

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
 ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
 BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
 MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
 OF DIFFERENT TYPES
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
 199 TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA
 TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

The Daily Star

Day or Night
 Standard Chartered
 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

VOL. VI NO. 25 REGD. NO. DA 781 MAGH 25 1402 BS, DHAKA WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1996 RAMADAN 17, 1416 HIJRI

Inside Today

- Article**
- Way Out from the Abyss by A Hasib Page 4
- Focus**
- Taking Bangladeshi crafts to Paris; TV versus press; and Familiarity with content Page 5
- International**
- European Community to step up anti-terrorist efforts against LTTE
- Bosnian govt detains Serb General, 7 others as war crime suspects Page 8
- Business**
- Country should get ready to face challenges of GATT accord, says DCCI president
- US asks Japan to pay for oil shipments to DPRK Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET
 DSE price index 767.16 (-0.37%)
 Market capital Tk 4998.95 cr
 Transactions in volume 190035
 Transactions in value Tk 2.58 cr

CSE MARKET
 CSE price index 393.78 (-0.87%)
 Market capital Tk 2371.77 cr
 Transactions in volume 1279
 Transactions in value Tk 1.23 lakh

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

MIDAS Mini Mart Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

22 arms seized
 The law enforcing agencies recovered 22 arms, 46 ammunition and 12 explosives on the 48th day yesterday in drive for recovering illegal arms and ammunition to ensure free and fair Jatuya Sangsad elections. The law enforcing agencies on the basis of information supplied by the law and order preservation cell at the Election Commission, arrested 355 persons on charges of involvement in various offences including possession of illegal arms during the period, reports BSS.

Hartal called to protest visit Dais for PM's meeting damaged in Feni

Star Report

Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia begins her final round of electioneering today with a two-day visit to Feni amid an Opposition call for hartal in the district in protest.

Opposition activists yesterday damaged the dais erected for the Prime Minister's public meeting at Dagonbhuiya where one ruling party activist, Syed Ahmed, was injured in a clash.

Stray incidents of anti-election violence elsewhere in the country included attack on candidates, clashes and damaging of campaign offices leaving about 20 people injured.

An independent candidate Ashraf Muhiit Soyef from Moulvibazar-1 constituency withdrew from the race on the day.

In Feni, the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami held separate rallies yesterday protesting the Prime Minister's planned visit and killing of an alleged Opposition activist, Nasiruddin, on Monday in a clash between pro- and anti-election campaigners. Nasiruddin was buried at his village home yesterday.

Our correspondent said last night that a tense situation was prevailing at Feni town where tight security measures were taken for the PM's visit.

The Prime Minister, contesting from Feni-1 and Feni-2 constituencies is scheduled to address 18 meetings in the district and stay overnight in the district town.

In Dhaka city, pro-election activists attacked a nursing home when the employees protested setting up of a polls campaign camp close to it.

Employees of the City Nursing Home said the attackers damaged some furniture, assaulted some of the employees and pelted bricks.

None was, however, arrested, they alleged.

UNB news agency reported from Chittagong that a ruling party candidate from Chittagong-1 (Mirersara) came under bomb attack during his election campaign at Baniatia in Mirersara thana yesterday.

Police said the jeep of BNP candidate Obaidul Haq Khandaker was badly damaged when a group of anti-election activists hurled several homemade bombs at the camp.

See Page 12 Col 3



Unidentified political activists ransacked a private medical clinic in the city yesterday after they were not allowed to set up an election camp beside it. — Star photo

500 huts gutted in old city

By Staff Correspondent

A devastating fire gutted around 500 huts leaving hundreds of people homeless in Kamalbagh area near Soarighat in the old part of the city yesterday evening.

No casualty was reported till filing of this report late last night.

However, witnesses said that dozens of people were desperate to find out their sons, daughters or parents in the affected area near Gominar Hat.

The fire broke out due to an electric short circuit, fire service sources said. Some dwellers said that they saw sparks in an electric transformer on a metal industry which later engulfed the whole area within a very short time. The extent of damage could not be known immediately.

More than 50 small industries like rubber, plastic, toy and shoe factories were also affected by the inferno. A portion of the affected area is

Pry teachers urge govt to relieve them of polls duty

Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association yesterday urged the government to relieve the primary teachers of election duty on February 15 on security grounds, reports UNB.

A resolution adopted at a special emergency meeting of the central executive committee of the association said the authorities had neither arranged security nor any compensation for the primary teachers assigned for polling duty.

"Primary teachers are the employees of the Republic. Primary teachers cannot be used to serve any party interests," said the association apprehending outbreak of violence centring February 15 election.

The government had earlier issued a circular asking the primary teachers to remain at their respective workplaces from February 10.

The association referred to the main opposition party's call for government officials and employees, including teachers, not to join the election duties.

36-pt polls manifesto announced BNP won't renew 25-yr treaty with Delhi

The ruling BNP said it will not extend the 25-year Indo-Bangla treaty upon its expiry and ruled out the possibility of allowing transit and port facilities to India if it is voted to power again, report agencies.

"It will not be extended... people do not want it to be extended," BNP Secretary General Barrister Salam Talukder said of the Indo-Bangla treaty, a sensitive political issue. The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, signed in March 1972, expires next year.

Announcing BNP's election manifesto at the party central office here yesterday afternoon just 9 days before the election scheduled for February 15, he also said that BNP, if it retains power, would do its best to realise the country's due share of the Ganges water.

Asked about BNP's 1991 election commitments, like separation of judiciary from the executive, scrapping of black laws and autonomy for radio and TV, Talukder said, "It is not possible to keep all the commitments."

He said BNP did not take back the bill brought in Parliament for separation of judiciary from the executive, it would have been passed if Parliament was there.

Talukder said the Special Powers Act of 1974 could not be repeated due to lack of 'time and opportunity' and sidetracked the issue of autonomy for radio and television.

The BNP Secretary General hoped that his party would win the election and voters' turnout would be near last election's turnout of 53 per cent.

He told a questioner that legitimacy of the election does not depend on who is taking part in the election or not.

In this context, he said the parliament elected through the 1986 polls functioned despite boycott of the election by the biggest political party BNP.

He parried a question on whether the next Parliament would be short-lived as the third and fourth parliaments elected through the 1986 and 1988. "People's participation will ensure the life of the sixth parliament," he added.

Former Deputy Leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Information Minister Shamsul Islam, BNP leader Chowdhury Tanveer Ahmed Siddiqui and Nazrul Islam

See Page 12 Col 3



Clinton ordered to testify at Whitewater trial

LITTLE ROCK (Arkansas), Feb 6: President Clinton was ordered yesterday to testify at next month's Whitewater trial for James and Susan McDougal, his partners in a failed northern Arkansas land deal, reports AP.

A lawyer for Mrs McDougal, whose ex-husband James ran the failed Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan, said last week that only Clinton could offer testimony that would clear his client.

Mrs McDougal is accused of receiving a 300,000 dollar loan that a former Little Rock banker and municipal judge, David Hale, says Clinton pressured him to make. Clinton, who has not been charged, has denied it.

The McDougals and Governor Jim Guy Tucker, who

See Page 12 col 6



A devastating fire broke out in the city's Kamalbagh area yesterday evening. — Star photo

NGOs back demand for polls under caretaker govt

NGO leaders at a meeting with the Awami League yesterday expressed solidarity with the demand for elections under a caretaker government, saying that the national crisis will not be resolved through February 15 voting, reports UNB.

A stable democratic atmosphere is essential for removing poverty from the country, they observed in the meeting with Awami League president Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Addressing the leaders of different non-governmental organisations at a community centre of the city, Hasina said political stability is not possible without democracy, and industrialisation and development are not possible without political stability.

"We tried our best to protect the hard-earned democracy, but the government turned down our proposals in this regard," the opposition leader told the NGO leaders, adding "this government does not want flourishing of democracy, stability, development and transparency of the electoral process."

It wants to rig the elections, vote-stealing, and to keep the way open for media coup to win the elections, alleged Hasina calling upon the NGO figures to refrain from assisting this government in staging the "farical elections."

People have already rejected such an elections which is boycotted by all opposition political parties, whose results are pre-set and in which they will not be able to make their choice, she said.

Free and fair election is not possible under any party government, there is no security of voter's life under the BNP government, Hasina said citing the "Lalbagh killings" and "Triggered by-election of Magura."

The NGO men condemned the "barbaric" police action on the students of the Jagannath Hall of the Dhaka University and said this incident was a clear violation of human rights.

Abdullah Al Muti Sharfuddin of the Gano Swakkharata Abhijan, Kazi Farook Ahmed of the ADAB, FR Mahimud Hasan of the Gano Sahajyo Sangstha, JS Perera of the Caritas, Dr Salauddin of the BRAC, Enamul Huq of the ASA and Rokeya Kabir of the Nari Proggott addressed the meeting.

Awami League leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofael Ahmed, and Matia Chowdhury attended it.

Fitra fixed at Tk 23

Fitra has been fixed at Tk 23 per head for the current year, reports UNB.

The amount has been decided at a meeting yesterday at the conference room of the Islamic Foundation with the Khateeb of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, Moulana Obaidul Haque, in the chair.

The per head amount of Tk 23 as *saddakat fitr* this year has been fixed according to the open market price of one kilogram and 650 grams quality *ata* (flour) in Dhaka and adjacent areas.

Christopher in Syria

DAMASCUS, Feb 6: US Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Syria today for talks with President Hafez al-Assad on how to advance Syrian-Israeli peace talks, officials said. Christopher, who was welcomed on arrival by foreign minister Farouq al-Shara, came from Israel where he had similar talks with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and his foreign minister Ehud Barak, reports Reuter.

UN; Iraq open closed-door talks

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 6: Iraq and the United Nations opened closed-door talks here today aimed at allowing Baghdad to export limited quantities of oil in return for food and medicine for the sanctions-hit Iraqi people, reports AFP.

'Striptease' at World Cup sparks off row

CALCUTTA, Feb 6: The crisis-hit cricket World Cup pitched itself into another row with politicians warning planners of its opening ceremony here to avoid vulgarity during the celebrations at the Eden Gardens, reports AFP.

The politicians and cricket officials have urged Gianfranco Lunetta, master of ceremonies for the World Cup's opening on Sunday, not to "insult womanhood" by having former Miss Universe, Sushmita Sen, remove flags from her costume during the event.

Protesters today said Sushmita's plans to give scarf-sized flags to the captains of the attending teams would be a virtual "undressing" before millions of fans and television viewers worldwide and have demanded Lunetta scrap the number.

Sushmita, Miss Universe in 1994, is billed to remove the flags from her outfit and give them to teams from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, England, Kenya, Australia, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, West Indies, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe.

India's ruling Congress (I) party, in opposition in West Bengal of which Calcutta is the state capital, has opposed Lunetta's plans to have the 20-year-old Sushmita perform at the World Cup grand opening at Eden Gardens.

See Page 12 Col 1



Sushmita Sen

Transfer of Manzur murder case ordered

The High Court by an order issued yesterday transferred the court in the trial of Manzur murder case against deposed President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and four retired army officers, following a petition filed by one of the accused, reports BSS.

The High Court division of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Badrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Muhammad Assaduzzaman by an order in the criminal miscellaneous filed by Major (retd) Kazi Emdadul Haq, one of the co-accused in the Manzur murder case, transferred the session case in the court of M Abdus Salam, district and sessions Judge, Dhaka to any other competent court of sessions for trial of the case.

Advocate Mahbubur Rahman moved the petition on behalf of Kazi Emdad.

The order was passed as deputy attorneys general Hassan Anif and Amirul Kabir Chowdhury, moving on behalf of the state, conceded to the petitioner's prayer for transfer without contest through an affidavit.

See Page 12 Col 3

Narayanganj incident One of the missing 3 returns home

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 6: The people of the panic-stricken Char Sayedpur village have slowly started to return to their homesteads today.

The villagers fled from the village after a raid by the security forces Sunday night.

However, according to witnesses, three jeeps and a truckload of army and BDR personnel again entered the village in the evening today and stayed there for about two hours, spreading fresh panic in the village.

Meanwhile, Imamul Huq, 32, one of the three persons picked up by the security personnel on Sunday night, was released early this morning.

Imamul Huq, a truck-driver by profession, alleged that he was severely beaten up during the detention. He was not being able to sit up when talking to newsmen at his residence yesterday.

He was blind-folded and his hands and legs were tied up during the period when he was under the custody of the security forces, he further alleged.

According to Imam, two other villagers, Abdur Rahim and Yusuf Ali, are still being detained.

People left the village in a

Editorial on page 4

haste when the security personnel entered the village at around 4:15 pm today and took shelter in nearby Gudarghat village.

During their two-hour stay, the security personnel, when asked by the elders of the village, gave no reason for their return to the village again, witnesses said.

On his first visit to the village after the incidents, the TNO found that at least 30 families were affected during the raids, thana administration officials said today.

No case has been registered in this regard so far.

75% Special Discount for Books/Book Stalls/Book Publishers

To facilitate the Book Exhibition and to promote sales of books The Daily Star offers you 75% discount on advertisements for Books/Book Stalls/Book Publishers. Now you can advertise in Pages 2 & 3 of our newspaper @Tk 100/- per column inch (Instead of normal Tk 400/-). Rush your bookings now. This special offer is valid till 29 Feb. '96 only.

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ram	Feb	Sehri	Iftar
17	7	-	5:52
18	8	5:15	5:53
19	9	5:14	5:58