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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 789.11 (+0.53%)
 Market capital Tk 5011.65 cr
 Transactions in volume 70606
 Transactions in value Tk 1.23 cr

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NEWS BRIEFS

41 arms seized

Law enforcing agencies recovered 41 different types of fire arms, 56 ammunition and two explosives in the last 24 hours till the morning yesterday, the 49th day of the countrywide drive for illegal arms. During the period, some 372 people were arrested on various charges including illegal possession of arms, according to the Law and Order Coordination Cell of the Election Commission, reports UNB.

Bus dacoity

JHENIDAH, Feb 8: Road pirates in guise of passengers looted valuables and cash worth about Tk 1.5 lakh from the passengers of a bus on Khulna-Jhenidah road yesterday evening. Police said a group of about eight armed dacoits, swooped on the bus driver and took control over the bus when it reached Salabhora, 10 km of the district town. The dacoits beat up the driver, conductor and passengers, and got down with the booty on the outskirts of the town at about 7 pm, reports UNB.

Shetri, Ifar timings

Ram	Feb	Shetri	Ifar
19	9	—	5:53
20	10	5:14	5:54
21	11	5:13	5:55

ATTENTION APPLICANTS

Mr Masakawa, Special Assistant to the Ambassador, Embassy of Japan in Dhaka, has denied, over telephone, any connection of the embassy with the advertisement published yesterday under the heading—

বিদেশে প্রশিক্ষণ লাভের সুযোগ

Violent protests in Lalbagh, other areas

DCC commissioner shot dead



Relatives of the deceased Ward Commissioner Hazi Alim waiting over his body (Top) and some shops set afire in Palashi area of the city by unidentified protestors yesterday.

By Staff Correspondent

Commissioner of Ward Number 62 of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Haji Mohammad Alim, 38, was gunned down and his elder brother was shot by a group of local musclemen near their Lalbagh residence yesterday evening.

Elder brother of the deceased, Haji Mohammad Nazim who suffered bullet injuries on his left leg and back, talking to newsmen at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), alleged that gunmen under the shelter of a powerful minister made the attack. He, however, did not name the minister.

Angry protesters set fire at various places in the locality and violence spread in the entire Lalbagh area soon after the incident.

Labour and Manpower Minister and former MP from the area Mir Shaukat Ali, giving his reaction on the incident said, "I am very shocked."

He told The Daily Star over telephone that "they (the killers) are known to all in Lalbagh as the cadres of Alim, the deceased commissioner."

Violence also spread up to the Dhaka Medical College and the Dhaka University areas where student activists set fire to vehicles and panic stricken shop owners closed their shops.

Traffic movement through that area came to a halt. Police lobbied tear gas shells in the DU campus area, near the DMCH emergency wing and Lalbagh Killermor.

The pro-Awami League Commissioner, according to witnesses, was taken to a by-lane at Killermor near his residence by the assassins on his return from a mosque after Asr prayers. Later, they chopped him on his hands and shot him on point-blank on the chest.

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Opposition's anti-polls agitation

Next JS to enact laws against anarchy: PM

By Nazmul Ashraf, back from Feni

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has sounded a note of warning against the Opposition's current move to resist the February 15 elections, saying the next Parliament would enact fresh laws to contain such anarchy.

"Now we're tolerating all these for the sake of the polls. But there is a limit to this. Anarchism and terrorism won't be tolerated after the coming polls. Stern action would be taken in this regard", Begum Zia, also Chairperson of the ruling BNP, said yesterday while electioneering in Feni-1 constituency.

The warning from the PM came on the second day of

her two-day campaign tour of Feni-1 and Feni-2 from where she is contesting the polls.

The campaign in Feni-2 on the first day was marked by clashes, bomb blasts and black flag demonstrations. The seat was won by the Awami League in the 1991 elections.

The opposition activists clashed with police and exploded crackers at the district headquarters, where a dawn-to-afternoon hartal was observed yesterday, protesting the PM's visit to the district.

Attendance at the PM's election rallies in Feni-1 yesterday was higher than

the previous day's in Feni-2. Besides, the second day's electioneering was also peaceful as security was stepped up against the backdrop of Wednesday's violence.

On completion of her two-day electioneering, the PM, talking to journalists at the Feni circuit house, said, "We can't allow anybody to 'throw the country into hell' by letting loose terror. We could easily check their violence (Wednesday) but we did not do so for the sake of democracy. Taking advantage of this they could stage black flag demonstration."

Asked if bomb explosions at her rally were due to poor

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'Big' gas reserve found in Bay

By Sharier Khan

A 'very big' gas reserve has been found in the Bay of Bengal, Petrobangla sources said.

Cairn Energy Plc of Scotland and Holland Sea Search of the Netherlands have struck a 'very big' gas reserve from an exploratory well "Sangu-1" in the Bay of Bengal off Kutubdia island last week.

"The reserve may turn out to be between 2 and 3 trillion cubic feet but the actual quantity will be confirmed after completion of the appraisal well within a month," the sources added.

The Anglo-Dutch joint venture company began drilling the Sangu-1 well in the shallow waters 10-km off Kutubdia and 35-km away

from Chittagong port in December 15 last.

Last week, Cairn Plc announced the discovery of a "very big reserve" in the International Stock Market in London, UK, the sources pointed out adding, the official announcement will be made within a month.

As per the original plan, the companies were supposed to drill two exploratory wells but since gas reserves in five zones of the Sangu-1 were confirmed after testing by a British expert, the second well will be an appraisal well instead of an exploratory one, the sources noted. The depth of the Sangu-1 well exceeded 4000 meters.

Petrobangla experts are optimistic about striking

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Ban on protests in certain areas Saturday

Dhaka Metropolitan Police have banned all kinds of rallies, processions and protests in certain areas of the capital from 10 in the morning to 12 at night on February 10 in view of the planned Opposition march towards the Prime Minister's residence, reports BSS.

A press release of the DMP said last night that the ban will cover areas — from Farmgate to Parjatan crossing, from Shaheen College to Mahakhali rail crossing, from Mahakhali rail crossing to Joharsahara police box, from Mirpur No. 14 to Bhashantek road crossing, entire old airport area, the road in front of the Taltala petrol pump in the Rokeya Sarani to Agar-gaon crossing, from Agar-gaon crossing to Syamali Shishu mela road crossing, from the Shishu mela cross-

See Page 12 col 7

Hasina asks party leaders

Make anti-election agitation a success

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday said this 'farical election' will not be valid constitutionally as neither any party nor people are participating in it, reports UNB.

"This farical election under a blueprint must be stopped at any cost. None will be allowed to play with the fate of the nation," she said calling upon those involved in the electoral process to keep them all of from it.

Addressing the presidents and general secretaries of the party's Dhaka city and adjacent district units at her Dhanmondi office, Hasina directed the party men to take about preparation to make success all programmes from February 10 to 15.

As announced earlier, Awami League will hold a rally at Manik Mia Avenue on February 10 before marching towards the Prime Minister's residence to press for Prime Minister Begum Zia's resignation and election under a neutral caretaker government.

Hasina said BNP is a party of military rulers who had captured power illegally.

"Since BNP does not believe in democracy, it is driving the country towards confrontation by ignoring people's demand for election under a caretaker government," she added.

She alleged that the BNP government being isolated from the people had resorted to torture and repression on opposition workers. "It is not possible to suppress the people's movement by repressive steps," she added.

The Awami League chief criticised the Election Commission for working as subservient of the government and missing crores of taka in the name of voters' identity cards.

Awami League leaders Zilur Rahman, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Shamsur Rahman Khan Shahjahan, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Abdul Mannan, Mohammad Rahmat Ali, A K M Moazzem, Tofazzal Hossain Mukul, Fazlur Rahman Farook, Shamsuzzoha Khan Majlish, Benazir Ahmed, Mohiuddin Ahmed and Dhali Moazzem Hossain were present at the meeting.

Press reports on Char Syedpur baseless, says army HQs

1 killed, 100 hurt in Rajshahi

The Army Headquarters yesterday described as totally baseless, unfounded and mischievous the reports published in a section of the press on February 6 of damaging houses, torturing women, boys and girls and misbehaviour with them in Char Syedpur under Narayanganj district by the members of the security forces, reports BSS.

A press release issued by the ISPR said Mamun, a leader of the infamous terrorist group and main accused of Rubel murder case, was arrested from Golapbaha area under Demra thana during a joint drive by the security forces on February 3. Eleven cases are pending with Mamun. On the basis of his confession, a squad of the security forces went to Char Syedpur to recover three '22 bore' revolvers from Masir, an associate of Mamun, the press release added.

It further said, the members of security forces encircled the house in which, as shown by Mamun, Masir was staying. When Masir ran to escape, three members of the security forces chased him.

Masir was caught from a

See Page 12 col 7

Pre-polls violence in Ctg, other places

1 killed, 100 hurt in Rajshahi

By Staff Correspondent

One person was killed in Rajshahi and more than 150 persons were injured in violent clashes between pro and anti-election activists across the country yesterday.

Two thana election offices were burnt while a number of candidates were also man-handled on the day.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports, one person was killed and over 100 others were injured in two separate clashes in the city between activists of BNP and the Awami League (AL), Jatiya Party (JP) and Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday.

According to witnesses, at about 11.30 am, several bombs were hurled on a tempo engaged in election campaigning at Bindarmor. Tempo driver Rafiqul Islam, BNP activists Kabirul Islam, Abu Taher, Milan, Jalauddin, Swapan and Rashid, and a passerby, Sufia, 55, were injured in the incident. They were admitted in the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and some other clinics. The tempo driver later succumbed to his injuries at around 4.30 pm.

To protest the attack, the BNP brought out a procession, led by State Minister Fazlur Rahman Patal and

Barrister Aminul Haq and Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu. Later, when BNP was holding a rally at Monti Chatter, a procession of Jamaat reached the zero point. Soon, a clash ensued.

At around the same time, two separate processions of AL and JP reached the spot and joined the clash along with Jamaat, witnesses said.

Over 100 people, including two police constables, were injured during the nearly hour-long clash, in which firearms and explosives were used. The agitating opposition political activists later attacked the city corporation office premises and damaged eight trucks, two jeeps, two bicycles and burnt one ambulance and a motorcycle.

Meanwhile, the opposition parties have called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Rajshahi on Saturday to protest the scheduled visit of the Prime Minister on the same day.

Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong reports: At least 50 persons including five policemen were injured yesterday in sporadic gun-fights and series of bomb blasts.

An armed clash between anti-polls processionists and

police at around 4 pm in Sitakunda bazar, left at least 40 people injured, including one police sub-inspector, one ASI and three constables. All of them were admitted into different hospitals and clinics.

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DU goes on early Eid vacation

By DU Correspondent

Eid holidays of Dhaka University will start from tomorrow, a week ahead of the scheduled date due to the critical political situation in the country and tension on the campus.

The vacation was scheduled to begin on February 17. The classes of the university will start from February 27, as per schedule.

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'Traditional crafts a key to alleviating poverty'

PARIS, Feb 8: Muhammad Yunus, founder and managing director of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, yesterday called traditional crafts a key to alleviating poverty during a roundtable at UNESCO headquarters.

UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor hosted the discussion on 'Traditional Crafts, Microcredits and Poverty Eradication', attended by Queen Sofia of Spain and Brazilian First Lady Ruth Cardoso.

Other participants included Lourdes Arizpe, UNESCO Assistant Director-

General for Culture; Marie-Roger Bilou, editor of Africa International; French designer Jean-Charles de Castelbajac; Dutch fashion critic Lidewij Edelkoort; Sayyada R Ghuznavi, managing director of Aranya Crafts of Bangladesh; Colin Power, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education; and Aminata Traore, social psychologist and founder of the Le Santoro Cultural Centre in Mali, according to a UNESCO press release.

"As Professor Yunus has so powerfully demonstrated, the preservation of crafts is not only a cultural but an economic issue," Mayor said in his introductory remarks to the roundtable, which marked the current United Nations International year for the Eradication of Poverty. "They are often the main products of export from the village and — what is often overlooked — products that substitute for imports. They thus make rural life more prosperous and more self-reliant."

He praised Muhammad Yunus for realizing that revitalised crafts could help reviv-



Spain's Queen Sofia (C), Bangladeshi designer Bibi Russell (2nd R) and French designer Jean-Charles de Castelbajac pose for photographers on Wednesday at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris after a Bengali fashion parade.

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