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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 916.40 (+0.30%)
Market capital Tk 5319.75 cr
Transactions in volume 470190
Transactions in value Tk 6.99 cr

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NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina to exchange views tomorrow

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will exchange views with the representatives of different professional groups tomorrow at 11 am in the Engineers' Institution auditorium in the city, the party sources said yesterday, reports BSS.

Boat sinks with fertiliser

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 2: Three boats, two carrying wheat and another fertilizer, capsized near Kankhola char in the Jamuna river on Monday night. No casualty was reported. However, goods worth Tk 10 lakh, including two motorcycles, were sunk. The boats coming to Sirajganj Ghat from Jagannathganj Ghat were caught by a storm. Passengers and boatmen managed to swim ashore, reports UNB.

Urs of Shahjalal Apr 8, 9

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Apr 2: The annual Urs at the mazar of great saint Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) will be held on April 8 and 9 here. The two-day programmes include placing of Ghat in the Majar, Quran khwani, fataha khwani, milad mahfil, fikr-ajker. The occasion will be ended with Aikheri Munajat in the early hours on the concluding day. Thousands of devotees both Muslim and others attend the annual occasion every year.

Chief Adviser asks govt officials Stay neutral, work without fear

Chief Adviser Mohammad Habibur Rahman yesterday asked the government officials to discharge their duties with complete impartiality regardless of any threat or intimidation, reports UNB.

He was addressing the Secretaries, Secretaries in-charge, members of Planning Commission and Secretaries working in different government organisations at the

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Cabinet room of the Bangladesh Secretariat.

He asked the officials to impart dynamism to normal activities of the government.

The Chief Adviser drew attention of the officials to the clear constitutional provisions on the working of the government.

He also reminded the Heads of the administrations of their historic role in conducting the affairs of the state.

Habibur Rahman said the virtue of democracy lies in giving due importance to the opinion of the minority and in protecting their rights and privileges. He said these virtues should be reflected in the working of the administration.

The Chief Adviser said it is the imperative duty of the officials to maintain the continuity of the administrations in accordance with the constitutions and existing laws of the land. They must also perform their duties under the authority of the legally elected government.

He made it clear that the government officials have no

Chief Adviser meets President

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman made a courtesy call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday evening.

business to express solidarity with any individual or group outside the purview of the Constitution, law and elected government.

He advised all not to be influenced by recent trend of events and do anything injurious to the country in any unguarded moment.

The Chief Adviser said mistakes or aberrations committed unwillingly might be ignored. He, however, warned them of stern action against willful acts done illogically or inspired by ill-motive.

In the beginning of the meeting the Cabinet Secretary felicitated the Chief Adviser on behalf of all officials for taking the onerous responsibility of non-party caretaker government at this crucial juncture of our national history.

He expressed firm resolve of the officials to carry out all directives of the government with sincerity and dedication in making the election free and impartial.

US hopes for a democratic, peaceful solution

The United States has welcomed the political development in Bangladesh, saying it offers an opportunity for all political parties to look beyond their past differences and find a democratic solution to its long running stalemate, reports UNB.

A spokesman of the State Department told newsmen in Washington on Monday that it had paid close attention to recent developments in Bangladesh which he hoped would lead to a democratic and peaceful solution of the deadlock.

Replying to a question at a State Department briefing, acting spokesman Glyn Davies mentioned that on March 30 the President dissolved parliament and prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia handed over power to a non-party caretaker administration that will oversee fresh general elections.

The United States welcomes this development very much and believes that it offers a concrete opportunity for

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Police raid six DU halls: Arms recovered, 23 held



Police recovered huge arms and ammunition from six halls of the Dhaka University yesterday. — Star photo

By DU Correspondent

Police raided six residential halls of the Dhaka University yesterday and recovered 14 firearms, 397 rounds of bullet and some explosives.

Twenty-three people were arrested during the raids, police said.

A huge contingent of police wearing bullet-proof vests, supported by members of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) raided the halls in two phases, one in the early morning and another in the afternoon.

Police closed all roads leading to the university and did not allow any person to come out of the halls during the raids.

Police started the raid at Shahidullah hall at about 4:30 am which continued till 8 am. One pistol, one revolver, two cut-rifles and some 90 rounds of bullet were recovered from the extension building of the hall and 11 people were picked up.

In the second phase police conducted raids in JCD-dominated Surja Sen hall, Sir A F Rahman Hall and BCL-dominated Jagannath and

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Interim budget now seems inevitable

With the current fiscal expiring in less than three months, preparation of the national budget for the next year is seriously lagging behind schedule, reports UNB.

Sources at the Ministry of Finance said the budget exercise was, in fact, yet to take off. Officials concerned attributed the unprecedented delay to uncertainty over the policy direction in the next budget.

"Policy direction is essential in a national budget. We are still in the dark about that direction," said an official seeking anonymity.

The ministry has not yet started even the routine part of the budget exercise which could have proceeded pending the policy factors.

There are strong indications from the official circle

that the caretaker administration might go for an interim budget, as India did this year, since a political government in Bangladesh is unlikely before June.

"Interim budget seems inevitable this year," said an official at the National Board of Revenue (NBR). "We're now awaiting appointment of the adviser in-charge of the Ministry of Finance to take the final decision."

An interim budget is a short-lived fiscal document based on existing measures and without any policy goals.

At a meeting last month over the budgetary situation, immediate past Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman reportedly advised the officials to work for an interim budget.

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Police acting as per Hasina's advice: JCD

By DU Correspondent

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, has alleged that police played a partisan role during the raids conducted in six residential halls of Dhaka University yesterday.

At a rally held at the Aparajito Bangla yesterday just after the raids, the JCD leaders said only a day after the taking over of power by the caretaker government, the police were acting as per the advice of Sheikh Hasina.

They said the police misbehaved with the JCD workers and hurled abusive words towards them during the raids.

JCD leader Shahjuddin Chowdhury Ani said Justice Habibur Rahman had been made the chief adviser of the

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BNP demands White Paper Take action against 'terrorists, looters'

By Staff Correspondent

Former prime minister and BNP chairperson yesterday demanded of the caretaker government "action" against those who "destroyed public property, the killed people and unleashed terrorism in the name of movement."

Terrorism was unleashed, government properties destroyed, people killed, banks looted and national economy ruined in the name of movement," she alleged.

She also demanded a White Paper on the losses caused during the movement.

"My party will initiate such a step if the present government fails to do so (publish a white paper)," she said while talking to newsmen at her party head office at Naya Paltan in the city.

The BNP chief also alleged that her party activists are being "unnecessarily harassed" in the name of recovery of illegal arms. She said her party will be left with no option but to go for agitation if this is not stopped immediately.

She, however, said that she welcomed the recovery of unauthorised arms.

"We want the arms recovery drive to continue. But in the name of arms recovery and nabbing the terrorists, the student activists of BNP have been arrested from the Dhaka

University today. Besides, our workers are being arrested and cases being filed against them at many places. Moreover, houses of the BNP men are being attacked," she said. "These acts of injustice must be stopped."

"BNP can not sit idle if such injustice go on. Then we would be compelled to go for agitation," said Begum Zia. "We don't believe in the politics of arms."

Replying to a question as regards the BNP's 72-hour ultimatum.

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3 Rajshahi BNP leaders held

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Apr 2: Police last night arrested three leaders of the BNP and Jubo Dal on charges of creating law and order situation in the metropolitan area. They also attacked a victory procession of the Awami League on March 31.

They are: Nazrul Huda, senior vice president of the BNP city unit and Erfan Ali and Mamun of Jubo Dal, local unit. They were produced in the court today. The city Magistrate, Golzar Hossain, rejected their bail petitions.

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Business leaders apprise Chief Adviser of their problems

The business leaders met Chief Adviser Mohammad Habibur Rahman at the International Conference Centre (ICC) yesterday and urged him to take measures to maintain law and order for confidence-building among the business community, reports BSS.

The leaders apprised the Chief Adviser of the losses incurred by the various sectors of trade, commerce and industry during the political movement. They put forward some suggestions aimed at resolving the problems.

They stressed the need for taking effective measures for recovering illegal arms from all parts of the country.

The business leaders requested the Chief Adviser to take immediate steps for removing the congestion at Chittagong Port, Zia International Airport and Benapole land port.

They discussed the financial difficulties being faced by them because of the political turmoil.

Habibur Rahman gave a patient hearing and asked the business leaders to apprise the ministry concerned about their problems in detail.

The Chief Adviser said he was aware of the prevailing law and order situation and added that the government has taken up some measures which have started giving positive results.

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Free Ershad for fair polls: Mizan

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting chairman of the Jatiya Party, yesterday called for implementing the party recommendations put forward to ensure free and fair elections in the country, reports BSS.

In a statement, Chowdhury said unless Ershad was released, illegal arms recovered, terrorists arrested, Election Commission reconstituted and BNP appointments in the administration cancelled, congenial atmosphere for free and fair elections would not be created.

Chowdhury said the people of the country expect justice from a non-party neutral government. We cannot accept a situation where chiefs of all parties will be in the field to campaign for their respective parties, but JP, which is a non-party, will have its chief in jail.

Ershad should be released

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Kuakata, Madhabkunda being developed as tourist spots

By Govinda Shil

Tracts (CHT). Under a plan during the 1995-97 period, BPC is going to build a boat club at Teknaf, several wayside motels along the Dhaka-Chittagong road, a boat-cum-hotel at the Mongla sea port, several restaurants at Madhabkunda, Mongla, Kuakata, Feni and Comilla.

The BPC chairman also noted that a feasibility study was going on at Cox's Bazar for constructing an 11-km electric trolley bus and a cable car for sight seeing. Another feasibility study is going on at the Sonadia island, 7-km away from Cox's Bazar, to construct an exclusive zone for foreign visitors, he said.

BPC statistics show that the number of foreign visitors is increasing steadily. Earnings from tourism also increased in

recent years. The earning was Tk 64.70 crore in 1985 while it stood at Tk 75.94 crore in 1994.

The proposed Sonadia resort would be the first of its kind and it will maintain an international standard to serve foreign tourists," said another BPC official.

It was impossible for the government to invest unilaterally in this sector, he said. "It was also discouraging that the government stopped financing any project since 1984," added another BPC official.

The largest delta in the world, the country has the longest sea beach (75 miles), the largest mangrove and tidal forests and evergreen tropical plantations. But due to absence of proper initiatives the

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BTV prepares for Sharjah show

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Television is making necessary preparations to telecast live all the matches of the Pepsi Cup beginning at the desert venue of Sharjah from April 11, according to reliable sources.

The sponsors had also almost finalised the nitty-gritties for telecasting on BTV live the matches of the on-going Singer Cup being played at Singapore. But, the political situation in the country made it near-impossible for them to get the required commercial patronage, they said.

A section of fans in Bangladesh, however, are enjoying the privilege of watching the Singer Cup live on Star Sports.

BTV's initiative would open the window to world-class cricket for all the enthusiasts from Teknaf to Tetulia, cricket fans observed.

One killed, 49 hurt as rivals clash in 4 dists

By Staff Correspondent

One person was killed and 49 others were injured in clashes between the activists of rival political groups in Chittagong, Sirajganj, Khulna and Jessore yesterday.

Chittagong

Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong reports: One person was killed and 20 others were injured in a clash between supporters of BNP and Awami League in Mirsharai, 30 miles off the city Monday night, police said yesterday.

Abul Momen, 32, an AL activist was chopped to death during the clash. Six of the injured persons were admitted to Mirsharai health complex.

The clash had erupted when a procession of Awami

League supporters was passing by a BNP rally at Jalandpur village in the evening, police said.

During the clash, both the groups blasted cocktails and used lethal weapons while chase and counter-chase continued for an hour.

Police arrested two persons yesterday in connection with the killing of Momen. Tension remained high in the area and additional police force was deployed yesterday.

Sirajganj

Our Sirajganj Correspondent writes: Ten workers of BCL (SP) were injured, four of them seriously at the Sirajganj Government University College yesterday when a group of JCD

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