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**DSE MARKET**

DSE price index	774.81 (-0.04%)
Market capital Tk	5048.75 cr
Transactions in volume	132297
Transactions in value Tk	1.75 cr

**CSE MARKET**

CSE price index	396.27 (-0.0177%)
Market capital Tk	2308.74 cr
Transactions in volume	1990
Transactions in value Tk	119255

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**  
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**Sehri, Iftar timings**

Ram	Jan/Feb	Sehri	Iftar
10	31		5:48
11	01	5:18	5:48
12	02	5:17	5:48

**State Deptt responds to Opposition's remarks**

## US repeats call to shun violence, find solution

The United States has reiterated its hope that the major political parties in Bangladesh would work toward a long-term solution to their differences, reports BSS.

US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns in his briefings Monday in Washington told newsmen, "We still hope that the major political parties in Bangladesh will work toward a long-term solution to their differences."

His comments were circulated in Dhaka by USIS yesterday.

The spokesman replying to questions from newsmen said, "as I stated last week, the United States government regrets very much that the major political parties in Bangladesh have been unable to devise a solution to their differences that would allow fully participatory elections to go forward."

He said, "As you know, Ambassador David Merrill has been in conversations with all concerned about this issue. And we reaffirm, today, our call to all parties to avoid violence, to avoid intimidation, coercion or interference in the right of voters to exercise their right to vote. And we certainly urge the fullest possible transparency and observation of the electoral process. That is almost identical to what I said on Friday. I reaffirm it today because it's the basis of our policy towards the situation in Bangladesh."

Replying to a question that Ambassador Merrill's efforts were being questioned by the Opposition in Bangladesh, spokesman Burns said, "there is no need to reconsider what we said. Ambassador Merrill's position is the position of the United States government, and we fully support him. And I would just note that in my remarks, today and on Friday, we called for an end to violence, an end to intimidation, and I think that both the Opposition and the government should take heart in those words, if in fact both of them want to have fully participatory elections."

The State Department spokesman said replying to a question, "well, first of all, I think we have to clear about one thing: The United States is not responsible for clashes on the streets in Dhaka. They are the responsibility of the various political parties in Bangladesh."

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## Donors disappointed at Dhaka's performance

Star Report

Donors' representatives at a review meeting yesterday expressed their serious disappointment at the government's failure to establish an enabling environment for the private sector, improve public sector management, and activate the agreed reform programmes.

An important member of the donor community said that "we are carefully watching the current political situation." Normalisation of which, the donors viewed, is a necessary condition for the economy's take-off, according to official and diplomatic sources.

The meeting examined the progress in meeting the targets under the Paris understanding for fiscal year 1995-96 at the NEC conference hall at the Planning Commission premises in the city.

The three-hour-long discussion, with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair, was attended by ambassadors and high commissioners of the donor countries, and chiefs of multilateral agencies who constitute the Aid Consortium. The minister was assisted by the secretaries concerned.

According to meeting sources, the donors said that the rise in the fiscal deficit, widening current account deficit and upswing inflation had already started eating up the much-acclaimed macro-stability and would have adverse effect on the economy's growth in the long run.

Admitting the rise in the fiscal deficit which stood at Taka 330 crore since June, the Finance Minister argued that the trend is not "alarming."

When the donors pointed out the galloping import bill currently growing at 38 per cent till November, the minister is learnt to have said that the increase was mainly in the first quarter of the current fiscal and has been successfully contained. In the first three months, the bill escalated by 48 per cent.

He, however, agreed that the 11 per cent export growth in the first five months was not so impressive.

The World Bank chief questioned the reliability and quality of the economic data.

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A part of the city's Bangabazar market was gutted on Monday night. — Star photo

## 117 shops gutted Bangabazar fire act of arson?

By Staff Correspondent

At least 117 shops, mostly of saree and shoe, were gutted at the Bangabazar market in the city late night Monday in a devastating fire, suspected to be an act of arson.

The fire broke out at about 12:15 am Tuesday and as the flames licked through in the eastern side of the market, shops in the other sides were looted till army, BDR and police came.

The law enforcing agency personnel cordoned off the market while the fire fighters put out the fire in one hour and 20 minutes. One fire fighter was injured during the operation. No other report of injury was received till last night.

The fire incident, barely 15 days after the market was rebuilt on ashes, was the second in about two months. On November 27 last, a devastating fire had gutted all the 2400 shops in the big market complex, the cause of which still remains a mystery.

A shopowner, Afzal, who claims to be an eye witness alleged that a group of about one hundred armed youths torched a shop and started indiscriminate looting breaking the shutters.

"Before the fire started, a group of about one hundred youths armed with ram dao, Chinese axe, rod, hockey stick, daggers and other lethal weapons entered the market and threatened us," said Afzal.

After a few minutes, at around 12 midnight I smell of petrol and saw flames at the Bailey Shoe shop, only yards away from my shop," he said. He then ran to the

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## Seven new HC judges

The President has appointed seven additional judges of the High Court as judges of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, reports BSS.

The appointment comes into effect from February 10, 1996, a PID handout said last night.

The Chief Justice was consulted before making the appointment.

The judges are: Justice Mohammad Nurul Islam, Justice Kazi A T Monwar Uddin, Justice Mohammad Fazlul Haq, Justice Mohammad Hamidul Haq, Justice Syed Amirul Islam, Justice M M Ruhul Amin and Justice Mohammad Tofazzal Islam.

Besides, the President in consultation with the Chief Justice also appointed two more additional judges of the High Court to the same post for another year beginning on February 10, 1996, the hand-out added.

The judges are: Justice Mohammed Assaduzzaman and Justice M. Bazlur Rahman.

## Gunshots fired at British Deputy HC's residence

A group of unidentified people yesterday fired gunshots at the residence of British Deputy High Commissioner at Gulshan, reports UNB.

A police sentry on duty suffered wounds in his leg as random shots were fired from a passing private car at 6-15 am. A home-made bomb was also hurled inside the compound, but it did not explode.

Deputy High Commissioner Miriam McIntosh, who was in her home, was unhurt.

Md Alamgir Hossain, the wounded policeman, was admitted to the Police Hospital, police said.

The cause of firing remained a mystery while none claimed responsibility for the shootout.

Gulshan police visited the spot and found three holes caused by bullets on the metal gate of the sentry box outside the residence.

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## Ekushey book fair begins tomorrow

By DU Correspondent

The Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela 1996 will begin at the Bangla Academy and its adjacent areas in the capital tomorrow. 'Present books to dear ones during Eid,' is this year's theme of the book fair.

The month-long fair organised by the Bangla Academy, which has now become a national festival, will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at 11 am at the academy premises on the day.

The book fair will remain open from 10 am to 5 pm, Academy sources said.

The academy has also arranged a number of programmes in its premises to mark the Amar Ekushey. However, there will be no

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## 3 book stalls at Bangla Academy set afire

By Staff Correspondent

A group of unidentified youths yesterday set fire to at least three stalls erected on the road in front of the Bangla Academy for Ekushey book fair, owners of the stalls said.

The youths were protesting the opening of the fair by the Prime Minister scheduled tomorrow, according to campus sources.

The youths first tried to set fire to the main stage erected inside the Academy for the Ekushey programme, the sources added.

BSS reports: the owners of the book stalls in the Bangla Academy book fair have demanded security of the stalls after unidentified quarters set fire to several under preparation stalls last night.

A press release on behalf of the stall owners said several stalls numbering 188, 189, 190 and 191 were set on fire by spreading petrol without any provocation around 6 pm and the No. 189 stall which was fully decorated, was burnt completely.

Petrol was also poured on the dais meant for the inauguration but it could not be set on fire and an uneasy situation existed in the book fair arena, the press release said.

The book fair of 'Amar Ekushey' is a memorable feature in the history of the nation.

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## BNP expels 13 more leaders

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has expelled 13 district and thana level leaders with immediate effect on charges of disobeying party decisions and engaging in activities contrary to party discipline, reports BSS.

A BNP press release issued last night said, the expelled are: Matjur Rahman, acting president, Nikali Thana Committee, Zahidur Rahman Haraf, vice president Gopalganj District Committee, Lutfe Alam Khan Asim, vice president, Netrokona District Committee, Prof Tofazzal Hossain Chowdhury, member, Mymensingh (South) district committee, Miah Mohammad Mansur Ali, member, Chuadanga district committee, Moshtaque Ahmed, member, Netrokona district committee, Moham-

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## Gunfire on Indo-Pak border continues: 4 die

JAMMU, India, Jan 30: At least four people were killed early Tuesday as Indian and Pakistani troops traded gunfire across the disputed Kashmir border for the fifth day in a row, officials said, reports AP.

The four unarmed Pakistanis were shot to death as they crossed the border about 2:30 am, said SN Dube, a Border Security Force officer.

Dube said the four were about 100 meters (yards) inside Indian territory when a patrol ordered them to halt near the village of Nanga. They were shot when they began fleeing toward Pakistani territory, he said. It was not known why the four were in the area.

In a separate incident, a 50-year-old Indian, Phulier Singh, was killed Monday when bullets penetrated his home in the village of Sujwal, said Surendra Singh, a police official. Seven other people were wounded.

The house is near an observation post of Indian paramilitary forces that was targeted by the Pakistani forces, Singh said.

With a population of 800, Sujwal is 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu-Kashmir state. The border between the two countries runs through many villages on both sides.

Troops on the heavily guarded boundary often exchange fire, but attacks have intensified in the last week.

## Jubo League worker dies after arrest

JHALAKATI, Jan 30: A worker of the Jubo League, the youth front of the Awami League, died after arrest in arms-recovery drive in Nalchiti thana today, reports UNB.

Activists of the opposition Awami League and Jatiya Party and their front organisations brought out procession in Jhalakati town in the evening to protest what they said "killing" of Ashraf.

The protesters also called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the town to protest the

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## Shopkeepers clash with police in Ctg: 20 injured

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Jan 30: At least 20 people were injured during a pitched battle this morning at Mimi Super Market between the shopkeepers and members of the anti-smuggling task force, police and witnesses said.

The injured were admitted into the hospital and private clinic.

The clash erupted at 11 am when the task force members including police raided the market to seize smuggled goods, witnesses said. The agitated shopkeepers pelted bricks at the

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## Brawl at Sonargaon Hotel

Star Report

The activities of the Sonargaon Hotel came to a standstill for four hours yesterday as employees agitated against the termination of a staff and the alleged mismanagement and corruption in the hotel.

When the employees approached General Manager of the hotel, Y Hamano, for an explanation, he, fearing an attack on himself, broke a backside windowpane of his office with a chair, jumped out and fled, according to witnesses.

An official of the management claimed that five executives of the hotel were seriously beaten up and stabbed by the employees and outsiders. The injured have been admitted with the Holy Family Hospital.

When contacted, an information personnel of the hospital first admitted the admission of the injured, but later denied.

But some hotel officials claimed, on condition of anonymity, that 15 management personnel were injured by the employees and outsiders equipped with daggers and sticks.

Tension at the five-star hotel mounted when the management sacked the Executive Housekeeper Ahsan Khan Monday evening. But it flared up from around 11 am yesterday as employees gathered and started demonstrations.

At one stage they allegedly attacked the officials.

No case has been lodged in this connection with the Tejgaon police station till filing of this report.

Employees denied in-

See Page 12 col 7



Additional police forces were deployed at the Sonargaon Hotel premises after the clash between the hotel management and employees yesterday. — Star photo

The Daily Star PHILIPS

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শিশু শ্রেণী থেকে বিজয়ী শ্রেণী 'ক' বিভাগ  
যুগ্ম শ্রেণী থেকে পঞ্চম শ্রেণী 'খ' বিভাগ  
ষষ্ঠ শ্রেণী থেকে অষ্টম শ্রেণী 'গ' বিভাগ  
নবম ও দশম শ্রেণী 'ঘ' বিভাগ

অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক শিক্ষার্থী অবশ্য অভিভাবকদের আগামী ১১ ফেব্রুয়ারী '৯৬ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে বাল্যশিক্ষা জাতীয় বাস্তব ময়ান শহীদ সিবসে উপস্থিত হয়ে নাম / ঠিকানা জমা দিয়ে রেজিস্ট্রেশন কার্ড সংগ্রহ করতে অনুমোদন করা হ'ল। যান অনুসারে প্রত্যেক বিভাগে পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হবে।

সেবাফল সোহানীন  
কীপার  
জনশিক্ষা বিভাগ  
বাল্যশিক্ষা জাতীয় বাস্তব ময়ান

ফোন : ৫০৫২৬৬ / ৮৬৬৬৬৭ - ৮

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