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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	773.57 (+3.26%)
Market capital Tk	5040.73 cr
Transactions in volume	118000
Transactions in value Tk	1.80 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	206.57
Market capital Tk	2281.30 cr
Transactions in volume	1400
Transactions in value Tk	100000

100 vehicles damaged in Ctg 3 more candidates beaten up, dist EC office burnt

Star Report

Three more candidates were beaten up, a district election commission office was set ablaze and 35 people were injured as anti-election violence continued in different parts of the country yesterday.

The EC office at Natore was set afire by some unidentified people yesterday morning, causing damage to documents and furniture.

Ten persons, each were injured in Chittagong, Narayanganj and Kulaura.

In Chittagong, opposition activists protesting the 'one-party' election damaged more than 100 vehicles. Witnesses said that at least 10 people were injured during violent demonstrations. Our Staff Correspondent reports.

Traffic movement in the port city was badly disrupted during the 2-hour rampage by Opposition activists. Police and witnesses said that some taxis parked on the Laldighi Road suddenly came under attack by processionists. Immediately after the incidents, the taxi drivers gheraoed the Chittagong City Corporation office.

The drivers later dispersed when they learnt that the Mayor, also General Secretary of the Chittagong City Unit of Awami League, was not in his office.

Violence also spread to the city's Shaheed Minar, Bipani Bitan crossing, Station Road and Commerce College Road areas.

According to UNB, three

candidates for the upcoming parliamentary elections were allegedly assaulted by angry opposition candidates in the district yesterday.

Abdul Majid, from Sirajganj-6, an independent candidate, was caught by a group of people at Chowhall boat ghata. He was then forced to dive into a pond. His election posters were also thrown into the water.

A meeting of independent candidate Habibur Rahman of Sirajganj-3 was foiled by opposition supporters at Magura-Mukondo under Tarash thana at noon.

Protesters also manhandled Shamsul Alam, another independent candidate from Sirajganj-4, in Baromahal

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Move to resist 'one-party' polls Professional groups back Opposition

Different professional groups in a meeting with Sheikh Hasina yesterday lent support to the current opposition move to resist 'one-party' elections, reports UNB.

Leaders of the groups in the meeting at the Engineers' Institution expressed solidarity with the agitation for election under caretaker government and vowed to resist the 'mock vote' under BNP rule.

The meeting between the Awami League chief and trade union leaders, lawyers, writers, poets, dramatists and intellectuals gave a joint call to build a united resistance against this 'farical' polls and to realise the demand for election under a neutral caretaker government.

It also called upon the people to boycott the 'voteless' election and all concerned with the election process not to assist this government in holding the vote.

The meeting demanded immediate halt to the 'one-party' election, resignation of the Prime Minister and fresh

schedule of election under a caretaker government.

The Awami League president called upon all the professionals to resist the 'one-party' farical election' under the BNP government to save the electoral process of the country.

The BNP government is going to destroy electoral process by staging this mock election to protect its illegal power, she said exchanging views with the leaders of professional groups.

Hasina said this is not an election at all, people had already rejected it as there is no scope for the people to elect anyone according to their choice because all the opposition parties stayed out.

She said the declaration of 49 BNP candidates elected unopposed proved that everything was pre-set and the final list had already been prepared.

'Even the list for showing how many voters are going to cast their votes is prepared,' she told the gathering, adding that calculation is

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Opposition announces programme today

By Staff Correspondent

The three major opposition political parties are expected to announce their fresh agitation programme today with only 10 days remaining for the February 15 parliamentary elections.

The Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami are scheduled to announce their identical programmes through separate press conferences in the capital.

The three parties were scheduled to announce their programmes yesterday. The announcement would be made after finalisation of the programmes through a joint meeting of the three opposition parties at 10:00 am today, senior Opposition leaders said.

Meanwhile, opposition sources indicated that their fresh programmes might include a 48-hour hartal with breaks at iftar-time on February 14 and 15, laying a siege at the residence of the Prime Minister on February 11 and holding separate grand rallies on February 10.

JCD-BCL gunfight rocks DU campus

By DU Correspondent

Rival activists of the Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) clashed on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

According to witnesses, the rival groups openly traded gunfire during the clash, spreading panic in the entire area.

A rickshawpuller received bullet injury during gunfight and a number of students were hurt while running for safety. The rickshawpuller was hit on his left leg in the crossfire. The pro-BNP JCD and the Awami League-backed BCL traded over 70 rounds of gunshots during clash which lasted for over 30 minutes, witnesses said.

At least four press photographers were also assaulted by a group of unruly youths near the Aparajeo

Bangla

Campus sources said, at around 12:25 pm, several rounds of shots were heard from the DU Central Library area when two separate rallies of JCD and BCL were in progress at DUCSU Bhaban and Aparajeo Bangla premises respectively.

In an instant, tension gripped the campus as armed BCL cadres reportedly started chasing the rival JCD activists, who were also equipped with arms. The BCL cadres moved in front of the Administrative Building firing several rounds of gunshots while the JCD activists took shelter at the nearby Surja Sen Hall, retaliating with counter-fire.

A heavy contingent of police guarding the campus, went into action lobbing

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Riot police were deployed on the Dhaka University campus after a gunfight between activists of two rival student organisations yesterday (above); an activist with a firearm in hand during the fight (top).



Mohammedan's wicketkeeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu put the bails off to mark the dismissal of Abahani's skipper Akram Khan (not in the picture) as Manzoor Akhter looks on during their Navana Premier Cricket League match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. MSC won by 1 wk.

BNP finalises election manifesto

By Nazmul Ashraf

The ruling BNP has finalised its manifesto for the coming parliamentary elections, party sources said last night.

The manifesto is likely to be announced by party Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar at a press conference in a day or two, the sources told The Daily Star.

Begum Zia discussed the manifesto and her campaign tours with senior party leaders at her Tejgaon office yesterday afternoon.

An official of the Prime Minister's Secretariat told this correspondent last night that the PM had taken up a short tour programme to campaign for her party.

According to press reports, Begum Zia is scheduled to visit Feni, where she is contesting from two constituencies, on February 7. She would also go for electioneering at Rajshahi on February 10 and at Sirajganj

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4 Bangladeshis killed in road mishap in KSA

RIYADH, Feb 4: Four Bangladesh nationals were killed in a road accident near Taif on Friday when they were returning to Riyadh after performing Umrah at the Holy Kaaba, reports BSS.

Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia Meer Mohammad Nasir Uddin visited the house of the deceased and assured all possible help and cooperation to the families of the victims.

The victims were identified as Abdul Hoque, 46, son of Mohd. Yakub of Hathazari, Chittagong, Mohd. Abul Kalam Azad, 34, of Barisal, Mohd. Solaiman Hossain, 46, of Natore, Hajohahi, and Eng Nahidul Islam of Bogra.

4 get life-term for killing JCD leader

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 4: Four persons have been awarded life imprisonments on charge of killing Nuruzaman Djalal, president, Sylhet Government College unit of the Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal.

A K M Salimullah, additional district and sessions judge, third court, Sylhet in his judgement today also ordered each of them to pay a fine of Taka five thousand in default to suffer imprisonment.

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Joint body to probe Sonargaon incident

By Staff Correspondent

A joint committee comprising two members each from the Bangladesh and Japanese sides would be constituted to probe the January 30 incident at the Sonargaon Hotel, Mosharafullah, Managing Director of the government-owned Hotels International Limited (HIL), parent company of the hotel, said here yesterday.

This was decided in a meeting between Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka, Yoshikajo Kaneko and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Maj (ret'd) Abdul Mannan on Saturday last, he said at a press conference at the hotel.

He, however, said the HIL has not formed any inquiry committee of its own to probe the incident. But he added, "Law will take its own

course."

Mosharafullah said another meeting which was attended by the General Manager of the Sonargaon Hotel Yoji Hamano, decided that three senior executives of the hotel would be withdrawn for the period of inquiry in the interest of free and fair inquiry and status-quo would be maintained in the hotel till completion of the inquiry.

On January 30 last, the employees of hotel reportedly beat up a number of executives after an employee was terminated. The General Manager of the hotel, a Japanese national, was also allegedly manhandled. According to the MD, the Room Division Manager and a Duty Manager are still undergoing treatment.

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Book fair: Turnout poor, sales dull

By DU Correspondent

The turnout of book lovers as well as sales at the Eku-shey Book Fair at the Bangla Academy are less this year compared to last years.

Though the number of visitors is increasing day by day, it is not up to the expectations of the organizers, book publishers and stall owners.

one stall owner told the Daily Star yesterday, the fifth day of the month-long fair.

"At the end of the day, our total sale was six hundred taka only," said the owner of the stall of Ananna Publishers. But we are optimistic of bigger turnout in the coming days.

The discussion meetings organised by the Academy is also drawing less audience because many of the discussants have cancelled their scheduled programmes.

Dr Shahida Akter who was

scheduled to participate in yesterday's discussion on 'Folklore Books published by Bangla Academy: An Evaluation' was absent.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique, earlier scheduled to preside over today's discussion on 'Translated Book's published by Bangla Academy: An Evaluation' and Prof Sayed Monjurul Islam, the key-note speaker have already cancelled their programmes.

Thirteen teachers of the Dhaka University and some others from some cultural organisations earlier notified the Director General of the Academy cancelling their participation in discussion programmes protesting police atrocities on the students of the Dhaka University on Wednesday last.

Lively goasps at the writ-

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NEWS BRIEFS

**BCL calls hartal
 in Natore today**

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Feb 4: The district unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) has called a half-day hartal from 6 am in the district tomorrow to protest the arrest of its general secretary Shariful Islam Ranjan and harassment of opposition leaders and activists in the name of recovering illegal weapons.

22 arms recovered

The law enforcing agencies recovered 22 firearms of different types, seven bullets and four explosives yesterday, the 46th day of nation-wide illegal arms-recovery drive. A total of 344 people were also arrested on various charges, including possession of illegal weapons, reports UNB.

**BB accepts bids
 for Tk 25cr**

Two bids for a total amount of Tk 25 crore were received at the 9th auction of the 90-day Treasury Bill yesterday and all the bids were accepted, a Bangladesh Bank press release said. Face value of the bids accepted was Tk 25 crore. The weighted average price of the accepted bids was Tk 98.54 per 100 taka. The corresponding yield is 5.92 per cent per annum, reports BSS.

Shri, Iftar timings

Ram	Feb	Shri	Iftar
15	5	-	5:51
16	6	5:16	5:52
17	7	5:15	6:52