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# The Daily Star

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**DSE MARKET**

DSE price index 700.04 (+0.00%)  
Market capital Tk 6000.00 cr  
Transactions in value Tk 116000  
Transactions in volume Tk 221 cr

**CSE MARKET**

CSE price index 302.95(+0.12%)  
Market capital Tk 2306.76 cr  
Transactions in value Tk 570  
Transactions in volume Tk 7632

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**



Pleasure of Dining out  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**PM returns**

BNP chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night returned to the capital from Sirajganj ending her two-day electioneering tour to Rajshahi and Sirajganj, reports BSS.

**Newspaper holiday**

All newspaper offices will remain closed from February 20 to 22 on the occasion of the holy-Eid-ul-Fitr, a press release of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

**20 arms seized**

Law enforcing agencies seized 20 firearms, 40 ammunition and two explosives from different parts of the country yesterday, the 52nd day of the countrywide arms recovery operation. During the period, 197 people were also arrested on various charges including illegal possession of arms, reports UNB.

**Cancellation order withdrawn**

The cancellation order on manpower business of Messers Flower Trade International, 271/2 Elephant Road, here has been withdrawn, an official handout said here yesterday, reports BSS.

**Shri. Iftar timings**

Ram	Feb	Shri	Iftar
22	12	—	5:55
23	13	5:12	5:56
24	14	5:12	5:56

## Anti-polls violence leaves 150 more hurt Police officer killed in Ctg clash

Star Report

A senior police official was shot dead in Chittagong and over 150 people, including five policemen, were injured in anti-election violence in different parts of the country yesterday.

Training centres for polls officials were attacked at Sylhet and at Pakundia in Kishoreganj district. The passport office was torched in Khulna and some candidates were manhandled and their campaign offices ransacked in some other districts.

Our staff Correspondent from Chittagong reports: Assistant Commissioner of Chit-

tagong Metropolitan Police, Panchalish zone, Bashir Ali (45) received fatal bullet wounds on his chest when a clash broke out between police and agitating anti-polls processionists in front of MES college at OR Nizam road today. Bashir was rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries, hospital sources and police said.

Of the injured, over 50 people were admitted to the CMCH and different clinics in the city.

Following the firing on Bashir Ali, police cordoned

off the college campus, opened fire on the agitators, lobbed tear-gas shells and resorted to Lathicharge. The processionists also threw cocktails and used firearms, witnesses said.

Police picked up around 200 people from the spot and arrested a youth named Abul, who allegedly fired on Bashir Ali.

The clash erupted when several hundred processionists protesting the February 15. Polls, went on rampage on OR Nizam road in front of MES College.

They set fire to two vehicles. See Page 12 Col 1

## Bomb hurled near PM's dais at S'ganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 11: Anti-election activists hurled a handbomb within 25 yards of the dais from where Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia was addressing an election meeting at Sirajganj Government University College ground here this afternoon.

Besides, three crackers were exploded around the meeting venue, cordoned off by the BDR, armed police and other security forces. None was, however, injured in the explosions.

The anti-polls opposition workers, trying to foil the PM's meeting, clashed with police and student activists of the ruling BNP, leaving at least 30 people including a police constable injured, witnesses said.

Of the injured, bullet-hit Awami Jubo League worker Belal Hossain, 24, was sent to Dhaka while police constable

Abu Taher was admitted to the Sirajganj General Hospital with bomb injuries.

Police said they caught one Asadul Haq, carrying a handbomb, from the meeting venue. He was, however, freed later. Haq was identified as a worker of the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal of Begunbari area of the district.

A dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the mainstream opposition here today disrupted normal life. Violent clashes between security forces and workers of the BNP and Awami League workers took place during and before the Begum Zia's meeting.

According to witnesses, Begum Zia reached the meeting venue at 3:25 pm amid cracker blasts in different parts of the town. Before she started from the meeting venue from the Circuit. See Page 12 Col 2

## 'People to give Opposition a good lesson after polls'

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 11: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said democracy and peace-loving people would foil all evil designs to subvert the country's independence and sovereignty by some traitors, reports UNB.

"Three political parties have banded and are boycotting election at the dictates from their mentors abroad," she told an election meeting at the Sirajganj University College ground in the afternoon.

They had tried to create a constitutional crisis aiming at renewal of the 25-year 'slavery' treaty, Begum Zia said.

"When the term of the agreement is nearing expiry and when they realised that they were unable to win the election, then they resorted to terrorism and anarchy to disrupt the election with the directives and money from their masters," she said. See Page 12 Col 4



Miss Universe 1994, Sushmita Sen, presenting the national emblem to New Zealand skipper Lee Germon at the inaugural ceremony of the Sixth World Cup cricket tournament at the Eden Gardens, Calcutta, yesterday. — Star TV photo

## A grand opening for cricket's biggest show

CALCUTTA, Feb 11: Cricket's most controversial World Cup opened here Sunday with a display of fireworks which matched the mood of the organisers after a failed bid to convince Australia and the West Indies to play in Sri Lanka, reports AFP.

Some 110,000 spectators at the floodlit Eden Gardens sat spellbound through a spectacular 75-minute opening ceremony that blended hi-tech laser shows with traditional Indian dance and music.

Conceived by Italian showman Gianfranco Lunetta, who put on similar shows at the soccer World Cup in 1990 and the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, the inaugural carnival was watched by an estimated two billion people around the world.

The ceremony began just four hours after organisers emerged from a protracted crisis meeting to announce

that they had failed to persuade Australia and the West Indies to play in Colombo.

The meeting, chaired by International Cricket Council (ICC) Chairman Clyde Walcott and attended by officials from all the 12 participating nations, lasted almost 15 hours but failed to come up with a solution.

But the organisers announced that Cricket's premier event will go ahead as planned and Sri Lanka will be awarded unprecedented walkover wins for the matches if Australia and the West Indies fail to show up in Colombo.

Co-hosts India and Pakistan said they will send a joint team of cricketers to play a goodwill match against Sri Lanka in Colombo on Tuesday as a gesture of solidarity with their southern neighbour.

Thousands of fans in this teeming cricket-made metropolis jammed streets

and marketplaces in search of elusive tickets as gun-toting policemen threw a security blanket around the stadium.

The opening ceremony began on schedule at 6:00 pm (12:30 GMT) with the entry of all the 12 participating teams in the stadium in alphabetical order, led by Mark Taylor's Australians.

The Pakistanis, seen on Indian soil for the first time in seven years, received warm applause. But the biggest cheers were reserved for Kenya, making their World Cup debut, and hosts India.

Leading each of the contingents were 12 top models from India, dressed in traditional Indian costumes bearing the national colours of the respective countries. The Indian team was led by current Miss India Sandhya Chib.

After West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu declared See Page 12 col 8

## Delhi to provide SAARC nations tariff concessions

on 1000 items

NEW DELHI, Feb 11: India has drawn up an ambitious agenda of offering tariff concessions on more than 1000 items this year to SAARC member countries to accelerate the pace of establishing the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), reports PTI.

India will put forth the offer formally at the forthcoming meeting of the inter-governmental group (IGG) of seven-member SAARC countries—India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives—to be held at Colombo next month, according to senior commerce ministry officials.

India will take two steps forward to step up efforts towards setting up of SAFTA if other SAARC member countries take one step, the

See Page 12 col 7

## Rule on govt for detaining 16 JN Hall students

By SC Correspondent

The High Court Division yesterday directed the government to show cause today as to why the detention of 16 students of the Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University should not be declared illegal.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury and Justice Md Abdul Mannan upon hearing 16 separate habeas corpus writ petitions fixed today for hearing of the rule along with the prayers for adinterim bail.

The Court also ordered service of the rule upon the government by special messengers.

Suvash Singha Roy, Vice-President of Jagannath Hall Students' Union, filed the petitions on behalf of the detainees Debashish Saha, Biplob Kumar, Sanjoy Kumar, Bishnu Kumar Biswas, Pangkaj Saha, Footan Chandra Sutradhar, Biplob, Nilmoni Singha, Alok Kumar Mahim, Dilip Kumar

See Page 12 col 8



Women activists of the Jatiya Party went on a rampage after a rally in the city's Mahakhali area yesterday. — Star photo

## Sovereignty over 30 acres land yet to be established

Rafiq Hasan and Govinda Shil back from Panchagarh

Bangladesh could not establish its sovereignty over 30 acres of land in Panchagarh district even 25 years after the independence.

The land situated in Panchagarh village under Boda thana remained uncultivated since independence due to 'objection' of Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

Local people said whenever they attempted to cultivate the land on the south bank of river Sui, BSF resisted it, claiming that the land belonged to India.

According to Bangladesh security forces at the Malkadanga post, 8 to 10 flag meetings between the two countries held so far could not settle the issue.

The last flag meeting held on January 10 could not resolve the crisis although the Indian 108 BSF Battalion commander reportedly admitted that the land truly belongs to Bangladesh.

After examination of old documents and land records produced by the Bangladesh representatives during the flag meetings, the Indian

commander was quoted as saying "I am convinced that the lands belongs to Bangladesh but I cannot hand it over unless I am directed from above".

It is learnt from official sources that total of five main demarcation pillars (between pillar number 774 and 780) along the Indo-Bangla border have been 'mysteriously missing' since independence.

BDR told The Daily Star that pillar no 774 is situated at Patoiripara while pillar no 780 at the Sarderpara.

The dispute continued as the main pillars — 775 to 779 — and could not be traced after liberation. An initiative to rebuild these five pillars were taken from Bangladesh side but the Indian authorities did not cooperate.

People living along the border alleged that Indians often try to occupy Bangladesh lands due to absence of demarcation pillars in different border areas of the district.

Nur Ali, Zaher Ali, Manik Mia and Abdul Mannan of Pa-

chagarh village said that if a survey was conducted they would get at least 60 to 65 bighas of land on the southern bank of river Sui.

Local people demanded early survey of the area. Sometimes tension mounts between the border forces of the two countries over establishing rights on bordering lands which were not surveyed and demarcated by pillars, local people told The Daily Star.

The situation deteriorated recently when Indians tried to cultivate the 30 acres of Bangladesh lands along Sui river, which was resisted by the BDR. "We resisted their evil efforts," said Naek Subadar Siraj, in-charge of the Malkadanga BDR camp.

The BDR patrol team went to a Tripura village this morning on receipt of information about Shantibahini's attack on the people on Friday night following the villager's refusal to pay tolls.

Last week also, one soldier was killed in a sniper attack by Shantibahini and with toll of security personnel in ambush by Shantibahini in violation of the ceasefire in CHT from August '92, rose to seven, security sources said.

## Shantibahini kills 2 BDR personnel

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 11: Two BDR personnel were killed in an ambush by Shantibahini men near Jinnahpara BDR camp under Thanchi Thana of Bandarban this afternoon, security sources said.

Shantibahini opened fire from hill-tops on a BDR patrol team when they were returning to their camp on foot from a tribal village. Naik Asad Ali Mollah and Lance Naik Abdus Samad died on the spot and another BDR man was injured.

Later, the insurgents fled into deep forests in the face of heavy resistance from the BDR team.

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## Stop polls to avoid civil war: Opposition

By Staff Correspondent

The three major opposition political parties yesterday expressed deep concern at the prevailing situation and said that the country was heading towards a "prolonged civil war" just because of "one person's greed for power."

Briefing newsmen after a meeting of the liaison committee of the three parties, Awami League Organising Secretary Mohammad Nasim however said, "fall of Begum Khaleda Zia is now only a matter of time. The whole nation is counting the time."

The meeting was held late last night at the Kalabagan residence of Awami League president member Abdus Samad Azad, Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed and Mohammad Nasim of AL, Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Anwar Hossain Monju of Jatiya Party and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Quamruzzaman and Sheikh Anwar Ali of Jamaat-e-Islami attended the meeting.

The meeting observed that the country would be saved from the civil war only if the "one-party farceful election," scheduled for February 15, is stopped "right now," Nasim said.

This election of vote rigging should be stopped now as not even one per cent of the people want it to be held," added Nasim, former Chief Whip of the Opposition in the Fifth Parliament.

He said the Prime Minister in her recent speeches had written off the Opposition from politics, "but, she does not know that it is the ruling party, not the Opposition that has been written off by the people."

The meeting called upon all the political parties involved in the on-going movement to sort out a better coordination among themselves to ensure a "zero turnout" in the polling booths on February 15.

See Page 12 col 7

## Opposition urged to stop violence BNP to start dialogue after polls: B Chy

Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Senior Vice-Chairman of the ruling BNP yesterday urged the opposition parties to stop their anti-election campaigns to facilitate people to cast their votes freely and fairly, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference at a local hotel, the former deputy leader of the house hoped that good sense would prevail on them to allow the people to exercise their rights of franchise.

"The people must be allowed to vote freely in the interest of the country, democracy and the Constitution," Chowdhury said.

He said the ruling party and others participating in the election will suspend their election campaigns 48 hours ahead of the polling day. Likewise, he added, the opposition parties should stop their anti-election campaigns before the votes.

The BNP leader told a questioner that the turnout of voters in the election would be higher if the opposition ceased their acts of violence and terrorism.

Asked what will be the future of the country after the election, he said: "Dialogue would continue with the Opposition to reach an agreement to resolve the problem."

Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam, Information Secretary Syed Amirul Muik and Additional Home Secretary Fayazur Rahman Chowdhury were present at the press conference.

"The BNP's is a democratically elected government and as such it has the moral obligation to uphold the Constitution," Prof Chowdhury said.

He blamed the three main opposition parties — the Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat — for resorting to violence to resist the polls.

But the government, he said, was taking all possible measures to curb the violence for holding a free and fair election.

Replying to another question, Commerce and Information Minister Shamsul Islam See Page 12 col 8

## Hasina warns govt of dire consequences

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the Prime Minister of pushing the country towards conflicts and confrontation by arranging a "farceful election" in the month of Ramadan, reports UNB.

"An election, without the participation of opposition parties and the people, is not an election at all and the parliament to be formed through this election will have no legality, people will not accept it," she said.

Addressing the City AL leaders and party commissioners at the party's Dhanmandi office, Hasina also blamed the government for deepening the crisis avoiding the path of solution.

Criticising the Prime Minister for what she called threatening the opposition before holding this farceful election, the AL chief said this cannot be the language of democracy. She warned that the people had ousted this type of 'autocratic' government.

Hasina alleged that the government had resorted to killing, torture and repression to hold this 'one-party, farceful election' to protect its ill-gotten wealths. She

See Page 12 Col 3

## 24 vehicles damaged 2 trainees on polls duty hurt in blast

By Staff Correspondent

Two officials of the Health Ministry were injured when a cocktail was hurled on them while they were returning after attending a training session on election duty at the Residential Model School at Mohanmadpur in the city yesterday.

Mizanur Rahman, 38, and Sirajul Islam, 38, were injured in hands and legs when some unidentified persons hurled the cocktail at about 2 pm, police said.

They were rushed to nearby Suhrawardy Hospital.

Mohammadpur police, however, said that no case was lodged in this connection till late last night.

The office of the Free Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA), a private polls monitoring body, also came under bomb attack last night, said witnesses.

Peroz Hassan, secretary general of the FEMA, talking to The Daily Star last night alleged that at least half a See Page 12 col 7