

## Inside Today

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DSE MARKET	
DSE price index	8151(+0.80%)
Market capital Tk	9279,24cr
Transactions in volume	208600
Transactions in value Tk	320cr
CSE MARKET	
CSE price index	401.67(+0.07%)
Market capital Tk	2416,28cr
Transactions in volume	1100
Transactions in value Tk	2416,28cr

### Metropolitan

#### Dhaka Day by Day



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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### AL rally today

Bangladesh Awami League will hold a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue today demanding cancellation of "one-party election," resignation of BNP government and election under a neutral non-party caretaker administration.

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina is expected to announce next action programme of her party at the rally to be held at 2:30 am, said a press release yesterday, reports UNB.

#### 39 arms recovered, 389 arrested

Law-enforcing agencies recovered 39 firearms, nine bullets and two explosives from different parts of the country till morning yesterday, the 31st day of illegal arms recovery drive. The Law and Order Coordination Cell of Election Commission, in a press release, said 389 people were also arrested on various charges including illegal possession of arms, reports UNB.

#### Japan to recognise Bosnia

TOKYO, Jan 20: Japan plans to recognise Bosnia later this month following a peace agreement reached late last year, the major daily Mainichi Shimbun said today, after it recognises Bosnia. Japan will start providing the civil war-torn former Yugoslav state with yen loans and other forms of bilateral support, the daily said, quoting unidentified foreign ministry sources, reports AFP.

## 168 file nominations defying party BNP warns of stern action

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling BNP has instructed party leaders who have filed nomination papers to contest the coming parliament elections against party nominees to withdraw their candidature immediately and warned of disciplinary action for non-compliance.

The instruction from party Secretary General Abdul Salam Talukdar came against the backdrop of resentment in the rank and file of the party over nomination.

According to BNP sources, disgruntled party leaders, mostly at district level are preparing to contest the polls against party nominees in at least 168 of the 300 constituencies. At some places, the leaders and their supporters observed hartals and staged demonstrations to protest nominations by the party's high command.

Issuing the instruction through a statement, the BNP Secretary General warned that disciplinary action would be taken against the violators as per the constitution of the party.

Salam Talukdar hoped that all leaders and workers of his party would abide by the instruction in the greater interest of the organisation.

He also requested the presidents and general secretaries of the party's district, thana and municipal committees to take necessary steps so that the order was carried out.

A BNP source said that the "rebel" leaders might be expelled from the party if they did not withdraw their candidature by January 23, the last day for withdrawal of nomination papers.

Despite the warning for disciplinary action by the party, the source added, many of the candidates, who are optimistic of winning the polls, being held without the participation of the major opposition parties, might not withdraw their candidature.

## PM's reception to SAF Games gold winners

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday accorded a reception and gave away monetary incentives to the 7th SAF Games gold-winner sportsmen of the country, reports UNB.

At a function in the International Conference Centre (ICC), Begum Zia hailed the seven gold medalists for their success in the regional games and gave them cash award of Taka one lakh each.

Three coaches of the gold-winning disciplines — shooting, athletics and swimming — were also given Tk 50,000 each at the function for imparting effective and tireless training to the sportsmen who brought laurels for the nation.

Addressing the Bangladesh athletes who clinched the gold medals in the SAF Games held last month in the Indian city of Madras, Begum Zia said the government had taken massive plans for developing the sports sector so that the country could

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## Opposition asks partymen

## Mobilise people in agitation

By Staff Correspondent

The three major opposition political parties yesterday directed their workers at district, thana and union levels to intensify the on-going agitation against the ruling party's bid to hold "one-party" election.

The Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami also called upon their workers to mobilise people in the agitations.

Briefing newsmen after a meeting of the liaison committee of the three parties last night, AL Organising Secretary Mohammad Nasim said that contacts would be made with other smaller parties boycotting the February 15 elections to bring those in the agitation.

Abdus Samad Azad and Tofael Ahmed of AL Moudud

Ahmed and Anwar Hossain Manju of JP and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid and Kader Mollah of Jamaat were present at the meeting.

The meeting also reiterated the call of the mainstream opposition to the candidates who have filed nomination papers to withdraw their candidature by January 23, Nasim said.

He said that Chief Election Commissioner Justice A K M Sadeq had mentioned the night of the Lailatul Qadr as one of the reasons for not shifting the elections date beyond February 15.

"But being a faithful Muslim he should know that any odd night during the last 10 days of the Ramadan can be the night of the holy Lailatul Qadr," Nasim pointed out.

## N'ganj lawyers boycott court

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Jan 20: Lawyers boycotted a Class I Magistrate's Court here after police assaulted one of them in the court room and baton charged some others in the room of the OC of Narayanganj, Whana.

Witnesses said, police intervened as some lawyers were talking to some accused persons in the court. A police sub-inspector assaulted an advocate at around noon, which was protested by some other advocates instantly.

A team of 20 lawyers then met the court inspector but the meeting failed when the inspector called police. Witnesses alleged that police charged batons on the lawyers there.

It was also alleged that police charged baton on two lawyers in front of the Court Building in the afternoon. Earlier, lawyers of the court held a protest rally in the hall room of Narayanganj District Bar Association.

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## 4 Bangladeshis among 36 held in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia), Jan 20: Police said today they have arrested 26 Thai and Indonesian illegal immigrants in the Kemaman and Besut districts off Trengganu state in northeastern Malaysia Friday, reports AP.

On Tuesday police arrested six Indonesians and four Bangladeshis at a plantation near Kemaman, he said.

Police public relations officer Mokhtarruddin Idrus said 19 Thai nationals, including nine children, were arrested in Besut, the National News Agency Bernama reported from Kuala Trengganu the capital of Trengganu state.

Mokhtarruddin said seven Indonesians, aged between 22 and 36, were arrested in a plantation near Kemaman following a tipoff.

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## EC finalises polls symbols today

The Election Commission will finalise the reservation of election symbols for the candidates nominated by different political parties and alliances today in the auditorium of NEC at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar at 10 am, according to an Election Commission press release, reports BSS.

Hearing to this effect will be held in presence of the representatives of political parties and alliances who have applied for election symbols.

Representatives nominated by the political parties and alliances have been requested to attend the hearing, the press release said.

## 64 SSC examinees under Jessore Board punished

JHALAKATHI, Jan 20: Jessor Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board has punished 64 SSC examinees of five centres of the district for adopting unfair means in examinations held in 1995, reports UNB.

A meeting of Disciplinary Committee of the board held recently cancelled the examinations of the students by reviewing the answer papers, reports of the examination conducting officials and other show cause notices.

Of them, 21 were punished for one year and one for two years.

Of the total students, 14 were expelled from Sadar, 11 from Nalchihiti, 24 from Rajapur, 10 from Kathalia and five from Amua centres.

The meeting also informed that the 42 students whose only 1995 examinations were cancelled would be able to appear this year's examination has casual candidates by fulfilling the board's procedures from their respective schools.

## Maoists storm Bihar police station, kill 7

NEW DELHI, Jan 20: Maoist guerrillas today stormed an isolated police station in the eastern Indian state of Bihar and shot dead seven officers, the Press Trust of India reported, reports AFP.

The attackers set the police station in the district of Gaya on fire before escaping, the news agency said. It gave no further details. Maoist guerrillas, known in India as Naxalites, are very active in Bihar.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat casting his ballot at a polling station in Gaza yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

## 55pc turnout in Palestinian elections

JERUSALEM, Jan 20: Polls closed in the first Palestinian general elections today, the central elections committee said, reports Reuters.

Polling stations closed their doors at 7 pm (2300 BST) after 12 hours of voting but Palestinians already inside any one of the 1,689 stations in 16 electoral districts would be able to cast their ballots, the committee said.

PLO chief Yasser Arafat led Palestinians in voting in the elections of an 88-member legislative council and executive head to run most of the West Bank and Gaza under a peace deal with Israel.

Palestinians still keen to vote pressured the elections committee to keep the polls open beyond the 7 pm closing time. With four hours to go, officials said the turnout was about 55 per cent of the more than one million voters.

The central elections committee announced to its citizens that the external gates of polling stations will close at exactly 7 o'clock but voting will continue until all those inside the polling stations finish voting, the committee said in a statement.

Voting was mainly peaceful but Arabs and Jews clashed in Israeli-occupied Hebron and Palestinians accused Israel of intimidating voters to ensure a low turnout in disputed east Jerusalem.

## DMCH doctors on indefinite strike

By DMCH Correspondent

Doctors at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) went on an indefinite strike yesterday following assault of some on-duty doctors by the owner of an unauthorised pharmacy at the hospital premises on the previous night.

All the staff including the Deputy Director of the hospital and the principal of the medical college held a protest meeting and later handed over a memorandum to the Health Secretary demanding arrest of the culprits and removal of all unauthorised medicine shops from the premises of the hospital.

Dr Abul Kalam Azad and

Dr Abu Sayed were assaulted by one Dipu, the owner of the pharmacy, and his associates, when they were busy treating an accident patient, Nasreen, at Ward No 35, sources at the DMCH claimed.

Dr Zamanul Islam, convenor of the Chikitsa Sangram Committee, an association of doctors at the DMCH, talking to The Daily Star last night said, "The Director of the DMCH had issued a letter to Dipu earlier to close his unauthorised shop but he never paid any heed to it." Unauthorised pharmacies at the premises have become a source of nuisance, he said.

The Committee also ex-

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## DSE okays new listing rules

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has approved a new listing rules to enhance the confidence of investors in the capital market.

Time limit for refunding, provisions of penalty, more pressure for holding annual general meeting (AGM), and other related bindings have been adopted in the new rules, said Intiaz Hossain, chairman of the DSE over

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## Cold wave claims 10 more lives

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 20: Ten more people died of severe cold wave in Pabna and Sirajganj districts during last five days raising the death toll to 69 in a month in the northern region, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.

Most of the victims were children and old in the rural areas who could not afford to buy warm clothes due to poverty. The poor villagers are using quilt made by fodder and hessian to combat cold, the sources added.

## Parties for funding Rooppur N-plant being shortlisted

By Govinda Shil

The government is short-listing parties willing to fund the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP), official sources said.

"We are considering private firms along with government agencies for Rooppur plant as the government is now encouraging the private sector to fund such projects," said M A Qaiyum, Chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC).

The BAEC is also considering implementation of the project with supplier's credit, he added.

The government wants to ensure the best safety measures in implementing the project, the BAEC Chairman pointed out.

Without disclosing the names of those willing to

fund, he said that records of the firms were being evaluated for consideration and approval.

Prospective financiers from a number of countries had showed their interest but later backed out because of the political situation, sources noted.

Qaiyum said the proposed plant will be "a part of optimum generation mix where nuclear power, fuel and natural gas would be used to generate electricity."

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was willing to provide consultancy in installing and operating the plant safely, he said.

Kazi Abul Hasnat, Director and Chief Engineer, Nuclear Power and Energy Division of the BAEC, pointed out that

nuclear technology was considered one of the safest power generation systems.

Environmentalists, however, argue that such technologies cause thermal pollution.

"Although the initial cost of a nuclear plant is double that of the conventional gas-burned plant, the fuel cost is much lower than in a coal or a oil-burned plant," said a scientist.

He said a typical 300 MW nuclear plant costs about 600 million US dollars and its annual fuel cost is 20 to 25 million dollars while an oil-burned plant and a coal-burned one need fuel worth about 100 million and 65 million dollars respectively.

The RNPP, conceived in 1961, was approved four

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## Removal of Mustafiz from IEH suggested

By Reaz Ahmad and Mizan Ali

Removal of Dr Mustafizur Rahman from the post of Director of the Islamic Eye Hospital (IEH) and formation of a new managing committee have been recommended at a meeting of the government-appointed second probe body, some members of the managing committee and founders of the hospital.

The meeting, chaired by State Minister for Tourism Abdul Mannan, was attended by chairman of the IEH managing committee Dr Matin Patwari along with some other members of the committee and Behroze Isphani from Isphani family, founders of the hospital, according to sources who attended the meeting held here recently.

Dr Mustafizur Rahman did not attend the meeting.

Dr Mustafiz also holds the position of the member secretary in the managing committee.

Abdul Mannan heads the second body to probe the irregularities in the hospital. The second probe body was formed after the first committee headed by Prof Ahsanullah, Director, Hospitals and Clinics had found that "one-man control, grouping and mismanagement led to chaos in the affairs of the IEH."

Meanwhile, the IEH still continued to function without a licence from the Director of Health. "The Directorate cannot be a party to the wrongdoings (irregularities) of the hospital by issuing it a licence," said Prof A B M Ahsanullah.

Some other sources in the

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## 'Drivers' negligence caused Chandpur train mishap

CHANDPUR, Jan 20: The one-member inquiry committee to probe the causes of the January 8 train accident at Kangaish in Hajiganj tharfa concluded its inquiry today.

Talking to the UNB correspondent on board a train, Mohammad Shamsur Rahman, member of the committee, said the accident definitely occurred due to human failure (negligence of drivers).

Rahman, the Government Inspector of Railways under the Ministry of Communications, informed that a total of 25 people, including an injured woman, had appeared as witnesses before the committee.

He said so far, he received information on 11 deaths and 22 injured seriously. Six of the bodies were identified while the identity of the remaining five were yet unknown. Two of the injured

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## Five key MQM activists shot dead in Karachi

KARACHI, Jan 20: The opposition Mohajir Qumi Movement (MQM) today accused the government of carrying out "virtual genocide" of its people as police killed five of its activists and violence claimed another seven lives, reports AFP.

By this evening, shops began closing in the volatile central and western districts as news spread of the killings, on the eve of a one-day strike called by the MQM to protest last week's killing by police of four other MQM militants.

Police shot dead five key MQM members in the volatile central district officials said. The five men included Rehman Ahmed, also known as Rehman Kana, a well-known MQM activist.

Officials said the five, travelling in a taxi, were stopped by police for questioning. They opened fire to try to escape and died in the shootout that followed, police said.

Two policemen were also injured in the encounter, a term used by police to describe armed confrontations.

One Kalashnikov, three handguns and one rocket launcher were recovered from the slain militants, police said.

Rehan was wanted in connection with some 100 murder cases, police said, and a reward of one million rupees had been offered for his capture. Senior police officials said Rehan's killing was a major breakthrough in cracking the city's terrorist network.

The police version of the

incident was disputed by the MQM, which said the five men had been arrested and shot dead in cold blood. Rehan's brother Junaid and his cousin Tanvir Pasha were among those killed in the shootout.

MQM leaders told journalists at a press conference that Rehan, his brother Junaid, their cousin Tanvir Pasha and four others were arrested during a police raid.

The security men abused the women in the house, kicked Rehan's pregnant wife and took away the seven men, said one MQM leader present at the conference.

"We notified the President and the Chief Justice (of the Supreme Court) via telegrams of the arrests. Next we heard that five of them had been killed," he added.



UN representative Legdar Brahimi from Egypt (L), pins a medal on a UN soldier from Bangladesh who has been serving as a peacekeeper in Haiti. The medals for peace were awarded to the Bangladeshi UN troops for their participation in the peacekeeping mission.