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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 835.88 (-0.36%)
Market capital Tk 5349.12 cr
Transactions in volume 132108
Transactions in value Tk 1.94 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 414.55 (0.00%)
Market capital Tk 2235.40 cr
Transactions in volume 2940
Transactions in value Tk 3.54 lakh

Weekend Magazine

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Dhaka Day by Day

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NEWS BRIEFS

Degree exams rescheduled

The Degree Pass Examinations of 1995 under the National University scheduled on December 10 and 11 will now be held on January 27 and 28, 1996 due to unavoidable reasons. The schedules for other examinations will remain unchanged, reports BSS.

AL rally in city today

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League (AL) will hold a rally at 3 pm today at the Bangabandhu Avenue to protest 'attack' on a rally of the party yesterday at Panthapath in the city. The rally would be followed by a procession. Meanwhile, AL president Sheikh Hasina will address a press conference at 6 pm today at the party's Dhanmondi office.

Recruiting licence cancelled

The government has cancelled the manpower recruiting licence of Ema Enter prise Ltd and confiscated its security deposit. The action has been taken in pursuance of power vested at the clause number 14 of Immigration Ordinance of 1982, said an official handout yesterday, reports UNB.

Opposition activists, police clash 50 hurt, 12 vehicles set afire in city

By Staff Correspondent

At least 50 people were injured, 12 vehicles were set ablaze and scores of others damaged during anti-government demonstrations and clashes between Opposition activists and members of law enforcing agencies in the city yesterday.

Police in riot gear, backed by BDR personnel, fired rubber bullets, lobbed hundreds of tear gas shells and also sprinkled hot and coloured water to prevent activists of the three major opposition parties from marching towards the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

Clashes and chase and counter-chase between Opposition workers and police took place at various places in the city, particularly the venues from where Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami were scheduled to march towards the PM's Secretariat.

The AL procession was to start from the Panthapath after a rally there while those of the JP and Jamaat were to start from Mogbazar and the north gate of the Baitul Mokarram mosque respectively.

The parties have been agitating to press their common demand for general elections under a neutral caretaker government.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) had earlier imposed a 24-hour ban from 8 am yesterday on demonstrations and rallies around the PM's Secretariat.

Of those injured in the city yesterday, four persons —

See Page 8 Col 3

Panic creates traffic jam, shopkeepers down shutters

By Staff Correspondent

The city was gripped with panic yesterday as Opposition parties renewed their agitational programmes against the government demanding elections under a caretaker government.

A series of clashes between police and party activists forced the closure a number of city roads from 4 pm, including the Airport Road, Tejgaon, Kalabagan, Mohakhali, Sonargaon Road, Mirpur Road, Tongi Diversion Road, Moghbazar and adjacent roads.

A number of motor vehicles, public buses, baby taxis, rickshaws were attacked and damaged.

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Rail, road communications come to a virtual halt

By Staff Correspondent

Rail and road communications virtually came to a standstill in various parts of the country yesterday causing immense suffering to thousands of passengers.

Train communication between Dhaka and several districts were suspended or disrupted for the second day yesterday due to the 48-hour blockade programme of the jute and textile mills workers that began on Wednesday morning.

Operations of as many as 12 trains from the city's Kamalapur Railway station were cancelled yesterday while on several sections they failed to operate on their normal routes. No train left from the Chittagong station also for the second day yesterday while those that left Dhaka for Chittagong operated upto Faujdarhat.

Inter-district buses on most routes remained suspended since Wednesday night as a result of the blockade programme. Very few inter-district buses could enter or leave Dhaka yesterday.

Town service buses in the capital also went off the roads yesterday as a sequel to arrest of bus workers on the Dhaka-Gazipur route. Bus and mini-bus operations linking Dhaka with Mymensingh and Gazipur and seven other districts remained suspended for the sixth day yesterday.

Communication between the northern districts and the capital, both on the road and rail routes, remained suspended due to ferry service disruption over the Jamuna.

Failure to restore railway ferry service between Teestamukh ghat and Bahadurabad ghat which snapped again on Wednesday for the second time recently, has disrupted rail movement again.

Some 6000 trucks, inter-district buses and cars were stranded at the Aricha ghat due to traffic jam and a lack of ferry services.

The ferry service was interrupted by rapid siltation in the river route, which has reduced navigability.

Our Manikganj correspondent

See Page 8 Col 1



A BRTC double-decker and a private jeep were set on fire on Mirpur Road in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Hasina asks partymen Get ready for final blow to BNP

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her partymen to get prepared for a 'final blow' to the ruling BNP which, she alleged, resorted to use of force to foil the current movement.

She was addressing a rally at the Panthapath in the city, before a march towards the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

"Spread the current movement all over the country. Use of police force against the people will have a severe consequence..." Hasina said as police lobbed tear gas shells following blasts and the audience ran for shelter.

"The AL chief alleged that the government violated the constitution by imposing ban on rallies and processions which, she pointed out, were the basic democratic rights of the people.

"Today, we got no chance to gherao her (PM's) office as the Prime Minister has besieged herself by deploying hundreds of police and BDR in the city," said Hasina.

The rally was also addressed by party leaders Ab-

Parleys on for dialogue, says Talukdar

By Nazmul Ashraf

Designated leaders of the ruling BNP and the main opposition Awami League are engaging in backstage parleys in a bid to prepare the ground for a formal dialogue on the formation of an election-time government, party sources said.

The negotiators are, however, yet to make any headway since the two big parties are still uncompromising on their latest positions — the AL for resignation of the Prime Minister prior to the talks and the BNP unwilling to accept the idea before a negotiation takes place.

"Personal level contacts (between the BNP and the AL) are on... eagerness on both the sides (to resolve the political crisis) is on the rise," acknowledged BNP secretary general Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday.

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IMF advice to maintain \$2.6b forex reserve

By Inam Ahmed

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has advised the government to maintain a minimum foreign exchange reserve level of around 2.6 billion US dollars at any time.

The suggestion came from an IMF mission which recently completed a review of the country's macro-economic situation, according to official sources.

The IMF mission also observed that the government should cap its increased spending in order to harness the rising inflationary trend.

The IMF is also willing to extend support to government efforts to mop up the excess liquidity from the market and maintain a comfortable foreign exchange reserve in order to achieve the above goals, the sources said.

The current forex reserve stands at 2.6 billion dollars while the highest ever amount was 3.4 billion dollars in April this year.

The mission has maintained that the government requires a foreign exchange reserve equivalent to more than three months import bill which is considered as normal for any Least Developed Country (LDC). But due to the repeated natural calamities that Bangladesh faces the government should maintain an additional one billion dollars over the three months import bills, it was pointed out.

Moreover, balance of payment problems would again force the government to seek adjustment credits from the IMF.

"This means more interventions by the central bank are likely," said a Finance Ministry source. "Devaluation would be needed to discourage unnecessary imports thereby maintaining the desirable reserve level."

The government's spending has specially attracted the IMF's attention. The government's borrowing as a result of its spending has also shot up putting inflationary pressure on the economy.

The net borrowing of the public sector from different banks has climbed by 4.6 per cent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year. In sharp contrast, increase of public sector borrowing last year was meagre, the sources said.

Inflation has already increased to 8.7 per cent from 5.71 per cent in August this year.

See Page 8 Col 8



Probe file on Rajiv murder missing

NEW DELHI, Dec 7: The Indian government said today that a file relating to an investigation into the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had been lost, prompting an angry outburst by Opposition lawmakers, reports Reuters.

"When the (Jain) Commission sought the file, the file could not be traced in the Prime Minister's office,"

See Page 8 Col 7

PM's resignation a must: JP

By Staff Correspondent

Resignation of the Prime Minister is a must for a solution to the present political impasse, Jatiya Party leader said at a rally at Moghbazar Crossing in the city.

The rally held prior to the party programme of march towards the PM's Secretariat was presided over by city JP chief Col (ret) Abdul Malek and addressed by, among others, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Anwar Hossain Manju, Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Moudud Ahmed.

See Page 8 Col 2

EC forms district level electoral enquiry body

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday formed electoral enquiry committee at the district level comprising a sub-judge and a senior assistant judge or assistant judge to probe pre-election irregularities, reports BSS.

The committee will undertake enquiries into pre-election irregularities either on the basis of complaints received by it or on its own and send the report to the Election Commission.

See Page 8 Col 8

3 more bus fire victims die

By Staff Correspondent

Three of the persons who received first-degree burn injuries in an alleged bomb attack on a passenger bus late Monday succumbed at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday. With this the death toll in this incident rose to 12.

The three were identified as Zahurul Islam, honours final year student of Dhaka College; Nuruzzaman and Nurul Alam, hospital sources said. Zahurul was going to his village home at Boshikpur under Lakshimpur district after appearing in his final examinations, the sources added.

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SAARC enters second decade

By M Anwarul Haq

The seven member states of SAARC, including Bangladesh, will celebrate one decade of formation of the regional organisation beginning today.

The SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu has also chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the occasion.

The South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation came into being through the Dhaka Declaration on December 8, 1985, at the two-day inaugural summit of the organisation. The Charter was signed by the heads of government of the seven South Asian countries — Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Comprising a population of over one billion people, nearly one-fifth of mankind, whose level of poverty, education and development is still groping to catch up with the developed world, SAARC was dubbed by the Western media as "the poor men's club."

The organisation, however, has been able to put in place a number of steps for regional cooperation which is manifested by the launching of SAPTA yesterday.

Bangladesh, which first mooted the idea of a regional organisation, will release a special commemorative postage stamp today. The radio and television will air special programmes.

Several symposiums will be held marking the occasion, including one on rural development in the SAARC countries.

Editorial on Page 4

tries at the BARD in Comilla. A SAARC children's fair will be organised by the Shishu Academy.

A week-long long SAARC Food Festival at the local Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will present cuisines of all the

See Page 8 Col 3

SAPTA takes effect

KATHMANDU, Dec 7: Seven South Asian countries today launched a 'preferential and favourable trading arrangement' among themselves as the first tangible step toward cooperation in the region, reports PTI.

Called the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA), the scheme aims to reduce trade barriers among the members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

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If you are interested, please furnish your information as per following Format, immediately to Director, Strategy & Programmes Directorate-2, Board of Investment, Shilpa Bhaban (5th Floor), 91, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000.

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B) ENTREPRENEUR'S POSITION:
C) INVESTMENT, CAPITAL TURN OVER & EMPLOYMENT:

- ABILITY OF PROPOSED INVESTMENT:
- BANK REFERENCE:
- NATURE OF COLLABORATION REQUIRED, PLEASE TICK:
 - * EQUITY SHARE
 - * TECHNICAL KNOWHOW
 - * MARKETING
 - * OTHERS (PL. SPECIFY)

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