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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	791.58 (+0.11%)
Market capital Tk	5158.08 cr
Transactions in volume	80320
Transactions in value Tk	1.51 cr

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Is it also a Food Festival?
 Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

10 garments shops gutted in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 6: Ten readymade garments shops were gutted in a fire at Deobogh Bhuayan Market here at around 10 pm today, fire brigade sources said. The blaze was suspected to have been caused by an electrical short circuit. The fire-fighters extinguished the fire after one and a half hours of struggle, reports BSS.

14 killed in Pak bus accident

ISLAMABAD, Mar 6: At least 14 people were killed and seven injured when a passenger bus collided with a truck today, state television here, said. The bus from Rawalpindi was heading to Mardan city to the northwest when a truck coming from the opposite direction ploughed into it near Attock, about 160 kilometers from Islamabad, reports AFP.

Emergency in Lanka extended

COLOMBO, Mar 6: The Sri Lankan parliament voted today to extend emergency regulations which govern the island's war-torn north and east and the capital Colombo. The state of emergency was extended for a month with 110 members of parliament from the ruling People's Alliance, the Ceylon Workers Congress and the Eelam People's Democratic Party voting for it, reports Reuters.

Indo-Pak troops trade gunfire

NEW DELHI, Mar 6: Indian and Pakistani paramilitary troops traded gunfire along the disputed Kashmir frontier but there were no casualties, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today. The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) retaliated late Tuesday after coming under unprovoked firing by the Pakistani rangers in the Pamgarh border area before midnight, reports AFP.

90 hurt in clashes: Repolling postponed: Hartal today

7 killed as BDR opens fire in Rangpur, Sirajganj

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven people were killed and more than 90 injured when BDR opened fire on anti-election activists during repolling in Rangpur and Sirajganj yesterday.

In Kishoreganj, the office and the residence of the TNO were set afire protesting repolling scheduled to be held there today.

Our Rangpur Correspondent says, at least four people were killed and 25 injured when BDR opened fire on mobs during repolling in two con-

stituencies here yesterday. More than 100 others were hurt in pitched battles between anti-polls activists and police and BDR forces here since Tuesday night. The clashes took place at Kaunia, Pargachha, Mithapukur and Pirganj.

Witnesses said two persons were killed as BDR opened fire on the opposition activists when they allegedly tried to snatch away ballot papers from the election officials in Rangpur-6 (Pirganj) constituency in

the morning.

The dead were identified as Masud Rana (18) and Khandaker Ruhul (30) of Pirganj thana.

Two others were killed when BDR jawans fired gunshots on the activists when they gheraoed the office of Kaunia Nirbahi Officer (TNO) at noon.

One of the dead was identified as Badsha Mia, 22.

District election officials said elections to the con-

PM elected from Feni-2

FENI, Mar 6: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was elected from the Feni-2 (Sadar-Daganbhuiyan) constituency after repolling in 26 centres today, according to unofficial results, reports UNB. Election in 26 of the 91 centres - five in sadar and 21 of Daganbhuiyan - were postponed on February 15 due to

5-pt proposal to resolve crisis

Form caretaker govt by Mar 10, hold polls in May: Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday proposed that a neutral non-party caretaker government should be formed by March 10 and a fresh election held in May to resolve the current political crisis, reports UNB. Her proposal came following Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's latest offer to form non-party government to conduct all future general elections and hold next parliamentary polls as early as possible. The Awami League chief in a statement made a 5-point proposal, saying if Begum Zia is sincere towards resolving the crisis and assuaging the people's plight, she (PM) should take effective steps to

implement it. The proposals are as follows: All opposition leaders and workers will have to be released from jail by March 9 and all false cases and warrants be withdrawn. All process of farcical repolling will have to be stopped, farcical and fraudulent elections of February 15 cancelled and the government shall resign. A neutral non-party caretaker government be formed by March 10 after President's meeting with all political parties now in movement and elections to the sixth parliament be completed by May next. Necessary compensation

for political leaders, workers, students, teachers, journalists, professionals and commoner who were victimised by the government-sponsored terrorism and repression be given. Security of life and property of the people and improvement of law and order situation be ensured. Hasina's proposals came just three days ahead of the Opposition's planned non-cooperation movement against the government scheduled to start from March 9. Hasina said she placed the specific proposals to end the crisis and immediately save the country from conflict, protect trade and business and mitigate the misery of com-



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a big public meeting at Manik Miah Avenue in Dhaka yesterday. — PHD photo

Shun hartals, join dialogue: PM

By Staff Correspondent Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the agitating opposition parties to give up their 'destructive' programmes and sit with an open mind for a dialogue on the framework of the proposed non-party government and the schedule for the seventh Jatiya Sangsad elections under it. "We want to ensure participation of all political parties in the next general elections under a non-party government. For this we've decided to move and pass a bill in the first session of the seventh Parliament... Please, accept our offer for dialogue with an open mind and resolve the political crisis. That's the expectation of the nation," Begum Zia said at a public meeting at Manik Miah Avenue in the capital yesterday afternoon. Criticising the major opposition parties for continuing

Contents of PM's letter to Hasina

By Staff Correspondent Prime Minister and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia, in her letter to Awami League president Sheikh Hasina delivered on Tuesday, called for an immediate dialogue with the Opposition taking her proposal for holding all future general elections under a non-party government as the agenda. Copies of Begum Zia's letter were made available to the

Readymade garments sector on verge of collapse

By Inam Ahmed and R M Titumir

Battered by the persisting political turmoil, a dull export market and escalating production costs, the country's readymade garment (RMG) sector which is already on the verge of collapse will face a fresh blow with the indefinite strike beginning Saturday. Manufacturers fear that if the indefinite strike could not be averted, the country's RMG market would be lost for ever. The recent spate of hartals have already paralysed the sector as almost every factory is either stuck up with their apparatus ready to be exported or with imported fabrics lying at the Chittagong port. With the situation taking a serious turn, the garments owners are planning to meet both the Prime Minister and the Opposition leader to hand

in their specific suggestions to salvage the sector from the ruination it is facing, said Redwan Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association. Political turmoil has forced the shutdown of the country's

'Exempt garments units from hartal'

By Staff Correspondent The president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Redwan Ahmed, yesterday urged the leaders of the opposition parties to restrain their activists from disturbing the garments factories and

maritime ports, leading to a fresh congestion. Till yesterday, more than 80 ships were stranded at the Cig port. 56 of them in the outer anchorage. Over 13,000 Twenty Equivalent Units (TEUs) of containers are now stockpiled in the port shed, according to the Chittagong Port Authority. According to an estimate by Uzair Alzal, executive member of BGMEA, at least 120 million US dollars worth of fabrics and accessories were awaiting for unloading at the Chittagong port. "We need to unload the fabrics and accessories immediately to keep the factories running," said M R Ali, an adviser to the BGMEA. "This is the first time in 12 years that my factories are remaining



Employees chatting at a city garments factory without any work to do. — Star photo

No hartal today

By Staff Correspondent The main opposition political parties have withdrawn their hartal call for today. Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami had earlier given a day-long nationwide hartal call today. In a press release last night, the Awami League announced that taking people's inconvenience into consideration, the party had withdrawn its hartal call. However, it urged the people to make success the non-cooperation programme beginning for March 9. In similar press releases, JP and Jamaat also withdrew the hartal call. Gono Forum urges President to initiate dialogue

By Staff Correspondent President of Gono Forum Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged the President to initiate a dialogue between the ruling BNP and the Opposition without delay in order to save democracy and the economy of the country. Blasting both the ruling and Opposition parties for failing to play positive roles in nurturing democracy, Dr Kamal urged them to come to an immediate solution through dialogues. "This deadlock should not be allowed to drag on. The national interest demands that method be found immediately for moving forward towards the establishment of an interim caretaker government and holding of an election," the Gono Forum leader told a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday evening. As the Opposition was ready to sit for a dialogue on condition that it was initiated by the President, Dr Kamal said the ruling BNP should welcome

100 injured, 18 held during hartal

By Staff Correspondent Over 100 people were injured, three of them bullet-hit and scores of vehicles were burnt and damaged in incidents of violence that marked the Opposition-called dawn-to-dusk hartal in greater Dhaka district yesterday. Police picked up 18 people from different areas of the city during the hartal period. Thirty-one of the injured were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Anwar Hussain, 30, and Shamsul Haq, 34, received bullet injuries in Lalbagh area while Abdul Zaber, 75, was bullet-hit at Madhubag under Ramna thana. The three major opposition parties - Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami - called the hartal in Dhaka and five adjoining districts to

Rajshahi varsity Jasas secy chopped to death

RAJSHAHI, Mar 6: A student of the Rajshahi University was killed and three others were critically injured in armed attacks allegedly by the Islamic Chhatra Shibir on the campus today, reports UNB. Campus sources said a group of about seven Shibir activists attacked Amanullah Aman, RU unit general secretary of the JASAS, near the Rabindra Arts Faculty Building at about 1:10 pm and chopped him with Chinese axe. He was rushed to the university medical centre and later shifted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries, soon after admission. Aman, a final year student of the Management Department and resident of Sher-e-Bangla Hall, hailed from Mymensingh. Earlier, Shibir activists armed with Chinese axe and knives allegedly attacked some student leaders in front of Mamtajuuddin Arts Faculty Building at about 11 am. JSD (Inu) backed Chhatra League leaders Harun-ur-Rashid Ratan, Mainul Haq Duple and Farook Ahmed were seriously injured in the attack. They were now undergoing treatment at the RMCH intensive care unit. The Chhatra Oikya and Jatiyatatabadi Chhatra Dal in

Historic Mar 7 today

By Staff Correspondent The historic March 7 will be observed throughout the country today by various socio-cultural and political organisations. On this day in 1971, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his speech at the then Ramna Race Course ground (now the Suhrawardy Uddyan) in Dhaka gave the call for the struggle for independence. In his historic speech, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had proclaimed that "Our struggle is for independence, our struggle is for freedom". That declaration by Bangabandhu, vibrated the long cherished dream of the Bengaleses. The Awami League has taken up an elaborate programme to observe the day. The day's programme will begin with the hoisting of national and party flags at Bang-

Boulders for JMB Indian suppliers face resistance

NEW DELHI, Mar 6: The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Limited (MMTC), and Rock Product Traders (RPT), a newly-founded mining firm, are reportedly facing resistance from some NGOs over the blasting of a hill in Assam for export of boulders to Bangladesh, reports BSS. Appropriate technology mission has filed a public interest litigation at the Guwahati High Court citing arguments against the blasting of Chanderdingha hill on the banks of the Brahmaputra in Dhubri district in Assam. The court has passed an order for issuing notices, re-

Milestone by Lanka as round-1 ends

Sports Reporter

Probably the top bet in the cricketing world made it to the last eight of the sixth World Cup without little fuss, but the way the Sri Lankans completed their preliminary round campaign was absolutely outstanding. Sri Lanka, the tournament surprise setters who caught the imagination of the cricket lovers with tons of runs, added another milestone in the annals of instant cricket by scoring 398 runs - the highest score in the history of limited-

overs cricket - against a hapless Kenya in one of the three group league encounters billed on the concluding day of the first phase. Vice captain Aravinda de Silva, who became the first Sri Lankan to score a World Cup century, led the charge from the front with a blazing 145 off only 115 deliveries as his side eclipsed the previous score of 363 by England against Pakistan. The Sri Lankans who had earlier confirmed their top slot finished the preliminary round with five wins from as many matches. They will take on England in the first quarterfinal in Faisalabad, Pakistan on March 9.

Meanwhile, the world champions Pakistan, who along with their arch-rivals India posted facile victories against New Zealand and Zimbabwe in the other two matches of the day, will play each other in the second quarterfinal in Bangalore, India on March 9. On the other hand, South Africa, who finished top ahead of Pakistan from Group B, will meet West Indies in Karachi, Pakistan on March 11 while favourites Australia will be pitting against New Zealand in the last quarterfinal on the same day, scheduled to be held in the Indian port city of Madras. (Details on pages 10, 11)



Aravinda De Silva

College student shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent The assistant general secretary of the students' union of Mirpur Degree College was killed in a gunfight between two groups in Mirpur Section-7 in the city early yesterday. Masud Chowdhury Lion, 24, who received fatal bullet injuries in his head during the clash late Tuesday night died at the DMCH at around 1:30 am yesterday, medical sources said. Three others who sustained bullet wounds in the clash were identified as Shahin, 22, Sadek, 23, and Shawkat Ali, 28. They were under treatment at the DMCH.

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