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CSE MARKET

CSE price index	415.09 (+0.55%)
Market capital Tk	2276.31 cr
Transactions in volume	4470
Transactions in value Tk	579 lakh

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



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NEWS BRIEFS

Heroin seized

PABNA, Dec 2: Police seized 200 grams of heroin worth Tk 20 lakh from village Sameshpur in Sadar thana of the district last night. Acting on a tip, a police squad led by SP Jamshed Uddin Bhutyan raided the residence of shopkeeper Suruj Ali at village Sameshpur at 2 am and recovered 200 grams of heroin. Police arrested Suruj and sent him to jail hajat, reports UNB.

Body of abducted man recovered

JHENIDAH, Dec 2: The body of an abducted young man was recovered from a field in Kanchan Nagar area of the town today, police said.

The deceased, identified as Anisur Rahman, 28, was abducted last night along with one Laddu who was missing till late this afternoon. Anis and Laddu were picked up allegedly by a gang of armed miscreants backed by the Hoque Group of Biplabi Communist Party Friday night, reports UNB.

15 held in Dhamrai

MANIKGANJ, Dec 2: Dhamrai thana police arrested 15 people including three inter-district dacoits with looted goods worth about Tk 10,000 in special drives conducted during last four days. The arrested dacoits - Nagar Ali, 30, Khurshed, 26, and Moslem, 28 - confessed to the police that they had committed several dacoities in neighbouring areas of Dhaka-Aricha highway, reports UNB.

Lankan troops take control of Jaffna

COLOMBO, Dec 2: Sri Lankan troops today took complete control of the Tamil rebel bastion of Jaffna in the island's north after 47 days of bitter fighting which left nearly 2,500 dead on both sides, the military said, reports AFP.

Hundreds of soldiers captured the former Dutch-built Jaffna Fort, giving them an iron-grip over the entire town, which has been the capital of a de facto state run by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Today's dramatic victory came on the 47th day of Sri Lanka's biggest military offensive launched October 17 to capture the sprawling Jaffna peninsula, which claimed the lives of at least 508 soldiers and 1,925 guerrillas.

Military officials said the LTTE was still offering sporadic but fierce resistance

within the Jaffna town centre, which had been sealed off by soldiers determined to hoist the Sri Lankan flag in the region.

"Physically we are not in



the (town) centre, but no one can go in and no one can come out," chief military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe told AFP. "We have sealed off Jaffna."

"Clearing the entire place will take a day or two," he said.

Added an army official: "It might take two to three days to mop up the remaining resistance."

The defence ministry said in a statement that the 16th-century fort, which was razed by the Tigers in 1990 after hundreds of soldiers were evacuated from there en masse following an LTTE siege, was taken at 10:30 am (0500 GMT).

The fort has been a symbol of dominance over Jaffna, the fountainhead of a dragging Tamil separatist campaign which has killed more than 50,000 people over two

See Page 12 Col 3

'Treaty with India won't be renewed the same way'

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that if her party was voted to power, the Indo-Bangladesh friendship treaty would not be "renewed the same way."

"I want to say clearly, as I said also in the past, that the Indo-Bangladesh treaty will not be renewed the same way if we come to power again," she said.

The AL chief made the remarks while declaring the Bijoy Mela (victory fair) open at the Ramna Batomul in the city yesterday evening.

The mela has been organised by the Joy Bangla

See Page 12 Col 1

Hasina's appeal to PM Let's open talks to select head of caretaker govt

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday appealed to the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to sit for a discussion to select a person to head a neutral caretaker government for conducting the general election, reports UNB.

"Please dissolve the cabinet immediately and let us open talks... let us select a person to head the caretaker government," she said addressing a rally of Mohila Awami League at Farmgate yesterday afternoon.

Responding to the Prime Minister's latest remarks about interim caretaker government, Hasina questioned: "When you have agreed to form an interim government headed by the President, then where is the problem to resign?"

See Page 12 Col 3



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing a rally of the Mohila Awami League at Farmgate just before it brought out a black flag procession in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Monetary contraction policy unlikely to affect investment

By Govinda Shil

The ongoing monetary contraction policy of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) would not affect the level of investment in the country and should not also affect the inter-bank lending business, Governor of the Bank Khorshed Alam has said.

Asked about the ongoing regulatory policy of the BB, the governor told The Daily Star "We should first consider our economic interests." He, however, said "extraction of excess liquidity from the commercial banks would lead them to recover bad loans."

"Bring back bad loans to smooth banking business," the governor added. Bangladesh Bank would not float the exchange rate of taka in the open market now, he said last week.

He said accountability of the commercial banks must be established.

The BB is controlling the money supply, so that people will hold less money to buy goods and this will bring the current inflation rate down, said sources in the central bank.

But banking experts say that the central bank's monetary contraction policy has not proved adequate to com-

bat the high inflation rate mainly caused by sharp rise of the prices of foodgrains.

"Unless the real economy grows, the high inflation rate cannot be beaten," said an official of the BB. Quoting the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the official said, the country was now experiencing an 8.7 per cent inflation.

A country having a GDP growth rate of four per cent can bear an inflation rate of 2 to 2.5 per cent approximately he pointed out.

Talking to The Daily Star, an expert on international

See Page 12 Col 2

Morshed committee report being partly implemented: Mostafiz

By Staff Correspondent

The Foreign Minister was talking to some journalists informally at his official residence yesterday where he gave them his latest book - "Baatha" (Pain) - in which he gave an account of his battle against cancer.

Mostafiz, who underwent successful surgery at a New York Hospital, is scheduled to leave for Saudi Arabia today at the invitation of King Fahd

for getting a "second opinion" at the King Faisal Hospital on the course of his treatment.

Speaking about the political impasse, he expressed the hope that the Opposition would sit at the negotiating table to solve the crisis.

"In politics there is no last word, or rigidity and everything could be solved through talks across the table."

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Khaleda's fourth letter sent to Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's fourth letter to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina was sent last night.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof Abdul Mannan carried the PM's letter and handed it over to the AL general secretary Zillur Rahman at the latter's Banani residence in the city at about 9 pm.

When contacted last night, Zillur confirmed that he received the letter from Prof Mannan and later phoned party chief Sheikh Hasina to inform her of the matter. "I'll hand over the letter to her (Hasina) tomorrow," he said.

Asked if they would again write to the PM, Zillur said, "It depends on the content of the letter" which he said was not known to him till 11.30 last night.

In their bid to settle the lingering political crisis through exchange of letters, the PM received Hasina's

See Page 12 Col 3

Bomb hurled on road in front of PM's office

By Staff Correspondent

A bomb was hurled near the old airport, close to the Prime Minister's office in the city, at about 11:30 am yesterday.

Witnesses said that the bomb was thrown from a speeding car heading towards Mohakhali. The explosion made a big bang and created thick smoke in the area. The explosion could be heard from a distance of at least half a kilometre.

Just after the explosion, a police officer with a walkie-talkie in his hand was seen running towards a police truck parked in the area.

See Page 12 Col 5

Law for trial of fatwabaz demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has urged the government and the political parties as well as conscious citizens of the country to rise against crimes committed against women under the cover of 'fatwa' or religious decrees.

The Parishad, at a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday, demanded enactment of laws banning 'fatwa' and providing for trial of 'fatwabaz' people.

It also demanded introduction of a 'uniform family code' and necessary amendments to certain 'discriminatory laws'.

Reading out a statement, See Page 12 Col 5

Leeson jailed for 6 years



SINGAPORE, Dec 2: Rogue financial trader Nick Leeson was sentenced to six years and six months in prison after a swift trial today for violating Singapore's laws in covering the losses that snake Britain's Barings Bank, reports AFP.

The sentence was retroactive to March 2, when Leeson was arrested in Germany after fleeing Singapore, where he had placed the disastrous futures bets that broke Britain's oldest merchant bank in late February.

The 28-year old Briton had pleaded guilty to two cheating offences on Friday under a plea bargain with financial police that saw nine other charges being dropped and the maximum sentence slashed from 14 to eight years.

Leeson dressed in a dark See Page 12 Col 7



A procession with disabled children in the city yesterday in observance of the World Disability Day. — Star photo

Ministers can't hold office after JS dissolution: Amirul

By Staff Correspondent

A leading lawyer yesterday said that the ministers in the present cabinet could no longer continue in office following the dissolution of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) as they are no more MPs.

Talking to The Daily Star, Barrister Amirul Islam referred to Article 58 (1b) of the Constitution and said, the office of a minister, other than the Prime Minister, shall become vacant if he or she ceases to be a member of the Parliament.

In the instance of the

Prime Minister there is also a provision that her office shall become vacant in case of her having ceased to be a member of Parliament. However, he added that Article 58 (3) states that it will not "disqualify the Prime Minister from holding office until his (her) successor has entered upon office."

Barrister Amirul Islam said it was his considered view that after the dissolution of the Parliament under Article 72 (1), which occurred See Page 12 Col 7

Murder, dacoity & rape 40pc cases of '90-94 pending with courts

By Mizan Ali and Reaz Ahmad

Almost 40 per cent of the rape, dacoity and murder cases registered during 1990-94 still remain pending with various lower courts upto district level, says statistics collected from police headquarters.

The number of cases in the three categories registered during this period stood at 18,262, of which 7,806 remain pending till now.

The number of pending cases for murder was 5,385, as against the total of 11,614 cases filed during 1990 to 1994, the figures for dacoity

cases are 1903 and 4756 respectively.

Of the 1391 rape cases filed between 1990 and 1992, 445 are still pending.

As many as 1077 rape, dacoity and murder cases of 1990 are still pending with various courts are still and the number increased with every passing year.

The total number of cases pending of 1991 in the three categories is 1319 and that of 1992 is 1783.

A total of 468 rape cases, 1055 dacoity cases and 2206 murder cases were filed in See Page 12 Col 5

Labour cost in BTMC mills double that of pvt units

By Sharier Khan and R M Titumir

Labour cost per unit of product in BTMC mills is nearly double that of private sector mills although workers and employees in the state-owned factories are paid less.

"Such high labour cost in Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation units is due to poor management, poor performance, obsolete machinery and over-staffing," said an official of the Ministry of Textiles.

According to a report by the Textile Strategic Management Unit (TSMU) of the Ministry, the average labour cost in the loss-making BTMC spinning mills is Tk 23.36 per kg of yarn while it is Tk 12.71 per kg in the private sector mills.

In the BTMC, average wages for workers is Tk 1790 per month while it is Tk 1840 in private sector mills. The average salary of a BTMC staff is Tk 2580 while it is Tk 3200 in a private sector mill. Average salary of an officer in BTMC is Tk 6,190 while it is Tk 7430 in a private sector mill.

Official statistics also show, the average wages of workers is the lowest in the readymade garments sector although the sector earns most of the foreign exchange for the country. The average wage of a worker is Tk 810, salary of a staff Tk 300 and of an officer is Tk 7,500.

In BTMC weaving mills also average wages and See Page 12 Col 1

2500 trucks stranded at Nagarbari

PABNA, Dec 2: Some 2,500 trucks loaded with perishable goods remained stranded at Nagarbari ghat for the last three days due to shortage of ferry. Water Development Board sources said here today (Saturday).

Meanwhile, BIWTC sources said the disruption of the ferry services had been caused by a sharp fall in water level in the main channel at Kasadhaha, 2 km downstream of Aricha and emergence of shoals in the riverbed.

Nagarbari ghat sources said that six out of the nine ferries are operating as three ferries remained agrounded in the chargs of Jamuna since Thursday.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) has deployed 24 ferries to help ease the unprecedented congestions at Aricha, Nagarbari and Daulat- See Page 12 Col 4

3-month infant strangled by father

By Staff Correspondent

A three-month old infant was strangled allegedly by her father at their residence at Bara Moghbazar in the city Friday evening.

Police arrested the man, Bakul Chandra Shil, 35, and produced him before the court yesterday. Bakul's wife Helena Gayen, 28, informed police about the infanticide and his mother-in-law filed a case with Ramna thana.

Bakul, a photographer, allegedly killed the infant, Shaon, following a long conflict with his wife. In his confession to police, he said that his wife was pregnant when they got married following a love affair about a year ago. He suspected whether Shaon was his daughter, he said.

Helena said that their conjugal life became unbearable over the issue after the birth of Shaon.

According to police and See Page 12 Col 6

PDB employees threaten strike from Dec 6

Workers and employees of the Power Development Board (PDB) have threatened a strike from Wednesday (December 6) to press home their 14-point demand including a separate pay scale and stoppage of the privatisation move, reports UNB.

The threat came from the leaders of the Bangladesh Jatiya Biddyt Sramik Karmachari Union, the CBA for PDB employees and workers, at a meeting at the PDB office premises yesterday.

Kazi Habibur Rahman, president of the union, said more than 12,000 PDB workers and employees had extended their support for See Page 12 Col 6

Child-lifting cases Only one person chargesheeted in 11 months

Star Report

Police chargesheeted 21 persons in 12 cases of women trafficking and one for child-lifting in the country from January to November this year, according to sources in the police headquarters.

All these cases are now under trial.

Another 17 cases of women trafficking and 10 cases of child-lifting are under police investigation. During this period, police rescued 29 women and arrested 41 persons for alleged women trafficking. They also rescued 13 children and arrested 16 persons on charges See Page 12 Col 2

Biman starts Barisal flight today

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 2 Biman Bangladesh Airlines will start operating Dhaka-Barisal flight from tomorrow (Sunday).

Initially, Biman will operate once-a-week flight between Dhaka and Barisal on Sundays. One-way fare will be Tk 600 per person.

The 70-seater ATP aircraft will depart Dhaka at 8:15 am and reach Barisal at 8:50 am, says a press release of the Biman.

Meanwhile, President Abdur Rahman Biswas will inaugurate the Barisal Airport at 8:30 am tomorrow.

'King Fahd suffered heart attack'

NICOSIA, Dec 2: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia suffered a heart attack which put him in hospital Thursday, Arab diplomats in Riyadh said Friday, as Saudi sources insisted his life was not in danger, reports AFP.

The diplomats, contacted from Nicosia, said the King was admitted to the King Faisal Hospital at dawn Thursday after a heart attack, but were not able to say what his condition was.

Reliable Saudi sources said the King had been hospitalized in the wake of a "health problem" but added that he was recovering and was not in danger