all analogue telephone lines would also be brought under digital system, sources added.

So far 14,000 digital connections were given in the port city and the outdated 20 exchange at Nandankanan was replaced by digital system.

All 20 and 25 telephone numbers had been converted into digital numbers from December, 1994, according to officials. The rest of the connections will be given in phases they said.

At present there are over

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Cyclonic storm intensifies

The cyclonic storm over southeast Bay and adjacent southwest bay moved north-westwards and intensified into a severe cyclonic storm over the area, reports UNB.

It was centred at 9 pm yesterday about 1,330 km southwest of Chittagong port and 1,260 km southwest of Khulna town.

A Met office special bulletin said the storm is likely to intensify further and move in a northwesterly direction.

Maximum sustained wind within 64 kilometres of the cyclone centre is about 100 kph.

Maritime ports Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted distant warning signal number two.

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By-elections will be resisted: Hasina

Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the people would resist at any cost the attempt to hold by-elections and force the government to resign giving national elections under a caretaker administration, reports UNB.

"There is no alternative to a caretaker government for ensuring a free and fair election," the opposition leader said threatening that road-air traffic and port activities would be shut down from December 7 and the decisive movement would continue until the demand is met.

The Awami League President asked the government to give up the attempt to hold by-elections, otherwise the responsibility of any unpleasant situation would be

planned on it. When the demand for holding elections under a neutral caretaker government has turned into a national demand, at that time the drama of by-elections cannot be acceptable to the nation, she said addressing an extended meeting of City Awami League at party's central office in the city.

She also flayed the Election Commission, saying "the subservient and biased Election Commission is trying to give a bluff to the nation by announcing the schedule for by-elections".

Branding the government as autocratic, the Awami League chief said: "By taking the initiative of by-elections Khaleda Zia again proved

See Page 8 Col 6

Children of govt employees to get stipend for edn from this yr: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the government employees to carry out their respective responsibilities for overall development of the country, reports UNB.

"As public servant, the government employees have a greater responsibility for national development...", Begum Zia said at the 15th national conference of the Bangladesh 4th Class Government Employees' Association at the Motijheel Boys' High School premises.

Begum Zia said despite resource constraints the government has provided a new national pay-scale for the government officials and employees.

It further raised 10 per cent of their salary in 1994 and set up a trust board for the employees. Moreover, the government assistance for an ailing employee has been doubled to the tune of his four months' salary.

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General elections EC instruction for balanced publicity

The Chief Election Commissioner yesterday instructed the quarters concerned to provide just and balanced publicity to the political parties taking part in the general elections, reports BSS.

He was discussing at his office the formulation of the guidelines for publicity of the political parties in the state-controlled media.

The officials who took part in the meeting, pledged to go by the decisions of the Chief Election Commissioner in this matter with a view to ensuring free and fair elections in the country.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice AKM Sadeque

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Jubo League leader shot dead in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 23: A local Jubo League leader was shot dead by some unidentified persons near Rupsha Ferry Ghat here this evening.

The victim was identified as Alamgir Hussain, 25, son of Abdul Hai of East Rupsha under Rupsha thana. Alamgir sustained bullet wounds in his face and died on the way to Khulna General Hospital.

District unit of the Awami League-backed Jubo League blamed pro-BNP Jubo Dal for the killing.

The body was sent to the General Hospital for autopsy. However, no case was registered till filing of this report late tonight.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing the extended meeting of the city committee of the party at Bangabandhu Avenue office yesterday. — Star photo

Fertiliser crisis moderate

By Govinda Shil

A moderate crisis in the supply of urea, triple super phosphate (TSP) and single super phosphate (SSP) has struck the market and may take an acute form if proper measures are not taken immediately, sources concerned said.

Bangladesh Fertiliser Association (BFA) sources said TSP is being sold at prices from Tk 650 to Tk 700 per 50-kg bag at the farmers' level while its mill-gate price is around Tk 350. Urea is now sold at Tk 230 to 240 per 50-kg bag in the eastern region and at Tk 250 to 270 in the northern region of the country. The mill-gate price

is Tk 186.25 per bag.

The sources said that the government was now preparing a fresh list of probable dealers that would be finalised before the next peak season, towards the end of December.

"We are not getting TSP and even SSP from the Chittagong factory," said a BFA member. He alleged that the authorities concerned were not supplying fertiliser according to the BCIC provisions. The six urea factories are supplying 3,000 tonnes of urea per day instead of 6,000 tonnes.

BCIC sources, however, said that the government had

ordered the Chittagong TSP factory not to sell TSP and SSP now. The lone TSP factory of the country has a production capacity of 30,000 tonnes of TSP and 1,20,000 tonnes of SSP. The sources said that they were not delivering urea at a rate of 6,000 tonnes per day because the season was lean. The demand for urea in the country is 19,00,000 tonnes approximately. BCIC factories produced 7,96,733 tonnes till November 20, since July 1.

The country has a demand for 5,50,000 tonnes of SSP and 75,000 tonnes of TSP. Most of the demand is met

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UN lifts sanctions on Yugoslavia

WASHINGTON, Nov 23: The United Nations lifted sanctions, rewarding the Balkan factions for signing a peace accord, while President Bill Clinton prepared to sell America on his plan for US soldiers to monitor the accord, reports AFP.

The UN Security Council, a day after an agreement to end 43 months of war in Bosnia, voted Wednesday to suspend economic sanctions against Serbia and approved a phased lifting of the arms embargo against the former Yugoslavia.

Economic sanctions had been slapped on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in retribution for its key role in the Balkans conflict, a four-year arms embargo was placed on the entire former Yugoslavia but hit Bosnia the hardest.

The Security Council resolutions were the expected follow-up to an agreement reached in Dayton, Ohio, by Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic, Bosnia-Herzegovina president Alija Izetbegovic and Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president following US-brokered talks.

"This is the first concrete way of translating what happened at Dayton," US ambassador Madeleine Albright told journalists.

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By lifting the arms embargo and suspending economic sanctions we have kick-started that long journey... the long road towards peace," she added.

The decision to lift weapons restrictions was met with some reluctance by Europeans and Russians who have made common cause against the move and applied conditions to the relaxing of the measure.

Russia abstained from the resolution lifting the arms embargo. "We are not in

By DMCH Correspondent
A sub inspector (SI) of police of Demra thana was shot by some miscreants who tried to snatch an alleged killer arrested by him from Shekhdia area under the thana yesterday evening.

The SI, Badrul Alam Talukder (45), received bullet injuries in his chest and abdomen and was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়

একটি বিশেষ ঘোষণা

শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় সকল শিক্ষা বোর্ডের ১৯৯৫

সালের এইচএসসি পরীক্ষার বিজ্ঞান, মানবিক ও বাণিজ্য শাখা ও বাংলাদেশ মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ডের আলিম পরীক্ষার সম্মিলিতভাবে ১ম থেকে ২০তম স্থান অধিকারী ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের আগামী ২রা ডিসেম্বর '৯৫ রোজ শনিবার সকাল ১১.০০ টায় ঢাকা স্বতন্ত্র মিলনায়তনে সংবর্ধনা প্রদান করবে।

সংবর্ধনা অনুষ্ঠানে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য এইচএসসি ও আলিম '৯৫ পরীক্ষার সম্মিলিত মেধা তালিকাত্ত্বক ১ম থেকে ২০তম স্থান অধিকারী ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের রেজিস্ট্রেশনের জন্য আগামী ১লা ডিসেম্বর '৯৫ রোজ শুক্রবার বিকাল ২.০০ টায় স্ব-স্ব শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানসহ ওসমানী স্মৃতি মিলনায়তনে উপস্থিত হওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

ডিএফপি-২৭৯২৮-৯/১১

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