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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	709.27 (+0.97%)
Market capital Tk	5143.16 cr
Transactions in volume	112116
Transactions in value Tk	2.81 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	402.87 (+0.29%)
Market capital Tk	2682.30 cr
Transactions in volume	1330
Transactions in value Tk	24073

NEWS BRIEFS

DU exams postponed

All the examinations under course system of Dhaka University scheduled to begin from March 9 have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. The fresh dates for the examinations of BA/BSS 3rd year (1994), MA/MSS final (1993), BIMS (1994) 1st professional, Anthropology 2nd year and 3rd year (1995) will be announced soon, said a DU press release yesterday, republishing UNB.

SC Bar annual dinner postponed

The Supreme Court Bar Association has postponed its annual dinner programme scheduled for tomorrow due to unavoidable circumstances.

Dialogue only if President initiates: Opposition

By Staff Correspondent

The three major opposition parties have said they prefer to bring about a solution to the current political impasse through talks initiated by the President only. The parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami rejected Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's address to the nation on Sunday, saying it only aimed at legalising the farcical February 15 election and was devoid of any sincerity on her part to devise a solution to the impasse. This was contained in a press release issued on behalf of the three parties after a joint meeting yesterday. The present government is 'illegal' and no discussion can take place with an illegal government, the meeting said. The meeting, held at an undisclosed venue, was attended by Abdus Samad Azad and Amir Hossain Amu of the AL, Kazi Jafar Ahmed and Manirul Haq Chowdhury of JP and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid and Mohammad Kamarruzzaman of Jamaat.

The three parties reiterated that there would be 'mass curfew' at the places where fresh elections would be held, dawn-to-dusk hartal in Dhaka and adjacent districts on Wednesday and non-cooperation movement for an indefinite period from March 9. They noted that in her speech Begum Zia claimed that she had earlier agreed to form a neutral government under the President. It was totally false because the government had never made any such proposal, they said. Blaming the PM for what they said leading the nation towards the present crisis from the beginning of her

The February 15 elections had created a record of vote rigging and hence the sixth parliament could not be constituted, they maintained. Begum Zia's speech was an effort to fool the people and an attempt to legalise the 'farcical election'. If the Prime Minister was willing to solve the crisis, she would have resigned, cancelled the February 15 elections and made way for the President to put an end to the present situation. The Opposition leaders said they prefer to resolve the crisis through dialogue which should be initiated by the President. Blaming the PM for what they said leading the nation towards the present crisis from the beginning of her

Thanks to PM for realising caretaker govt idea: Hasina

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has added another black chapter to the country's history through the oaths that were administered to the 'vote-thieves', reports UNB. "People will never accept the illegal parliament of vote thieves and betrayers," she said in a statement. She said the Prime Minister, though late, had realised the need for election under a

Fertiliser crisis grips North Bengal

Farmers barricade roads, gherao DC, TNO offices

Peasant unrest is brewing in North Bengal as a serious fertiliser crisis hit the region's main rice crop farming again this season, reports UNB. Hundreds of agitated farmers demanding fertiliser put up barricades on the Sherpur-Dhaka highway and demonstrated in front of the DC office at Sherpur yesterday. Witnesses said the demonstration before the DC office was staged at about 2 pm. The farmers, demanding urea fertiliser at a fair price, had also gheraoed the TNO office and DC's residence the day before. They, however, dispersed after the Deputy Commissioner assured them of quick measures to supply fertiliser. Meanwhile, a group of farmers at Nandir Bazar also

stopped 11 trucks carrying fertiliser from Jamuna Fertiliser Factory to Nakhla thana and forced the dealers to sell the fertiliser among them. In Nakhla, farmers also put barricade near the Nakhla bridge on the Sherpur-Dhaka highway and disrupted communication for two hours from 10 am. But they removed the barricades following intervention by the thana administration and the local political leaders at noon. DC Mohammad Abdul Mobarak told UNB that he had contacted the concerned officials in different ministries to inform them of dearth of fertiliser in the area. A report from Rajshahi's

Taherpur area, a famous agricultural belt which supplies quality farm products, said farmers were at a fix in the wake of exorbitant price of fertiliser. At present, urea fertiliser sells at Tk 340-370 per 50-kg bag against government rate fixed at Tk 186.25 while SSP at Tk 380-400, up from its fixed price of Tk 280-300. TSP is sold at Tk 640 per bag. Protesters blamed a massive corruption in the privatised distribution system for the crisis while dealers shifted part of the blame on transport problem due to the staggering political unrest. Quoting a survey conducted by an NGO, UNB's Sirajganj correspondent reports the



Akheri Munajat of Biswa Jyema was held in Tongi yesterday.

— Star photo

Letters to be sent today: Mannan Political leaders will be freed in phases

By Staff Correspondent

Joint Secretary General of the ruling BNP and Food and Agriculture Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said yesterday that all the detained Opposition leaders would be released in phases to create an atmosphere for dialogue, for which separate letters would be sent to the parties concerned today. The process of releasing the political leaders would start tonight (Monday night) and some of them are likely to be released from jail tomorrow (Tuesday), he said. Mannan Bhuiyan, who is performing the duties of the party Secretary General, due to Abdus Salam Talukdar's illness, was talking to newsmen at his Bailey Road official residence in the evening. As regards the ruling party's move for fresh dialogue with the Opposition, the BNP leader said, "We want to negotiate with the Opposition everything relating to the non-party government to oversee all future

general elections — the structure of the non-party government, the selection of those to be in such a government, etc." Referring to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's instant reaction to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's latest proposal for a non-partisan government, Mannan Bhuiyan said, "We did not want to decide on the outline of the proposed non-partisan government and the timing for another general elections of our own and want to settle all these matters through mutual understanding with the Opposition. That's why we've moved for a dialogue." He also pointed out that the PM, in her address to the nation, categorically said that elections to the seventh Parliament would be arranged within the shortest possible time. Bhuiyan went on "We're even ready to accept the

200 new MPs take oath

By Staff Correspondent

Two hundred members-elect of the sixth Jatiya Sangsad (JS) were sworn in yesterday afternoon at the Sangsad Bhawan. Speaker of the fifth JS Shaikh Razzak Ali administered the oath at the Committee Room No. 1. The ceremony started with recitation from the holy Quran. Razzak Ali, who has been elected MP from two seats in Khulna, took his oath himself under Rule 5(3) of the Rules of Procedure and then administered oath to the other members. The Election Commission (EC) has so far announced official results of 214 seats out of the 300. Of the remaining 86 constituencies, elections could not be held in 10. Besides, repolling is due in over 2500 centres of 74 constituencies. Polling in two constituencies were suspended following the death of a candidate in one and because of a stay from court in another. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the members of her outgoing cabinet, ruling

Repatriation of remaining Rohingyas uncertain

By Morshed Ali Khan back from Cox's Bazar

Repatriation of the remaining 54,000 Rohingya refugees has become uncertain due to some 'new complications', official sources said. The repatriation process which started in September 1992, came to a virtual halt in April, 1995 when the Myanmar authorities suddenly started talking about 're-verification' of individual refugees who had earlier been cleared for repatriation, sources at the Relief and Repatriation Commission said. "Between August 1994 to March 1995 we managed to do

some largescale repatriation and if the trend continued we would have completed all repatriation by July 1995," said an official of the Commission. The official sources said that in the month of November 1994 as many as 25,000 refugees were repatriated while the latest number of repatriation in the month of February this year came down to only eight refugees. In the official register of the Relief and Repatriation Commission, the total number of refugees repatriated so far to Myanmar was recorded as 1,90,713.

Other sources at the Commission revealed that the 20th high level meeting between the two countries to resolve the refugee problem was scheduled to be held in November last year. But it could not be held as the Myanmar authorities expressed their inability to attend the meeting. The sources said that in the beginning of the repatriation process the Myanmar authorities offered clearance to refugees on the basis of a runaway list they themselves had initially prepared. "But at different meetings they later admitted that the runaway list was far from accurate," one official said adding that now they have started questioning their own list and as a consequence the repatriation process has almost stopped. At present 42,000 cases are pending as they did not pass the rigorous scrutiny carried out by the Myanmar authorities. "If one member of a family fails the scrutiny, then the whole family is stranded. They send us the file and ask for more particulars of the failed individual," the official said adding that such a process might take as long as one year to clear. Moreover, the sources said that over the years many family patterns among the refugees have changed as there were marriages and new births. "Those who were children when they sought refuge here have become adults in the camps, of whom the Myanmar authorities have no records," the official said adding that

Lakhs attend Akheri Munajat at Tongi

By Staff Correspondent

The 3-day Biswa Jyema at Tongi concluded yesterday with lakhs of devotees offering the Akheri Munajat for the peace, prosperity and greater solidarity of the Muslim Ummah and of the country. Several lakh people from home and abroad took part in the joint prayer which began at around 11:30. A senior Shura member of the World Table Jammat from India, Moulana Mizat Merab led the concluding prayer of the massive congregation of Muslims, the second largest after the Hajj. President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina also joined the munajat that began at 11:30 am. Some ministers and leaders of the ruling and opposition political parties also attended the munajat. The congregation was also attended by the foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates, six ministers of Brunei and one prince each from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Islamic thinkers from

Low turnout, violence mark repolling

By Staff Correspondent

Poor turnout marked repolling in six constituencies of Chandpur, Brahmanbaria and Comilla yesterday. At least 25 people were injured in sporadic violence in Chandpur during the 'Opposition called people's curfew' coinciding with the repolling at 55 centres in the Chandpur-4 constituency. Meanwhile, three BNP candidates were unofficially declared elected after repolling in three constituencies in Comilla. Our Correspondent from Chandpur reports: Repolling at 55 centres in Chandpur-4 constituency for the 6th Jatiya Sangshad took place amidst tight security, sporadic violence, ballot box snatching, and poor turnout of voters. At least 25 persons were hurt in sporadic bomb explosions and clashes between the ruling-party and Opposition activists. Voting was stopped in 15 centres including 10 in Chandpur town. Our Correspondent from Brahmanbaria reports: There was a low turnout of voters during repolling at 57 centres in Brahmanbaria-2 and -6 constituencies yesterday. Polling took place at 25

centres in Sarail (B'baria-2) and 32 centres in Banchharampur (B'baria-6) held up during the Feb 15 polls. To ensure peaceful repolling and security of voters, the authorities deployed 600 policemen, 600 Ansars and 8 platoons of the BDR. Ten magistrates were also deployed. While visiting the polling centres at Bakrail, Sutpara, Nondanpur, Budhar, Malhata, Mohonpur and Ashtragran, this correspondent observed that the turnout of voters was less than 5 per cent. According to the district election office, in B'baria-2, See Page 12 col 7

BNP public rally now on Mar 7

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling BNP has shifted its planned public rally in the capital from March 6 to March 7 because of a dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the major opposition parties in Dhaka and adjoining districts on that day. "We've shifted the date to avoid possible confrontation with the Opposition," said Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Minister for Food and Agriculture and BNP Joint Secretary General, in a press briefing at his Bailey Road official residence yesterday evening. However, he added, the time and venue of the rally — 3 pm at the Manik Mia Avenue — would remain unchanged. The ruling party announced

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
 সেপুন বাগিচা, ঢাকা

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

করদাতা ও সচেতন জনসাধারণের সক্রিয় সহযোগিতার ওপর মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট) ব্যবস্থার সফল বাস্তবায়ন অনেকেই নির্ভরশীল। এ কারণে এ ব্যবস্থাকে আরো স্বচ্ছ, গতিশীল ও উন্নত করার লক্ষ্যে মূল্য সংযোজন কর আইন ও মূল্য সংযোজন কর বিধিমালা এবং নিয়ম-পদ্ধতি সংশোধন সম্পর্কিত লিখিত পরামর্শ আহবান করা হচ্ছে। আগামী ২০শে মার্চ '৯৬ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নে বর্ণিত ঠিকানায় আপনার লিখিত পরামর্শ পাঠিয়ে ১৯৯৬-৯৭ অর্থ বছরের বাজেট কার্যক্রম এবং মূল্য সংযোজন কর ব্যবস্থাকে আরো স্বচ্ছ ও সহজতর করার কার্যক্রমে সহায়তা করুন।

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 সেপুন বাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০
 ফোন-৪০৬৪ ১৬।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
 G-326

Killing of BCL activist in Ctg triggers violence

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 4: An activist of the pro-Awami League Chhatra League was stabbed to death by some unidentified assailants this afternoon at Anderkilla. Police and party sources said Mahmud Alam, 27, an activist of BCL Jamal Khan ward, died on the spot from stab injury in his chest. Alam was immediately rushed to a private clinic where the doctors declared him dead. His body was later sent to the morgue for autopsy. The incident sparked off violence in the city. The agitators attacked and ransacked shops at Anderkilla. At least 15 vehicles were also damaged. The BCL also brought out processions to protest the killing. Witnesses said two assailants riding a motorcycle arrived in front of a tea stall, called Alam outside the shop and stabbed him and shot him

in his leg. The assailants then hurriedly fled from the scene by the same motorcycle after blasting some cocktails to create a panic when local people tried to stop them, witnesses added. BCL, at a press conference held here later, blamed the activists of BNP-backed Chhatra Dal for killing Alam and demanded immediate arrest of the killers. UNB adds: City Chhatra League president Raihan Yousof and secretary Chowdhury Hasan Mahmud Hani accused the JCD activists belonging to 'Kuddus-Mamun gang' of the murder and demanded their immediate arrest and exemplary punishment. Meanwhile, Chittagong Awami League observed a day-long hunger strike in front of the local press club as part of its week-long programme to

Suicide bomber kills 20 more in Israel

TEL AVIV, Mar 4: A suicide bomber today killed at least 20 people and wounded 65 in a crowded shopping centre in the heart of Tel Aviv as a campaign of terror against Israel continued without respite, police said, reports AFP. The centre was crowded with shoppers on the first day of the traditional Jewish Carnival, Pourim, when the bomber on foot blew himself. It was the fourth attack within Israel in eight days in which at least 59 have died, and came after Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres pledged a 'total war' against the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). Charred and mutilated bodies littered the scene, as pools of blood stained the ground. All around lay tangled wreckage and debris. One witness told the radio he had seen the bodies of children. Police said the man on foot,

probably a Palestinian militant, set off explosives he was carrying in a bag in front of pedestrians crossing. The huge blast also damaged cars and nearby shops. "We were in front of the Leumi bank when there was a huge explosion. The front of the bank fell on us, and I found my daughter covered in blood," one woman told the radio. Peres called an emergency cabinet meeting for later today after the attack. The attack took place close to Dizengoff street, where 22 people were killed in a suicide bombing in October 1994, twenty of the wounded were seriously hurt, and two were in a critical condition, doctors said. The Tel Aviv blast came a day after 19 people died in a suicide bus bombing in the heart of Jerusalem carried out by Palestinian militants from the Hamas movement.

TODAY
WORLD CUP QUIZ DRAW
 YES, READERS! The DRAW is here!

The DRAW of QUIZ 1 of The Daily Star-Phillips Cricket World Cup Quiz 1996 will be held as per the following schedule:

Date : March 5, 1996 Tuesday
 Time : 4:30 pm
 Venue : Jatiya Press Club

National cricketers Akram Khan, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Athar Ali Khan and Faruque Ahmed will draw the winners.

All participants and our valued readers are invited to please attend the DRAW.