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# The Daily Star

**Day or Night**  
 Standard Chartered

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**DSE MARKET**

DSE price index	774.81 (+0.71%)
Market capital Tk	5047.47 cr
Transactions in volume	140087
Transactions in value Tk	2.07 cr


**CSE MARKET**

CSE price index	392.46(+0.03%)
Market capital Tk	2263.86 cr
Transactions in volume	1130
Transactions in value Tk	84130

**Supplement**  
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**Dhaka Day by Day**



Portrait of an Artist  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**AL rally today**  
 By Staff Correspondent  
 The Awami League will hold a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue at 3 pm today protesting the attacks by police and ruling party activists on opposition rallies in the city yesterday. The rally will be held also to press the demands for the resignation of the Prime Minister, cancellation of the February 15 elections and holding elections under a neutral caretaker government. A procession will also be brought out after the rally.

**Newsman assaulted**  
 SAVAR, Feb 10: Mohamad Shamsuzzaman, local correspondent of UNB news agency, was assaulted by some extortionists at Savar bazar on Friday afternoon. Two identified extortionists including Javed Mostafa, 35, beat the newsman when he refused to pay them toll. They also snatched away his camera. Later, police arrested Mostafa and recovered the camera from his house.

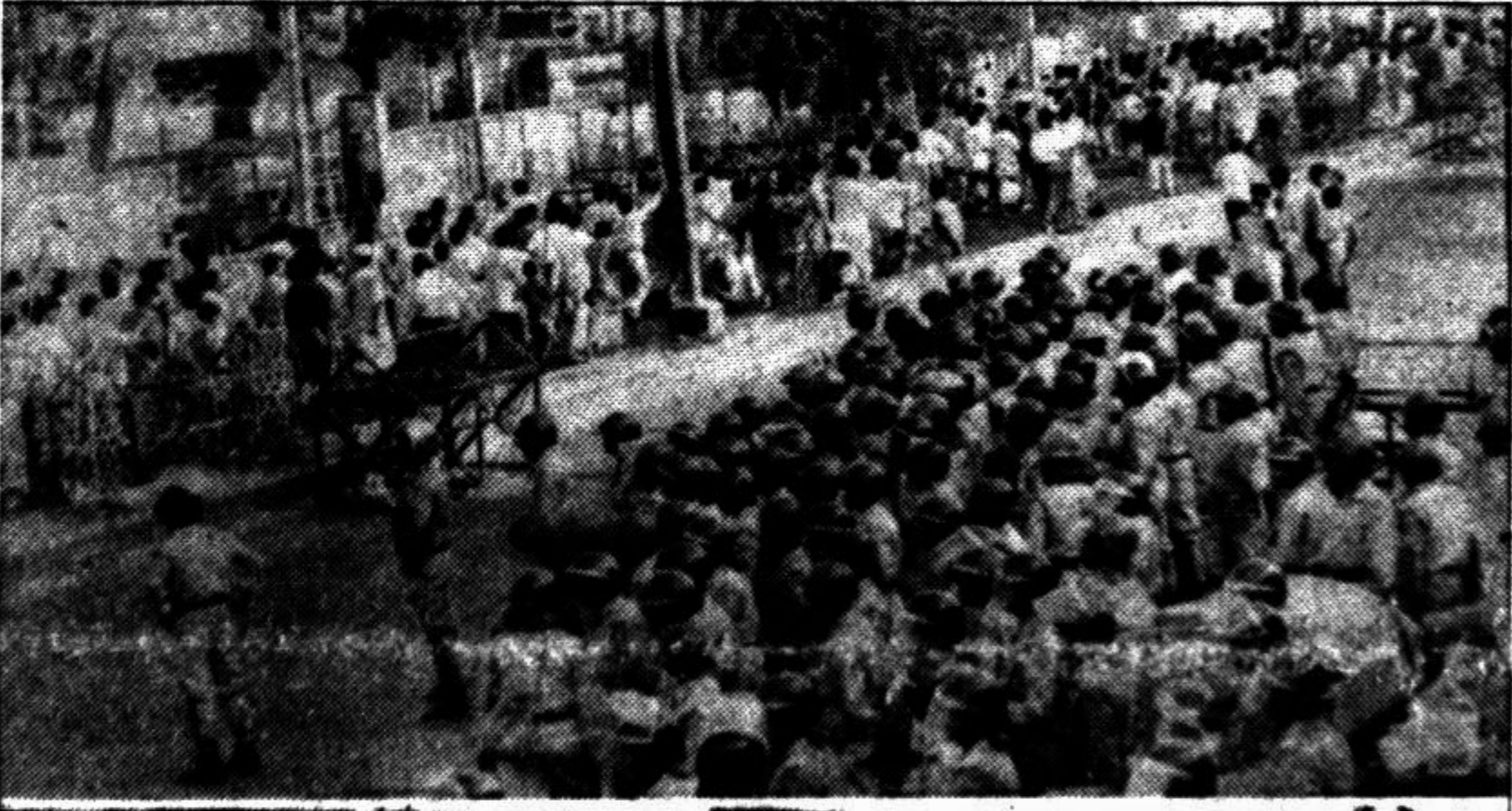
**Shri, Iftar timings**

Ram	Feb	Shri	Iftar
21	11	-	5:55
22	12	5:13	5:55
23	13	5:12	5:56

## Petrol pumps, banks, markets set ablaze Opposition defies ban: 100 hurt



A bullet-hit person is being dressed (L) at petrol pump was set afire in Sobhanbagh area (R) during yesterday's clashes. — Star photo



An Awami League procession passing through Sobhanbagh area violating Section 144 as police looks on (Top) and police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the activists in the area yesterday afternoon. — Star photo

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 At least 100 people were injured, two banks, five petrol pumps and two super markets were torched and a number of shops, restaurants and vehicles damaged or burnt as opposition activists clashed with police in the city yesterday.  
 Amidst tightened security and ban on rallies and processions in particular areas of the city, the three major opposition political parties attempted to go ahead with their planned march to the Prime Minister's residence. Violence erupted when police stopped the Opposition activists from marching towards the PM's residence, by putting barricades at different strategic points.  
 Among the injured, two were hit by bullets while a foreign female journalist was struck by a brickbat. The bullet-injured were identified as Ali Hussain, driver of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's jeep, and Hedaetullah, a passerby. Maya Vidon, a Hong Kong-based French freelance reporter, was injured in the forehead when hit by a brickbat after 'Russel Square'. Police rounded up 12 people from the troubled spots.  
 The AL could not hold its planned rally at Manik Miah Avenue as the area came under the ban. The JP and Jamaat rallies at the Panthapath and at Moghbar Crossing respectively did not come under the ban.  
 Bomb explosions by opposition activists and firing of rubber bullets and lobbing of tear gas shells by police started when a pre-march rally of the AL was going on at Russel Square and party chief Sheikh Hasina was about to reach the venue at around 4:30 pm.  
 Militant Opposition activists locked into pitched battles for about two hours in Dhanmondi, Sobhanbagh, Panthapath, Shukrabad, Kalabagan, Asad Gate, Green Road and Farmgate areas. Later, violence spread to some other areas of the city.  
 Over 50 people were injured during the clashes at Russel Square and in the surrounding areas.  
 Police fired rubber bullets and lobbed over 100 tear gas shells to disperse the opposition activists, who tried to advance towards Manik Miah Avenue breaking police cordons near Dhanmondi Government Boys' High School and Farmgate.  
 The activists wielding sticks and defied police warnings and started removing the barricades. Immediately, police started lobbing tear gas shells and firing rubber bullets from the other side of the fences.  
 The activists retaliated by hurling cocktails and brickbats. Police sprayed hot water to disperse them.  
 Ayesha Filling Station and Mohammad Super Market at Sobhanbagh, a Janata Bank  
 See Page 12 col 7

**Anarchists will be punished after polls: PM**  
 RAJSHAHI, Feb 10: Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today renewed her party's commitment to development and democracy, saying "we'll strive to ensure overall development and the parliamentary system of government will continue," reports UNB.  
 "We have plugged the possibilities of illegal and unconstitutional takeovers by the 12th amendment of the Constitution in 1991. None  
 See Page 12 Col 1

## Blasts mark PM's rally in Rajshahi: One killed

**From Our Correspondent**  
 The days minutes into the Prime Minister's address, Babul Akhtar later died at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.  
 According to witnesses, a BNP leader on the dais then started a 'munajat' to cool down the situation but scared people started fleeing.  
 The BDR then swung into action, fired at least 30 shots and resorted to indiscriminate beating, injuring four local journalists among others.  
 The Prime Minister and BNP chief who is contesting from Rajshahi Sadar constituency in the parliamentary polls continued her address but the meeting virtually termed into a party rally.  
 The journalists injured in the beating are: Yasmin Kabir Joy of Janakantho, Saiful Islam of Banglar Bani, Tarek Rahman Kallol of The Independent and Salahuddin of Dainik Sonali Sangbad, a local daily. Yasmin's left hand was fractured, it has learnt.  
 Residents around the meeting venue alleged that BDR personnel entered their houses and beat them up.  
 At the Ghoshpara crossing about 200 yards from the meeting venue, several bombs went off moments before the Prime Minister started her address. An on-

duty police havilder Kazim, an eight-year old boy Shihil and a pedestrian Abdul Kuddus were injured in the bomb blasts, according to the witnesses.  
 Shihil's right leg was blown off while one hand and one leg of Kuddus were burnt in the massive bomb attack by the election-boycotting Opposition activists.  
 Of the injured, four persons were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Most of the injured  
 See Page 12 Col 2

**Arrives at Sirajganj amid protests: Hartal today**  
 From Our Correspondent  
 SIRAJGANJ, Feb 10: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia arrived here tonight for her electioneering tour in the district where the major Opposition has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal tomorrow to protest the PM's visit.  
 BDR and riot police have been deployed at different spots including the Circuit House, where the PM would stay, and at the Government  
 See Page 12 Col 1

**World cricketing gala opens today**  
 Tapan Majumder from Calcutta  
 on the file which we have managed to obtain. From this blueprint, we find that Lunetta has visualised the whole stadium as a big flower.  
 Former Miss Universe, Sushmita Sen will be the main attraction of the lavish show. Sayeed Jafrey will play the role of the moderator. Lata Mangeshkar, the melody queen, will not sing as was said earlier. But her sister, the evergreen Asha Bhosle will render a hymn from 'Upanishada'. Current Miss India Sandhya Chib will lead the Indian squad. Other  
 The sixth cricket World Cup gets off to a pompous opening today in the Indian city of Calcutta.  
 Millions of television viewers will witness the in augural spectacle live while only about 100,000 privileged spectators shall be present at the bejewelled Eden Garden stadium.  
 Nine test playing countries and three qualifiers will battle out for a month from February 14 for the coveted title of world champions.  
 The seventy five minute long opening ceremony would be a grand display of pomp, splendour and pageantry. But little information is divulged by Gianfranco Lunetta, the Italian director of the whole show, and Jagmohan Dalmeida, the convener-secretary of PILCOM. The whole show is being kept top secret. But two Calcutta scribes have managed to procure the secret blueprint of the whole show. The name of the Italian image consultant Half Moon is embossed in golden letters  
 See Page 12 Col 3

**One killed in Narayanganj gunfight**  
 From Our Correspondent  
 NARAYANGANJ, Feb 10: A bystander was killed and 20 others were injured in an hour-long gunfight between two rival groups this evening in Boubazar area under Narayanganj thana.  
 Abbas (26), a construction worker, died on the spot after being hit during the crossfire.  
 Police opened fire to bring the situation under control. Five persons were arrested from the spot.  
 Abbas was working on the roof of a house in the area at the time. His body has been sent to the Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy.  
 At least 20 persons were injured in the clash and ensuing police action, witnesses said.  
 Meanwhile, the arrested  
 See Page 12 col 7

## Licence of frozen food firm cancelled 3 US cos demand over \$1m demurrage

**By Inam Ahmed and R M Titumir**  
 The government has cancelled the export licence of a frozen foods exporting firm, Aqua Foods Ltd for shipment of low quality shrimps to the USA and has referred the case to the Anti-Corruption Bureau.  
 The Commerce Ministry took the decision in the last week of January to save the country's second largest export earning sector from a possible ban in the US market, according to a ministry source here.  
 The export import directorate in Chittagong has already cancelled the export certificate of Aqua Foods Ltd and the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) has notified the Bangladesh Bank and the Anti-Corruption Bureau to take action against it.  
 The Frozen Foods Exporters Association (FFEA) has also decided not to issue export certificate for any consignment of Aqua Foods, a source said.  
 The issue, arising out of complaints lodged by three US importers — Clouston Foods Group, Ocean Garden Products and Key Sea Foods — has threatened frozen food export from Bangladesh.  
 The Prime Minister's Secretariat, the Commerce Ministry, the US Embassy in Dhaka and the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington had contacted the EPB for settlement of the issue which is being viewed as critical for the future of frozen food export from Bangladesh.  
 Representatives of the three companies also came to Dhaka to settle their claims and had a series of talks with the EPB and the FFEA.  
 The three US companies have claimed demurrage of 10,57,601 US dollars from Aqua Foods Ltd. Clouston Foods Group claimed 2,74,945 dollars, Ocean Garden Products 5,02,920 dollars and Key Sea Foods 2,79,736 dollars.  
 After receiving the complaints, the EPB had asked the exporter to settle the issue through a joint survey with the importers. But Aqua Foods wanted to settle the issue  
 See Page 12 col 8

## \$50m WB credit for agri research

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The World Bank (WB) has approved a 50 million US dollars credit for Bangladesh Agricultural Research Management Project on Friday aimed at transferring agricultural technology to farmers, says a Bank press release.  
 The project's objectives are to increase the efficiency of the national agriculture research system and generate profitable, relevant and sustainable agricultural technologies for the fisheries, livestock and forestry sectors.  
 The fund available for the soft loan window of the WB, the International Development Association (IDA), will work towards rehabilitation and construction of new laboratory, procuring equipment and logistics.  
 The project also aims at providing adequate operating costs, allowing researchers to manage resources and respond to farmer's needs more flexibly and broadening the financial base of research.  
 See Page 12 col 7

## 100 more injured in pre-polls violence

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 At least 100 people were injured in clashes between pro and anti-election activists and other incidents of violence in different parts of the country yesterday.  
 Residents of two prominent BNP leaders in Chittagong and the Mayor of Khulna came under bomb attack and some candidates were manhandled and their election-projections meetings foiled and campaign offices torched or damaged on the day.  
 Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong reported that anti-polls activists hurled bombs at the residence of a BNP leader Golam Akbar Khandker at around 7:15 pm injuring his eight-year-old son Tarek.  
 Khandker, unofficially elected uncontested from Chittagong-6, was not at home when three bombs were thrown inside his residence.  
 Cocktails were reportedly hurled at the vehicles of Morshed Khan, also unofficially elected uncontested from Boalkhali, when he was returning home from Boalkhali.  
 Police said, seven bombs were hurled at the residence of former BNP MP L K Siddiqui at Sitakund.  
 An election camp of Col (Retd) Farukur Rahman, Freedom Party leader, was burnt at the Alankar Cinema Crossing.  
 At Fatikchhari anti-polls activists attacked a BNP candidate's election camp and a local cinema hall in Nazirhat.  
 At west Pattiya, United Democratic Front candidate Abul Kalam Azad was assaulted and his election camp was set on fire.  
 See Page 12 Col 3

**Radio, TV now to announce only final polls results**  
 By Staff Correspondent  
 Unlike in previous polls, the state-owned radio and television will directly announce the final election result of each constituency, avoiding detailed announcements. Election Commission (EC) sources said.  
 The decision was taken by the Election Commission Secretariat in view of the ongoing political situation and also because of the month of Ramadan, the sources said.  
 In the past, Bangladesh Television (BTV) and the Radio Bangladesh used to set up their camps at the EC and every development regarding the results was announced progressively by the EC office, the sources said.  
 But this year, only the final results of every constituency would be declared by the state-owned media.  
 "What will happen is after we compile the final results  
 See Page 12 col 8

## 100 hurt as huge IRA bomb wrecks London office block

**LONDON, Feb 10:** More than 100 people were injured yesterday evening when a bomb ripped through offices in the prestigious Docklands office development in East London minutes after an IRA statement, reports Reuter.  
 Fifteen buildings were badly damaged and windows were shattered in scores of other offices and nearby homes.  
 The powerful blast came just minutes after Ireland's semi-state radio said it had received a statement from the Irish Republican Army (IRA) saying its 17-month ceasefire was over.  
 The IRA later formally claimed responsibility for Friday's bombing.  
 It said in a coded message to Irish state Radio and Television that it had carried out the bombing.  
 The explosion, in a underground garage of a six-storey office block left 100 wounded with six seriously hurt. Two of the badly hurt were police officers.  
 In daylight the full extent of the damage appeared far worse than originally feared.  
 Twisted pipes, crumbled concrete and glass from five badly damaged buildings near Canary Wharf Tower, Britain's tallest high rise in London's Docklands, littered streets.  
 Six of the 36 people hospitalized were in a serious condition, the Royal London Hospital said, and a middle-aged man was critical.  
 The 7 pm (1900 GMT) blast shattered windows nearly half a mile (1 km) from the rail line near South Quay train station, and caused millions of pounds worth of damage.  
 The IRA statement said 'regrettable injuries' had occurred but these could have been avoided if security forces had acted promptly 'on clear and specific warnings'.  
 Irish Radio and Television (RTÉ) received a warning from the IRA an hour before the blast yesterday saying that its ceasefire was over because of deadlock in the Northern Ireland peace process.  
 Britain today challenged the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein to condemn the massive London blast.  
 British and Irish politicians pledged to continue with the search for peace but struggled to find a way forward after the IRA abruptly called off its truce and blamed London for stalling talks.  
 In an unusually strongly-worded message Queen Elizabeth said she was shocked and saddened at what she called a 'sickening act of violence'.  
 Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams called for an urgent talks with the British and Irish governments, but both sides said his credibility was now at stake.  
 Adams had called the White House in Washington shortly before the blast, saying he had 'disturbing news', but gave no details.  
 Sinn Fein was the only political party not to condemn the bombing, which signalled IRA frustration with a lengthy stalemate over Britain's insistence that guerrillas should hand over their weapons before the start of full-scale peace talks.  
 Meanwhile, tension was prevailing in Lalbagh and its adjoining areas yesterday as the supporters of late ward commissioner Haji Abdul Alim staged demonstration in different parts of the locality.  
 In the afternoon, a few rounds of gunshots were fired which sparked panic in the area — specially around Killarmor. Incident of violence was also reported in Chawkbazar area.  
 Haji Alim, 38, ward commissioner of the Dhaka City Corporation, was shot dead by a group of local muslims near his Lalbagh residence Thursday afternoon.  
 Lalbagh police were investigating the killing and launched a manhunt, police said.