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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 3.20cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 401.06 (-0.15%)
Market capital Tk 2615.81cr
Transactions in volume 4550
Transactions in value Tk 1197.30cr

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



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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 Jan 28. said an official source.

Fire at carpet mills

CHITTAGONG, Jan 21: A fire broke out at the Dhaka-Baghdad Carpet Mills in Pahartali 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	

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. — AFP/UNB photo

By Mizan Ali and Reaz Ahmad

ing 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.

"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.

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 Nayeb-e-Ameer Abbas Ali Khan from a meeting at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque. JP acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury announced a similar programme at a press conference at his residence.

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

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.

The opposition also hinted at tougher agitation programmes after 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 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 Mukarram National Mosque. The Jatiya Party programme was announced by party's acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury at a press conference at his residence.

The Prime Minister and her party will be held responsible for any such situation.

She also urged the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to stop "the farical 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

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.

She also urged the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to stop "the farical 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, farical 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."

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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 Mahfuz 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 Project.

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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 Afzal, judges of both the divisions, former Chief Justice Badru Haider Chowdhury, lawyers, officers and staffs of the Supreme Court attended the janaza.

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41 election symbols distributed

By Staff Correspondent

The symbols which were not allotted 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 chose 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.

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