

**JUICE
JAM
PICKLE
KETCHUP
SHERBET**

প্রাণ

**SQUASH
VINEGAR
KEWRA-
ROSE-
WATER**

PRAN for Health

Cash 24hr
Standard Chartered

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DSE MARKET
DSE price index 835.18 (+4.71%)
Market capital Tk 5953.12 cr
Transactions in volume 910735
Transactions in value Tk 6.79 cr

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NEWS BRIEFS

EC offices to remain open tomorrow

All the district Election Commission (EC) offices will remain open tomorrow to facilitate the voters who could not enlist their names in the voter list. The EC urged the unregistered voters to fill up its two forms (no. 7 and 2) and submit them in the concerned registration officers by October 15, said an EC press release yesterday, reports UNB.

Mayor of London meets Biswas

Ghulam Mortuza, Mayor of London Borough of Tower Hamlets, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday. Talking to the visiting mayor, President Biswas advised him to see that the Bangladeshis can work and earn with due honour and dignity in the United Kingdom (UK), reports UNB.

Farooq Sobhan goes to Delhi today

Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan leaves Dhaka for New Delhi today to attend the meeting of the SAARC Standing Committee, comprising the foreign secretaries of the SAARC countries, an official handout said yesterday. After the standing committee meeting, the foreign secretary will attend the meeting of the SAARC council of ministers, reports BSS.

Joynal Hazari released

By Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Dec 13: Awami League leader Joynal Hazari was released from the Sylhet jail today following an order from the High Court.
Hazari was arrested on October 17 by Feni police under Special Powers Act. He was sent to Sylhet jail on November 11.

Nation mourns for martyred intellectuals today

By Staff Correspondent
The nation today pays homage to the celebrated sons of the soil who were brutally murdered by the Pakistani Occupation Forces in a plan to cripple the country intellectually on the eve of Bangladesh's emergence in 1971.

The streets of Dhaka will carry the bare-foot mourners this morning to the sites at Rayerbazar and Mirpur where the country's leading intellectuals were massacred.

A group of Bengalis collaborated with the Pakistani forces in their planned murders of university teachers, journalists, doctors, engineers, writers, musicians and film makers who were rounded up from their residences on the nights of December 14 and December 15. They were tortured at different concentration camps and eventually butchered at Rayerbazar and Mirpur.

Their decapitated bodies, still with their hands tied behind and blindfolded, were identified later by their relatives.

The intellectuals whose sacrifice ushered the new dawn of the country's independence include: Professor GC Dev, Prof Munir Chowdhury, Dr Fazle Rabbi, Dr Jotirmoy Guha Thakurta, journalists Sirajuddin Hossain, Nizamuddin Ahmed, Syed Nazmul Huq, Shahidullah Kaiser, ASM Rashidul Hasan, lyricist Altaf Mahmud, Dr Aleem Chowdhury, writer Selina Parveen, Dr Muhammad Murtaza, Prof Anwar Pasha, ANM Golam Mustafa, Dr Muhammad Shafi and Khandaker Abu Taleb.

In observance of the day, the National Flag will fly at half-mast while black flags will be hoisted on all private and public buildings.

People from all walks of life will place wreaths at the



The plaque at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur in the city. — Star photo

Rayerbazar and Mirpur memorials for the martyred intellectuals as well as at the Savar national Mausoleum.

In separate messages on the eve of the Martyred Intellectuals Day, President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called for consolidating the hard-earned democracy as a means to show proper respect to the martyred intellectuals.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina called for rediscovering the spirits and values of the Liberation War and building up the country on the basis of the great ideals of the war.

In a statement, she called for intensifying the on-going campaign for a free and fair elections under a neutral care-taker government to achieve the goals of democracy.

Meanwhile, different political and socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The programmes include placing of wreaths at the intellectuals memorial at Mirpur and the National Mausoleum at Savar, wearing of black badges, processions, discussions and cultural functions.

The Dhaka University will bring out a silent procession today at dawn from the Aparajeeo Bangla on the campus. The procession will end at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Bangla Academy will organise a discussion at the Batomul of the academy premises at 4pm today. Eminent journalist Obaidul Huq will chair the function.

Shilpakala Academy will hold a discussion meeting and a cultural function at 4pm today. See Page 12 Col 8

Members of the Chhayanaut rendering song at the Central Shaheed Minar at the inaugural function of the Victory Celebrations 1995 organised by the Sammito Sangskritik Jote yesterday. — Star photo

Bijoy Utshab '95 opens Rekindle spirit of '71

By Staff Correspondent
The inaugural ceremony was also addressed by Ramendu Majumdar, Kamal Pasha Chowdhury, Ataus Samad, Asaduzzaman Nur and Nasiruddin Yusuf.

Ramendu Majumdar, vice-president of the Shangkritik Jote, in his speech appealed to the people to rekindle the courage and spirit of 1971 for the sake of our country's development and prosperity, following the ideals of the Liberation War.

In a declaration, read out by Mafuld Haq, the cultural organisation, among other things, called for preservation of the historic places related to the war, such as the

See Page 12 Col 8



Tk 325cr project for JMB rly track finalised

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) at a meeting yesterday finalised a project for setting up of railway link on the eastern side of Jamuna Bridge, reports BSS.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman presided the meeting held at the Secretariat's Cabinet Room.

The 85-km railway track from Joydevpur via Tangail up to the Jamuna Bridge will involve an expenditure of Tk 325 crore.

The ECNEC also approved two other projects to be undertaken by the Communications Ministry. These are 1991 cyclone damaged road rehabilitation project under ADB assistance at a cost of Tk 147 crore and road rehabilitation and maintenance project under IDA assistance.

The ECNEC also okayed the secondary girls students

stipend programme for the period up to December 1999 at a cost of Tk 609 crore benefitting students of Class VI to Class X. The meeting also approved the food for education programme to be undertaken by the Primary and Mass Education Division.

The ECNEC meeting also approved the Dhaka Central Jail construction project at Kashimpur under Gazipur district at a cost of Tk 129 crore. The ECNEC meeting also approved the Rajshahi television station project at a cost of Tk 20 crore.

The meeting also approved three other projects to be undertaken by the Local Government Division. These are (1) greater Dhaka, Rajshahi, Bogra and Pabna rural infrastructural development project at a cost of Tk 702 crore, Sylhet division rural infrastructural develop-

ment project (revised) at a cost of Tk 144 crore and third rural road and growth centre development project at a cost of Tk 236 crore.

It also approved the voter ID card preparation and distribution project at a cost of Tk 180 crore. The meeting also approved the 5th phase of the expanded rural social work project at a cost of Tk 83 crore. It also approved the rural health development project at a cost of Tk 127 crore. The project aims at bringing the rural sanitation coverage up to 50 per cent.

The meeting also okayed second rubber development project (revised) at a cost of Tk 15 crore. It also approved site and services plot development project for the low and medium income group of Section 9 of Mirpur at a cost of Tk 55 crore. See Page 12 Col 8

Amu calls on President

Awami League presidium member Amir Hossain Amu called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban last night, reports UNB.

Competent sources said that the meeting lasted about 90 minutes from 8-30 pm, but it was not known what actually transpired.

The sources, however, indicated that the question of the President's jurisdiction to send a reference to the Supreme Court seeking its opinion to overcome the present stalemate might have figured in the discussion.

According to another source, there was a meeting between the leaders of BNP and Awami League on Tuesday night at the residence of SAMS Kibria, an advisor to Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar, Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam, Awami League presidium member Abdul Momen See Page 12 Col 2

Refixing of polls date 'meaningless' to Opposition

Star Report

Leaders of the three major opposition parties yesterday said election without a non-party caretaker government will be "meaningless even if the schedule is refixed".

Tofael Ahmed of Awami League, Anwar Hossain Manju of Jatiya Party and Abdul Quader Mollah of Jamaat-e-Islami were talking to The Daily Star separately last night on the interview of Chief Election Commissioner Justice A K M Sadeque on television earlier in the evening.

Regarding Election Commission's no-objection to refixing the election schedule within the time limit of See Page 12 Col 3

I'm in a very tough situation: CEC

Chief Election Commissioner Justice A K M Sadeque yesterday hoped that the political parties would reach a consensus to end the present political crisis for holding a peaceful election in the country, reports UNB.

"If everybody resist the election, then how shall I do it," the CEC said during an interview with Bangladesh Television, telecast yesterday evening.

Justice Sadeque, expressing his agony about the present political situation, said: "I'm in a very tough situation. What can I do? I'll have to fulfil my constitutional obligation. I have taken oath to go by the Constitution." The date for general elec-

Hartal date may be changed

Star Report

The Opposition's fresh programme of a 24-hour hartal from December 17 morning and gherao (siege) of the offices of the Election Commission, DCs and TNOs the following day will be shifted if the election schedule is changed, leaders of the three major parties said here yesterday.

As per the election schedule, December 17 is the date for filing nomination papers and December 18 for scrutiny of the papers.

The hartal and gherao will then be on the dates for nomination filing and scrutiny respectively, leaders of Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami told The Daily Star last night separately. See Page 12 Col 1

'Food output major variable in managing forex reserves'

By Govinda Shil

The central bank should consider the food output in the country as a major variable in the management of foreign exchange reserves since agriculture is prone to climatic changes, IMF Resident Representative in Bangladesh Jan Bove has said.

"The government should also keep in mind that holding foreign exchange reserves abroad is not productive and also involves costs. The reserves could have been otherwise used, for example, for domestic productive purposes," Jan Bove said in an interview with The Daily Star yesterday.

During the last couple of months, food imports increased substantially to meet the country's requirement

reducing the foreign exchange reserves.

The IMF Representative said Bangladesh Bank and other government institutions may need to intervene in the ongoing policies to re-



Jan Bove

store macro-economic stability. Restrictions on imports, exports and foreign exchange availability may, however, have negative consequences for the economy in the long run.

"Policies to stabilise the economy need to be designed carefully, so that long term sustainable economic growth can be achieved," said Bove.

Bangladesh has no lending programme with the IMF at this time as the country enjoyed surplus balance of payments during the last two years, he said.

The IMF, Bove pointed out, wants to facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade, and to contribute thereby to See Page 12 Col 1

Bombs hurled at TV bhaban gate

Three homemade bombs were hurled at a gate of Rampura Television Bhaban a few minutes after the interview of the Chief Election Commissioner was telecast yesterday evening, reports UNB.

Witnesses said that one of the bombs went off inside the gate near a car while two others exploded outside the TV compound at about 7.55 pm. The explosions, however, did not cause any damage or injury.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice AKM Sadeque was not present in the studio as BTV telecast a pre-recorded interview at 7:10 pm yesterday.

BTV sources said some unidentified people also threw crude bombs at the TV Bhaban soon after Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had delivered her speech to the nation through radio and television on November 24.

Power Cell fails to take off for lack of manpower

By Sharier Khan

Although the Power Cell was formed six months ago, it is yet to start functioning due to lack of manpower, according to Energy Ministry sources.

Foreign private companies who have signed some 10 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the government since April, are now losing interest as the activities of the Power Cell have not started as expected, the sources pointed out.

The Cell was formed to deal with the foreign and private power companies and to prepare a model power purchase agreement.

The post of director of the Cell remains vacant and only one deputy director's post has been confirmed so far. Offers have been made to a number of officials of the Rural Electrification Board (REB) and Power Development Board (PDB) for the post of director, but the response was poor, the sources said.

A total of 28 officials, mostly engineers and experts, will be required for the Cell which is divided into three sections. An office in the Kawran Bazar area was fixed a few weeks ago.

A World Bank consultant, whose task would be to review the MOUs signed with

foreign private power companies and help frame a model power purchase agreement, is expected to join the Cell. The WB consultant is expected to join after the completion of the recruitments, which means the framing of the model tariff structure would take another nine to ten months, the sources said.

However, the primary task of framing the model tariff structure has been completed by the Gas Pricing Committee recently in the shape of a detailed review of the power tariff structure of different countries including India, Pakistan, Mexico. See Page 12 Col 7

2 girls drown in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two girls drowned in the canal near the town protection embankment at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday morning.

The girls — who were identified as Joynab, 7, daughter of one Mustafa, and Shiuli Akhter, 8, daughter of one Sirajul Islam.

Fire service personnel recovered the bodies.

See Page 12 Col 2

Rajuk Commercial Plot Auction Notice

Most ideally located residential-commercial Plot No 6 and 7 measuring more or less 334.57 Sqr Metre (5 katha) each on Road No 113/A at Gulshan, Dhaka will be allotted for 99 years lease on open auction.

Applications on prescribed form to be obtained with terms and conditions from Janata Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk 500/- (five hundred) only in cash for each set (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates) from the intending bidders up to 2.00 PM on 26-12-95.

The auction will be held on 27-12-95 in the Conference Room, 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10.00 AM.

Chairman
Rajdharti Unnayan Kartripakha
Dhaka

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