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DSE MARKET
 DSE price index 843.79 (-0.04%)
 Market capital Tk 5400.98 cr
 Transactions in volume 144624
 Transactions in value Tk 2.82 cr

CSE MARKET
 CSE price index 415.33 (-0.09%)
 Market capital Tk 2277.83 cr
 Transactions in volume 5350
 Transactions in value Tk 6.39 lakh

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EC directive for equal media coverage to all parties

Drive soon to recover illegal arms, round up miscreants

"A law and discipline control cell" will be set up soon at the Election Commission Secretariat comprising representatives of the police, BDR and Ansars for peaceful holding of the sixth Jatiya Sangsad polls, reports BSS.

This was decided at a meeting yesterday with Chief Election Commissioner Justice A K M Sadek in the chair.

The law and order agencies will take effective measures immediately to recover illegal arms by launching co-ordinated campaigns to ensure free, fair polls, the meeting decided.

All pending warrants of arrest against miscreants and violators of law and order in different thanas of the country will have to be executed immediately, it observed.

Training will have to be arranged for the officers of the law enforcing agencies at the district and thana levels on election rules and laws relating to crime, according to a EC press release.

Election Commissioner Justice Abdul Jalil, Election Commission Secretary Irshadul Huq, Home Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, Additional Secretary of the Election Commission S M Zakaria and chiefs of the law enforcing agencies were present at the meeting.

EC directive
 Meanwhile, the Chief Election Commissioner yesterday directed the concerned authorities to give balanced access to political parties for election campaign over state controlled radio and television for the ensuing general election.

The CEC's instruction came at a meeting at the Election Commission yesterday with officials of the Information Ministry and the official media.

The meeting decided to give participating political parties to present their political viewpoints on radio and television either by its party chief or person nominated by the party.

The policy guidelines will be as follows:

1. No news of political party or candidate participating in the polls contradictory to the election code of conduct or rules will be broadcast or telecast.

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Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting yesterday organised by the Jubo League on the Mirpur Road in the city on the occasion of Sheikh Moni's birth anniversary. — Star photo



BNP nomination seekers for the next general elections buying forms at the party head office yesterday. — Star photo

Nomination seekers crowd BNP central office

The BNP central office was crowded throughout the day yesterday as nomination seekers, accompanied by supporters, thronged there to procure application forms, reports UNB.

A party source said some 500 application forms were sold till 9 pm. Selling of forms, costing Tk 300 each, started at 9 in the morning.

Top BNP leaders and ministers, including Mirza Golam Hafiz, Abdus Salam Talukdar, Abdul Mannan Bhuyian, Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed and Abdul Matin Chowdhury, procured the form yesterday.

Former Cabinet Secretary Siddique Rahman, ex-Additional Collector of Customs Fakir Ashraf, journalist Borhan Ahmed, Major General (Rtd) Golam Mowla, Brig (Rtd) Amin and former Chairman of BIWTC engineer Farooq Alam also took forms.

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Hasina again asks PM to resign

'People won't accept Ershad-style polls'

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina has again asked Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to resign and sit for discussion to decide about the head of the interim caretaker government, reports UNB.

"Resign forthwith and come to the discussion table to select a person for heading the neutral caretaker administration," she urged the Prime Minister.

Addressing a Jubo League rally at Panthapath intersection yesterday afternoon, Hasina said, "People will not accept any election unless you (the PM) resign. They will not go to the polling centres under your government."

The Awami League leader made it clear that "Ershad-style voterless election" will not be allowed. "People will not allow to hold that type of farcical election."

Hasina said Prime Minister Begum Zia will have to resign immediately and give election under a neutral non-party caretaker government.

The rally was organised on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of Jubo League and 55th birth anniversary of its founder Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni.

Hasina said the government announced the election schedule Sunday evening when her party leaders were in a meeting to review the latest letter of the Prime Minister.

She said her party had already stated that it would not

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Salam hopeful of dialogue

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday said that they were still hopeful of and trying to arrange a dialogue between the two top political leaders, reports UNB.

"We still believe that a solution is possible if Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and opposition leader Sheikh Hasina sit for a dialogue with open mind", he said talking with a group of reporters at the BNP central office in the evening.

"Our effort is there and we are hopeful about a settlement," the BNP leader said.

Asked if they would try to bring the smaller parties and group into the coming elections as it has already been rejected by the major opposition parties, Talukdar said: "We are trying to bring all the parties into the election."

NEWS BRIEFS

Drilling work for gas in Bay

The drilling work of gas in the bay of Bengal will begin tomorrow, official sources here said. Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khan-daker Mosharrif Hossain will formally inaugurate the drilling work at the Bay of Bengal in Chittagong, reports UNB.

7 nominated to BNP executive body
 Chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Begum Khaleda Zia has nominated seven persons as the members of the national executive committee of the party, a press release said here last night. They are Prof Arif Moynuddin, Nazrul Islam Khan, Nazim Uddin Alam, Rabeya Siraj, Mazharul Haq Shah Chowdhury, Nurul Huda Sultan and Abul Khair Bhuiyan, reports BSS.

'City plans must create employment'

By Staff Correspondent

Coordination between agencies involved in city plan implementation and an employment generating framework for city dwellers are the two most important issues facing the country's capital, a national seminar on Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP) was told yesterday.

But these two things have not been adequately covered in the DMDP, discussants at the second plenary session of the seminar said. The session focused on the governance aspect in DMDP. The seminar was organised jointly by the government, World Bank, and the UNDP.

"The Dhaka city plays an important role in raising human capital, organising finance and investment, and is a key contributor to national revenue," said Prof Nigel Harris of Development Planning Unit of the University College London. "There ought to be a plan on quality of life. But the plan does not go into these things in details."

He said employment and income generation should be the fundamentals of governance.

Dr Kazi Faruque Ahmed, Executive Director of Proshika, charged that the DMDP does not contain much for governance. He also pointed out that the plan was not chalked on a participatory approach by taking the people's views into consideration.

The whole issue of empowering the local government is omitted in the paper," Dr Ahmed said. "We have to address the lack of co-ordination between public

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Two ferries run aground in Jamuna

MANIKGANJ, Dec 4: Ferry services between Aricha-Nagarbari and Daulatdia were disrupted for about 6 hours from 9:30 am today as two ferries ran aground at Kasadaha in the river Jamuna, reports UNB.

BIWTA sources said the Nagarbari bound Shahid Barkat and Shah Jalal with 36 trucks clogged up to the ground as they ran off the channel forcing eight ferries to anchor in the midstream.

They said the eight ferries were heading towards Aricha ghat from Daulatdia and Nagarbari.

Meanwhile, some 1,900 trucks and 200 inter-district coaches with nearly 12,000 passengers were still in queues at Aricha, Nagarbari and Daulatdia ghats to cross the river.

Donors endorse water management plan

Donors have endorsed the Bangladesh Water and Flood Management Strategy (BWFS) in principle but after the government accepted greater participation of NGOs and the people in future water sector projects, reports UNB.

The green signal of the donors to the strategy paper came following a two-day donor-government joint review meeting which ended in Dhaka yesterday.

While endorsing the strategy, the donors confirmed that they would respect all their present commitments to the water sector and also assured that they would respond bilaterally on future projects recommended by the strategy paper.

The BWFS, which encompasses all the on-going and future water and flood management projects in Bangladesh, is the outcome of the Flood Action Plan (FAP) studies, carried out during the last five years.

The strategy recommends a five-year programme involving: a) Preparation of a national water management plan; b) strengthening of water sector organisations; and c) implementation of a compact portfolio of high priority projects.

Briefing the press on the outcome of the meeting yesterday evening, Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Lutfullah Majid said there were "satisfactory" agreements between the government and the donors on a number of issues.

He said the 'development partners' had appreciated the government's effort to produce the strategy saying it a major step forward to the development of a coherent water sector policy.

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Tourism month begins today

Star Report
 The Tourism Month '95 begins today with the theme "Visit Bangladesh".

The month-long programmes will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at a function at the Osmany Memorial Auditorium in the city at 4 pm today.

Tourism Month is being

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Announcement

The Daily Star Series on The fall of Ershad

On 6th December Gen. Ershad's regime fell. It began to disintegrate much earlier. Read the inside story of those crucial days from

Maj. Gen (Retd) Manzur Rashid Khan, Military Secretary to Gen. Ershad and also to Acting President Justice Shahabuddin.

We start from tomorrow an indepth series by **Gen. M.R. Khan** about how, and why Ershad's regime crumbled.

Book Your Copy Today

Crimes on rise in Chittagong

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Dec 4: Incidents of abduction, mugging, toll collection and other terrorist acts marked an increase recently leading to a deterioration of law and order in the port city and surrounding areas, sources said.

At least ten incidents of mugging took place in the city in the last seven days. One alleged mugger was beaten to death by a mob in one of the two single-day incidents yesterday.

On Friday, one Yusuf, son of a timber businessman was abducted from Hathazari by some armed terrorists who demanded a 10 lakh taka ransom.

Talking to this correspondent, Mayor of Chittagong ABM Mohiuddin Ahmed said about 100 jewelers in the city have packed up business due to abductions and toll collection. He claimed that such crimes have increased because a certain political party is sheltering the criminals.

Police, however, attributed the increase in such activities to "political unrest" in the country.

In one of the two incidents yesterday, the mob killed an alleged mugger. Anwar (25) and seriously injured his accomplice Badal after they had snatched Tk 39,000 from one Abdul Khaleque, employee of a trading house while he was going to deposit the amount with Agrani Bank at Chaktal. Badal was taken to the Chittagong Medical College.

In the other incident at Nandankanan the mob caught an alleged snatcher Akkas, beat him and handed him

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8 die in custody, 32 in clashes with police in 11 months

By Mizan Ali and Reaz Ahmad

At least 40 people died in police custody and in clashes with police during the last 11 months, according to newspaper reports.

Of them, eight died in custody. About the deaths in custody, a police official said, "some die in the cells as they are tortured for obtaining confession, while some others succumb to their injuries they receive in encounters with police before they are taken into custody."

The police official requesting anonymity however said "law does not allow physical harassment or torture of any person."

During this period, 14 police personnel were convicted for various offences including rape, teasing of women or assaulting them, sodomy and torture of children in police stations. The number of rape cases is three.

The cases of deaths do not include a murder allegedly by police in Brahmanbaria Mofizul Islam, 32, of village Shastapur under Kashba thana was allegedly killed by four policemen at midnight on August 29 near his village.

The number of policemen convicted was 6 last year and 3 the year before.

Meanwhile, some human rights organisations have claimed that the role of police as part of the civic society

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