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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 708.05 (+0.10%)
Market capital Tk 5205.41 cr
Transactions in volume 118063
Transactions in value Tk 1.84 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 399.44 (+0.07%)
Market capital Tk 2405.84 cr
Transactions in volume 350
Transactions in value Tk 27011

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



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NEWS BRIEFS

BNP expels two

The Bangladesh Jatiya Party expelled two members yesterday. Rajshahi city branch and Saleh Uddin, organising secretary, Rajshahi district branch for their anti-party activities, a BNP press release said yesterday. The decision comes into immediate effect, reports BSS.

Bus services in Chandpur resume

From Our Correspondent
CHANDPUR, Jan 22: Bus services to and from Chandpur resumed this evening after 10 days. The services were suspended on January 13 following an accident at the town bus terminal in which a college girl was killed on the spot.

JP secretariat meet today

A meeting of the Jatiya Party secretariat members will be held at its Banani office at 4 pm today. JP Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju asked the secretariat members, presidents and general secretaries of its all front organisations and its Dhaka City units to attend the meeting, reports UNB.

41 arms recovered

Law enforcing agencies recovered 41 firearms, 155 ammunition and 10 explosives yesterday, the 33rd day of the countrywide drive for illegal arms. According to the Law and Order Coordination Cell of the Election Commission, during the period the law enforcing agencies also arrested 306 people on various charges, including possession of illegal arms, reports UNB.

Shetri, Ifar timings

Ram	Jan	Shetri	Ifar
2	23	—	5:42 pm
3	24	5:19 am	5:43 pm
4	25	5:19 am	5:43 pm

Opposition parties plan President to be urged to cancel polls

By Reaz Ahmad and Mizan Ali

The major opposition political parties are planning to request the President to send the army personnel back to the barracks and urge him to cancel the scheduled parliamentary elections, according to sources.

Army was called in to assist the civil administration in the arms recovery drive at the initiative of the Election Commission.

Confirming the Opposition's plan to request the President, Organising Secretary of the Awami League Mohammad Nasim told The Daily Star that they were thinking in that line but the decision had not been finalised.

Jamaat Secretary General Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami said the Opposition may meet the President or send him a letter as regards withdrawal of the army from its civil operations and cancellation of the general elections scheduled to be held on February 15.

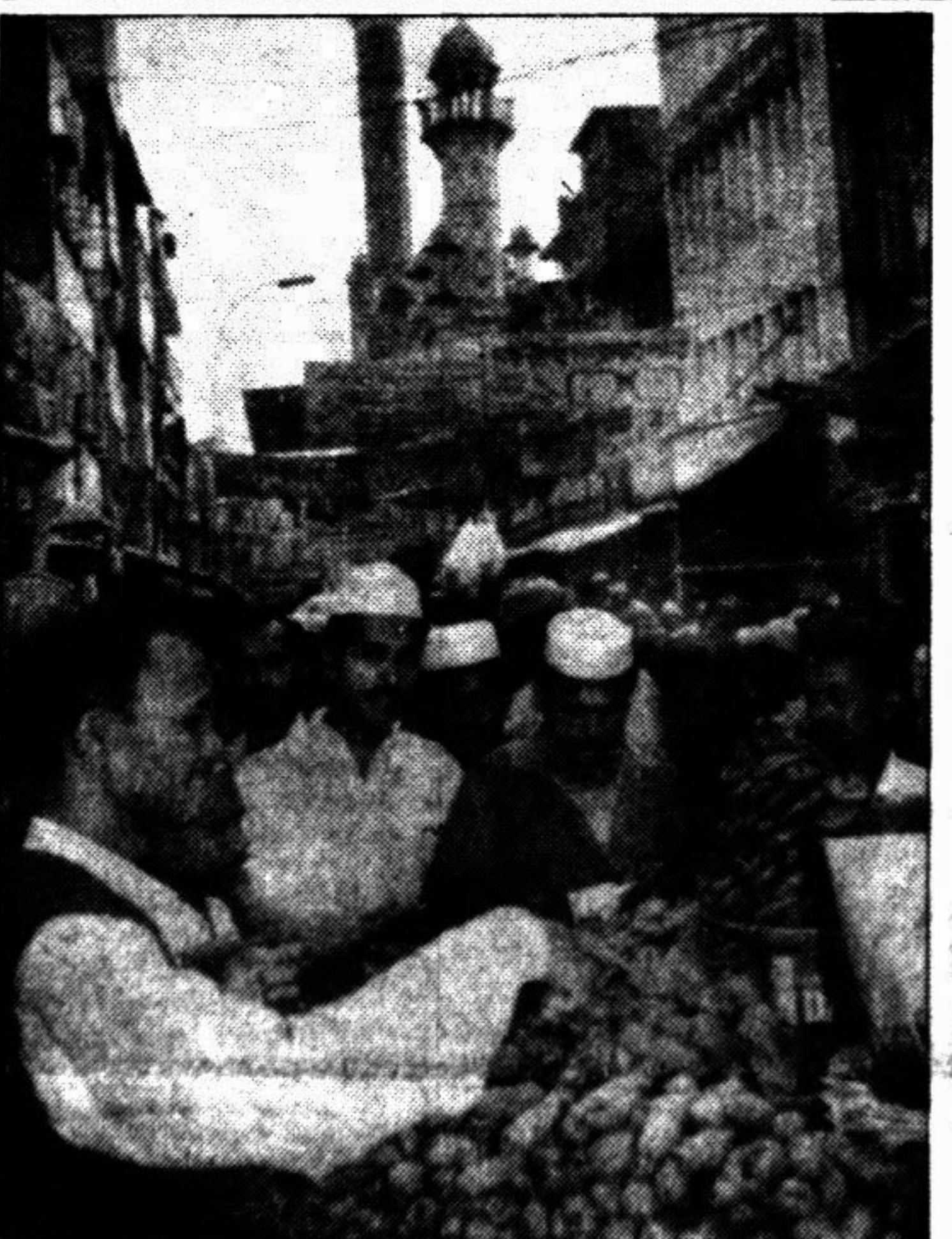
The Opposition had earlier issued a statement calling upon the President, who

is also the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, to send the army back to the barracks.

Meanwhile, the three major opposition parties at a joint meeting last night resolved that they would safeguard the Constitution and democracy by foiling the ruling BNP's bid to hold a one-party election under a 'blue-print' and unseating the 'autocrat' prime minister.

The meeting, held at the residence of AL presidium member Abdus Samad Azad, also called upon the parties agitating against the BNP government to launch a massive movement by mobilising

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Brisk sale of iftar items in a city area just before sunset on the first day of Ramadan yesterday. — Star photo

Price hike marks beginning of Ramadan

By Staff Correspondent

Prices of essentials shot up significantly on the first day yesterday of the holy month of Ramadan.

Different varieties of fish, meat, edible oil, sugar, pulses and vegetables were selling in the city markets at much higher prices than in the last few days.

Beef was being sold at Taka 70 and mutton at between Taka 110 and 115 per kg at the New Market instead of Taka 60 and Taka 90. At the Mohammadpur market the price of mutton rose Taka 150 yesterday. The Dhaka city corporation had earlier fixed the price of beef at Taka 60 and mutton at Taka 90. Price of a medium-sized chicken rose from Tk 60 to Taka 90.

At the fish market, a dozen of small Koi worth Taka 60 was sold at Taka 240. Khatir Khatir earlier sold around Taka 150 per kg was sold at between Taka 200 and 225 yesterday.

Price of small-size shrimps rose from Taka 150 per kg to Taka 200 and that of medium size from Taka

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Bid to stave off the bite of cold by the shelterless in the city last night.

— Star photo

PM addresses nation today

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister and chairperson of the ruling BNP Begum Khaleda Zia will address the nation at 6:30 pm today.

The radio and the television will air the speech on the eve of her tour for campaign for the February 15 parliament elections.

Sources close to the Prime Minister said, in her speech she would explain her party's 'all out' efforts to bring the major Opposition to the elections by giving maximum concessions within the ambit of the Constitution as regards the latter's demand for a caretaker administration to hold the polls.

Begum Zia is also expected to explain the constitutional obligations for contesting the upcoming elections despite boycott by the major opposition parties, the sources added.

The PM met senior party leaders after yesterday's regular weekly cabinet meeting to give a final touch to the draft of her speech.

Meanwhile, the PM is scheduled to visit the mazar of Hazrat Shahjalal at Sylhet today before kicking off her party's official election campaign.

Shipment failure & other reasons Garment sector loses export earning by Tk 1200cr a year

By Govinda Shil

The country loses at least Taka 1200 crore a year in garments exports because of failure to ensure timely shipment, lack of quality control and alleged whimsical behaviour of a section of buyers sometimes, according to sources in the BGMEA, Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) and banks concerned.

Buyers sometimes "whimsically" reject the lot showing reasons beyond normal trading practices, claimed the sources.

The amount lost is as high as 10 to 15 per cent of the total export earnings from garments," said a member of the Executive Committee of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Badal Roy, Managing Director of Samaron Fashion Private Limited and executive director of the BGMEA

leader, said, lengthy procedures in customs and banks congestion at port and harkats and strikes were the main reasons for the failure in timely shipment.

"I cannot take delivery of fabrics valued at US dollars 30,000 from the Benapol land port due to labour strike there now," Roy said. "This will lead to delay in production and export."

Talking to The Daily Star, a senior official of the EPB said, some manufacturers sometimes cannot maintain proper documents for which buyers cancel their deals.

"We lack legal provisions to fight such unwanted happenings from abroad. This affects our garments manufacturers severely," the official said requesting anonymity.

An official of Janata Bank at Dilkusha said Banks in

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Mercury in city

falls to 9.2°C

Star Report

The city dwellers yesterday experienced the coldest day of the current winter.

The season's lowest temperature in the capital — 9.2 degrees Celsius — was recorded yesterday.

The lowest temperature in the country was recorded at 5.8 degrees Celsius at Sri-mongal on January 19.

The country including the capital is experiencing a chilly weather for the last couple of days as a cold wave from the Himalayan region is sweeping it.

Weathermen at the Met office in the city told The Daily Star that mercury would show a gradual rise within the next five to seven days with the weakening of the cold spell.

The present cold spell has particularly hit the northern and Sylhet regions.

Text books for classes IX, VI yet to reach market

Star Report

Text books for Classes IX and VI except that for one subject are not yet available in the market.

Only the English text book for Class VI reached the market yesterday while the rest are likely to be available by the end of this month, according to book sellers and publishers.

Market sources said that the books for Class IX would not be available until the first week of next month as the manuscripts reached the publishers late.

Chairman of the Text Book Board, Prof Md Khurshed Alam, when contacted by The Daily Star, said "we do not give manuscripts, rather we provide the 'positives' of the books which reduces a lot of work for them."

The positives of all the

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Cabinet approves Bankruptcy Ordinance

The cabinet at a meeting yesterday approved, in principle, the Bankruptcy Ordinance 1996, reports UNB.

A proposal for amendment to the Special Security Force Ordinance 1986 was also endorsed by the Cabinet.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presided over the meeting held in the cabinet room of the PM's office.

Ministers and State Ministers in charge of different ministries attended the meeting. Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and secretaries concerned were present.

Doctors at DMCH continue strike 'Union allowed pharmacies'

Star Report

Doctors at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) continued their strike for the third day yesterday, demanding removal of illegal pharmacies from the hospital premises and punishment to a person who allegedly assaulted some on-duty doctors on Friday night.

A meeting in this regard was held yesterday with the doctors, internes, nurses and employees of the institution attending it. Besides, the principal of the college and the director of the hospital were present at the meeting held at the conference hall of the hospital.

On a visit to the DMCH, it was found that a number of shops including two pharmacies were operating in front of the emergency section of the hospital. Doctors said these were functioning without proper authorisation from the administration.

Dipu, who allegedly assaulted some doctors in Ward No 35 Friday night, is operating SD Pharmacy, one of the two pharmacies.

SD pharmacy was found closed while the other — Day-Night pharmacy — was operating. Witnesses said that the pharmacy run by Dipu remained closed since the incident involving him.

The two pharmacies are being run by the Union of class III and class IV employees for carrying out their welfare activities, said Moslem Mia, a leader of the Union.

The required permission from the authorities was obtained before the pharmacies started operating almost two years back, he claimed.

A salesman at the Day-Night pharmacy claimed that they had nothing to do with the hospital management as regards their business because they got the premises from the Union.

"We have our accounts with the Union," added the employee of the pharmacy, owned by a medicine trader, Amanullah Aman.

Doctors claimed that the illegal shops including the two pharmacies were served with notices by the Director of the DMCH some time back

to close their business. Union leaders said that they assured the Director of vacating the premises whenever the authorities required the land.

Doctors at the DMCH started an indefinite strike from Saturday, demanding

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue, Dhaka

Special Notification on VAT

It is observed that some sweetmeat shops, hotel-restaurants, decorators, caterers, mechanised laundries, community centres, gold-ornament shops, beauty parlours etc. registered under VAT are not giving VAT cashmemo to the customers while receiving their service cost. As a result, deposit of the VAT, paid by the customer is not being ensured in the govt exchequer.

It is legally mandatory to issue cashmemo in the prescribed proforma in each case stating service cost & VAT separately or including the VAT with the cost & mentioning it thereof.

The system of issuing cashmemo has not been relaxed or withdrawn in case of any dues. Capacity basis VAT also has not been imposed in case of any taxpayer.

To ensure deposit of your VAT paid with the service cost in the Govt exchequer, please ask for VAT cashmemo from the service sellers.

On any matter regarding VAT, please contact phone Nos 406848, 408604 Dhaka (South); 893422, 892606 Dhaka (North); 500958, 504086 (Chittagong); 5702, 5512 (Rajshahi); 61970, 62340 (Khulna) and 5874, 3505 (Jessore).

The VAT paid by you is playing an important role in the economic development of the country.

As a conscious citizen of the country, your cooperation in this regard is earnestly solicited.

DFP-1555-20/1
G-136

National Board of Revenue

Fresh congestion grips Chittagong Port

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Jan 22: Fresh congestion has gripped the Chittagong Port for the last one week with the increase in the number of foodgrains carrying ships and container vessels calling here, port sources said.

Consequently, the turnaround period of foreign vessels arriving at the port, went up to 8 days now from 5 or 6 days earlier the sources said.

Besides, the foreign cargo vessels have been facing a 'traffic-jam' at the outer anchorage before getting berth at the port jetties.

In last one week over 10 foodgrains carrying vessels and about the same number of container ships arrived at the port. This resulted in a sudden congestion, though it eased from the middle last month, the sources added.

Talking to The Daily Star today, a senior port official, said "The congestion problem again hit our port only due to the arrival of increased number of foodgrains vessels and container ships".

Iranian minister in city

Nejad Hosseinean, Deputy Petroleum Minister of Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived here last night on an official visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary Mohammad Fatur Razzaq received the minister at Zia International Airport. The deputy minister, who is leading a high level official delegation is scheduled to leave on Wednesday

The port authorities reviewed the situation at a meeting today.

The meeting suggested constructing another container terminal and inland container depot (ICD) on an emergency basis to tackle such a problem, the official said.

Port sources said that as of today 5 foodgrains carrying vessels anchored at port jetties and 4 were waiting at the outer anchorage while 4 container ships anchored at the jetties and 4 were waiting at the outer anchorage.

Meanwhile, over 13,000 containers of cargo remained stockpiled at the port sheds now as against the port's capacity to accommodate only 8,500 containers. This has caused congestion at the port sheds, the sources said.

Poor utilisation rate ADP project aid cut by 11pc

Project aid component of the current Annual Development Programme (ADP) faces an 11 per cent cut because of slower-than-expected utilisation rate, reports UNB.

Official sources said the authorities, engaged in programming the revised ADP for 1995-96, proposed downsizing of the targeted project aid volume from Tk 5030 crore to Tk 4460 crore, slashing a chunk of Tk 570 crore.

An official in the Ministry of Planning aired scepticism about utilisation prospects of even a tailored project aid target of Tk 4460 crore when political situation is likely to deteriorate further in the coming months.

Project aid component in the revised ADP of the last fi-

nancial year also faced a cut by Tk 360 crore or 6 per cent.

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) held a review meeting last month with project authorities where the ERD functionaries expressed dissatisfaction at the rate of aid utilisation.

According to sources, different project officials at the meeting pointed out frequent extraneous influences in project works, specially in tendering, which were seriously hampering the implementation. Projects under city corporations, roads and water development are facing slough due to such interruption.

The World Bank, a major provider of the project aid to

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