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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	800.10 (+1.40%)
Market capital Tk	5205.16cr
Transactions in volume	154758
Transactions in value Tk	3.26cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	401.06 (+0.15%)
Market capital Tk	2415.51cr
Transactions in volume	4550
Transactions in value Tk	1197.20cr

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Love for the Hairy Ones
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NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda to visit Khulna Jan 28

From Our Correspondent
KHULNA, Jan 21: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to address a public meeting at the circuit house maidan here on January 28, said an official source.

Fire at carpet mills

CHITTAGONG, Jan 21: A fire broke out at the Dhaka-Baghdad Carpet Mills in Pabna industrial area of the port city today causing losses to property worth a few lakh taka, police said. According to the mills officials, the fire broke out at an waste-godown at 3.15 in the afternoon, reports UNB.

23 arms recovered, 364 arrested

A total of 364 people were arrested on the 32nd day yesterday of the nationwide drive for recovery of illegal arms and ammunition. An Election Commission press release said, during the drive, which is being done in the interest of holding a free and fair elections, the law enforcing agencies recovered 23 illegal arms, 49 ammunition and two explosives.

Changes in NMST time-table

The National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST) authorities on the occasion of Ramadan have brought some changes in the time-table for its visitors.

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ram	Jan	Sehri	Iftar
22			5.41 pm
23		5.20 am	5.42 pm



Opposition asks EC to cancel polls

By Mizan Ali and Reaz Ahmad

The major opposition parties yesterday sent separate letters to the Chief Election Commissioner demanding cancellation of the schedule for parliamentary polls, according to sources.

Confirming this, a source in the Election Commission said "Some opposition parties have sent separate letters requesting the CEC not to allot their traditional election symbols to any other party".

"They also requested him to cancel the forthcoming elections", the source acknowledged, adding that there was no scope for that.

Mohammad Nasim, organising secretary of the Awami League said that his party had sent letter to the CEC to cancel the elections. The letter also questioned the holding of elections when the major parties were not participating in it.

Jatiya Party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Monju, when contacted, told The Daily Star that he had called for cancellation of the elections.

Quamaruzzaman of the Jamaat-e-Islami also acknowledged his party's sending a letter to the CEC urging him to cancel the elections.

The Opposition also announced a fresh round of 10-day countrywide agitation programme from today.

The political parties engaged in agitation have been demanding installation of a neutral caretaker government for holding the parliamentary election.

Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami announced their identical programmes from separate rallies and press conferences yesterday. The programme include, rallies, meetings, processions, demonstrations and exchange of views with professional groups and the masses.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina announced her party's programme from a rally held at Bangabandhu Avenue while Jamaat's programme was announced by its senior Nayebe-Ameer Abbas Ali Khan from a meeting at the north gate of Baitul Mokarram mosque. JP acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury announced a similar programme at a press conference at his residence.

While announcing their 10-day mass-contact programme the Opposition leaders hinted that they would go for tougher movement in February if their demands are not met by January 31.

10-day fresh agitation programme

The mainstream opposition political parties yesterday announced a 10-day country-wide fresh agitation programme, beginning today for realisation of their demand for holding national polls under a neutral caretaker government, reports BSS.

The programmes, include rallies, processions, meetings, demonstrations and exchange of views with professionals and general mass.

The Awami League's programme was announced by the party's Chief Sheikh Hasina from a public rally at Bangabandhu Avenue while the Jamaat-e-Islami declared its programme from a public meeting at the north gate of Baitul Mokarram National Mosque. The Jatiya Party programme was announced by party's acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury at a press conference at his residence.

The opposition also hinted at tougher agitation programmes after January 31.

Sit-in before PM's office today 50 parties to pull back from race unless PM quits

By Staff Correspondents

More than 50 political parties yesterday threatened to withdraw their candidates from the upcoming general elections if the Prime Minister did not resign as promised earlier.

The threat was given at a meeting of the representatives of different smaller political parties who came to the Election Commission Secretariat to collect their election symbols. The meeting, held at the EC premises was chaired by Khandakar Mahtab Uddin, President of the Janadal.

"More than 50 political parties will withdraw at least 1,000 candidates from the election if the Prime Minister does not resign immediately," said Shefayet Ullah Patwari of the Jatiyatabadi Awami League after the meeting. Patwari is contesting from Gazipur 2 constituency. Khalilur Rahman Ma-

jumder of the Jatiya Nagorik Sanghati later told reporter that the smaller parties will stage a sit-in in front of the Prime Minister's office at 4 pm today demanding her resignation.

Some other leaders of the parties alleged that the ruling party did not keep its promise it had made before filing of nomination papers. "We were virtually lured to file nominations," some others said.

Earlier, a chaotic situation arose in front of the EC secretariat when the representatives of the parties gathered there for "hearing" for polls symbols. The hearing was held at the NEC auditorium.

The hearing had to be divided into two sessions as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) left for the namaz-e-janaja of Justice Ismailuddin Sarkar, a Judge of the Appel-

Ramadan begins

The month of holy Ramadan begins today, reports BSS.

The National Moon Sighting Committee yesterday announced the decision on the basis of information received from the Meteorological department and district administrations.

State minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mahran was in the chair.

The meeting held at the Islamic Foundation also announced that as per appearance of the moon, the holy Jamatul Bida will be observed on February 16, the 26th day of the Ramadan and Shab-e-Qadr on the night of the same day.

On the eve of holy Ramadan, President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages.

Plan to expand rural & urban development programmes

Star Report

The government is planning expansion of rural and urban welfare programmes under the Social Welfare Ministry to provide more credits and health facilities to the poor, according to a highly placed source.

The Urban Community Development (UCD) programme of the Ministry for the slum dwellers will be expanded soon to over 100 units from 39 now.

In the capital alone, 100 more units will be opened to bring 700 more slums under the programme, said the source.

At present the 39 units are operating in a small scale in a few slums in the capital and 17 other towns, which provide revolving credit and training to the slum dwellers. Over four lakh slum dwellers are now under this programme.

The Ministry of Social Welfare has also asked 44 hospitals operating under the Hospital Social Welfare Programme to expand their services.

Hasina's ultimatum at rally Stop polls process by Jan 23

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League yesterday gave an ultimatum to the government to stop the parliamentary polls process by January 23, the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

Addressing a public rally at the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city, AL Chief Sheikh Hasina said that the ruling party's efforts for holding the polls unilaterally would lead the nation to an explosive situation.

The Prime Minister and her party will be held responsible for any such situation," Hasina said.

She also urged the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to stop "the farcical and one party elections" and announce a fresh schedule for polls under a caretaker government.

"Elections could be held only in an atmosphere in which the people could cast their ballots safely and freely, with all the parties taking part in it," she said.

She made a fervent call to all sections of people, including administrative officials, law-enforcing agency personnel and teachers, to boycott the ensuing elections under BNP.

"People will never accept this one-party election, farcical election, without the participation of opposition parties," Hasina said announcing a warm up programme of the second phase of their anti-government agitation. The programme includes mass-contact from January 22 to 31.

UNB adds: The opposition leader also called upon the people not to go to the polling centres under BNP supervision. "Don't risk life going to the polling booths,"

Justice Ismailuddin Sarker dead

By SC Correspondent

Justice Ismailuddin Sarker, a judge of the Appellate Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court, died of a heart attack on Saturday night. He was 64.

Justice Sarker complained of chest pain at 9:45 pm Saturday. He was rushed to the Suhrawardy Hospital where he expired at 12:30 am.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at 1:30 pm yesterday at the Supreme Court premises.

Chief Justice Abu Taher Mohammad Azal, judges of both the divisions, former Chief Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury, lawyers, officers and staffs of the Supreme Court attended the janaza.

17 killed, 30 hurt in Rangpur bus-truck collision

By Staff Correspondent

At least 22 people were killed and 110 injured in separate road accidents in Rangpur and on the Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday.

In a head-on collision between a bus and a truck at Islampur 15 km off Rangpur town, 17 people were killed and 30 injured yesterday morning.

Our Rangpur correspondent reported that 13 people died on the spot while four others succumbed to their injuries on way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH). Sixteen of the injured persons were admitted to the hospital. Five of them were in critical condition, sources at the hospital said.

The Dhaka-bound bus of SB Paribahan plunged into a roadside ditch after the head-on collision at around 8:30 am. Drivers of both the bus and the truck were killed.

Identities of the dead and injured could not be known immediately.

According to a news agency report, four people including a minor boy were killed and 80 injured in separate accidents on the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

A woman, Maleka Begum, 28, and an unidentified man, aged about 50, died on the spot and 30 people were injured when a Shauria bound bus fell into a roadside ditch near Nabinagar at 3:30 pm. A 17-year-old unidentified youth succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital.

A minor boy, Amin, 11, died and 30 people were injured in a head-on collision between two minibuses near Barabaria in Dhamrai in the morning.

In another mishap, police said, 20 people were injured when an Aricha-bound bus dashed a roadside tree at Bamuli in Dhamrai at 7 pm.

The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the seriously injured were admitted to different hospitals in the city and at Dhamrai and Savar.

DMCH doctors continue strike

Star Report

The strike called by the doctors of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) continued for the second-day yesterday, according to hospital sources.

A meeting of the Chikitsa Sangram Committee was also held yesterday which decided to continue the strike till the illegal pharmacies in the hospital premises were withdrawn and the culprits who assaulted the doctors taken to task, said Dr Zainul Islam Bhuiyan.

Doctors at the DMCH went on strike Saturday following an alleged attack on doctors on duty by one Dipu, who allegedly runs an unauthorised pharmacy in the premises.

41 election symbols distributed

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday allotted 41 election symbols for different political parties and alliances for contesting the February 15 parliamentary election.

The symbols were chosen from 140 polls symbols.

A total of 64 parties and alliances had applied for election symbols and 87 representatives from parties and alliances went to the EC office for the symbols.

The EC however refrained from giving away 11 symbols at the request of some political parties not participating in the forthcoming general elections and also to "avoid confusion," an official of the EC said.

The symbols which were not given to any party or alliance are, 1. Boat, 2. Plough, 3. Scales, 4. Oak, 5. Ship, 6. Hut, 7. Sickle, 8. Hammer, 9. Torch, 10. Water Lily, and 11. Banyan Tree. The official said that some of the political parties had applied for the symbols.

Arafat Palestine's first president



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (R) and former US President Jimmy Carter, who came to Gaza as an international election observer, give a press conference yesterday in Gaza City.

RAMALLAH (West Bank), Jan 21: Yasser Arafat won a crushing victory to become the Palestinians' first elected president, according to results issued today by the official Election Commission, report AFP AP.

Supporters of Arafat's staged strategy for peace with Israel and Palestinian independence also emerged the big winners in Saturday's parallel elections to a Palestinian council, although their new self-rule legislature will also count some independent and Islamic opposition voices.

With virtually all the presidential ballots counted, officials said Arafat won a landslide 85 per cent of the vote, with sole challenger Samiha Khalil scoring less than 10 per cent.

Final results had been expected around 1300 GMT but the announcement was delayed until 1700 GMT due to the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan which began today.

The Palestinian Election Commission projected voter turnout of 90 per cent in the Gaza Strip and 85 per cent in the West Bank.



Suha favours women, votes for husband

JERUSALEM, Jan 21: Suha Arafat said it was important to elect women in the first Palestinian general poll on Saturday — but voted for her husband Yasser rather than the woman challenging him, reports Reuters.

"I hope that women will vote this time because it is very important that there will be a legislative council in which there will be lots of women," she said.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
ঢাকা
বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্প্রতি কতিপয় জাতীয় দৈনিকে প্রকাশিত সংবাদে দেখা যায় যে, ব্যবসায়ী/শিল্পপতি সমিতি পি,এস,আই পদ্ধতি অব্যাহত রাখার দাবী জানিয়েছে এবং এ পদ্ধতি বলবৎ রাখার পক্ষে যুক্তি প্রদর্শন করেছে। এ প্রসঙ্গে উল্লেখ্য যে, ইতিপূর্বে বিভিন্ন সভায় সরকারের পক্ষ হতে এ পদ্ধতি বহাল রাখার সিদ্ধান্ত ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে। সর্বশেষ ৩১-১২-৯৫ ইং তারিখে বিভিন্ন জাতীয় দৈনিক বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমেও সরকারের উপরোক্ত সংকল্প পুনর্বক্ত করা হয়েছে। অতএব, পি,এস,আই পদ্ধতি অব্যাহত রাখার বিষয়ে কোন মহলে কোনরূপ বিভ্রান্তি বা আশংকা থাকার সঙ্গত কোন কারণ নেই। তথাপিও, এতদ্বারা পুনরায় জানানো যাচ্ছে যে পি,এস,আই পদ্ধতি বাতিল করার বিষয়ে সরকারের কোন চিন্তাভাবনা নেই বরং ইহা বহাল রাখাই সরকারী সিদ্ধান্ত। কোন অসামঞ্জস্যতা, জটিলতা বা অসত্য ঘোষণা দূর করার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণের মাধ্যমে পি,এস,আই ব্যবস্থাকে সুসংহত করার বিষয়ে সরকার সদা সচেষ্ট থাকবে।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

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