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The Daily Star

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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	814.86 (2.18%)
Market capital Tk	5316.40 cr
Transactions in volume	97730
Transactions in value Tk	7.20 cr

Dhaka Day by Day



Caustic Comebacks
Page 4

NEWS BRIEFS

CEC calls on Chief Adviser

The Chief Election Commissioner Justice A K M Sadeque made a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman at his office yesterday. Justice Sadeque stayed with the Chief Adviser for some time, reports UNB.

Hasina exchanges views today

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina will meet leaders and representatives of various professional groups in the Engineers' Institution auditorium at 4 pm today and exchange views with them, reports BSS.



President Abdur Rahman Biswas administering oath to the members of the Council of Advisers.

Caretaker govt needs cooperation : President Ten advisers sworn-in

Ten advisers were sworn-in yesterday, completing the formation of the 11-member non-party caretaker government to oversee the ensuing general election in the country, reports UNB.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, who earlier appointed the advisers on the advice of Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman, administered the oath of office to them at a simple ceremony at Bangabhaban at 5.30 pm. The Chief Adviser was present.

Muhammad Habibur Rahman, former Chief Justice, assumed the office of Chief Adviser on March 30.

The advisers are: Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, constitutional expert; Prof Muhammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank; Shegufta Bakht Chowdhury, former Governor of Bangladesh Bank; Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud, Professor of Economics, Dhaka University; Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq, former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University; Maj Gen (Rtd) Abdur Rahman Khan; Syed Manzur Elahi, industrialist; Dr Nazma Chowdhury, Professor of Political Science, Dhaka University; Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, teacher of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET); and A Z M Naziruddin, former secretary.

After the swearing-in, President Abdur Rahman Biswas told reporters that with the completion of the caretaker government yesterday "everything will be back to gear within a short time."

The President said: "The non-party caretaker government needs cooperation of the people of all strata in discharging its function effectively."

Chief Adviser Habibur Rahman told newsmen that the main task of his government would be to bring back law and order, and hold the general election.

"It's my firm belief the appointment of the advisers will reassure all," he said adding that now the caretaker administration can proceed with its task.

The non-party caretaker government will be accountable to the President during the ninety-day interim period, according to BSS.

The Sixth Jatiya Sangsad was dissolved on March 30 paving the way for establishment of the non-party caretaker government.

The executive power of the republic will be exercised by the Chief Adviser in accordance with the Constitution and at the advice of the non-party caretaker government during the interim period.

Portfolios

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman last night allocated the following portfolios among the Council of Advisers.

Muhammad Habibur Rahman, Chief Adviser: Cabinet division, the ministries of establishment, home, foreign affairs and information, election commission secretariat and special affairs division.

Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed, adviser: Ministries of law, justice and parliamentary affairs, and local government, rural development and cooperatives.

Prof Muhammad Yunus, adviser: Ministries of science and technology, primary and mass education division and forest and environment.

Prof Shamsul Haq, adviser: Ministries of education, youth and sports and cultural affairs.

Shegufta Bakht Chowdhury, adviser: Ministries of industry, commerce, jute and textiles.

A Z M Naziruddin, adviser: Ministries of agriculture, food, fisheries and livestock and dis-

See Page 12 Col 1

CEC ready to quit but on valid grounds

Chief Election Commissioner Justice A K M Sadeque yesterday said that he would not hesitate to step down but would like to know the reason.

"I would like to know the grounds on which they (some political parties) think I should step down, the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) told the a group of newsmen at his office yesterday.

"I have no guilty conscience whatsoever. I have performed my duty at a difficult time and I think it is time which has victimised me," the CEC said without referring to the February 15 polls.

"But if my departure benefits the nation I will not hesitate to do so," Justice Sadeque said.

Awami League, Jatiya Party and some other political parties are demanding resignation of the CEC for holding of a fair parliamentary polls.

As per constitutional provisions, the CEC is appointed on a five-year term by the president on the advice of the prime minister. Non but the

Supreme Judicial Council can remove the CEC before the expiry of the tenure.

Earlier on the day the CEC called on Chief Adviser of the caretaker government Muhammad Habibur Rahman at his

See Page 12 col 7

Hasina demands probe body on 'corruption'

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has demanded formation of an enquiry committee to probe 'corruption, nepotism and other irregularities done by the former prime minister and her relatives, BNP ministers and leaders and action against them.

"We have to resist such conspiracy and dirty activities. We have to establish a healthy political atmosphere," Hasina stressed.

She reiterated her party's demand for restructuring the Election Commission with a new Chief Election Commissioner and a flawless voters list for ensuring fair polls.

The meeting was also attended by party central leader, Abdul Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Dr Mohammad Selim and Abdul Jalil.

The other leaders present included Mozaffar Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Shamsuzzoha Khan Majlish, Benazir Ahmed, Mirza Tofazzal Hossain, Fazlur Rahman Farooq, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, Syed Strajul Islam, Lutful Hal Bachchu, Mohiuddin Ahmed and Dhali Moazzem Hossain were present.

She congratulated the people for their triumph over bad governance of BNP. Hasina said, "Now we have to achieve victory in our fight for economic uplift."

She alleged that after being forced out of power BNP was now conspiring to create an

unhealthy situation in the country and launched dirty and false propaganda against political opponents.

With the political impasse over, the government has taken initiative for resumption of the annual consultation meetings and visits of donor missions that had been stalled, according to a highly placed source in the Finance Ministry.

A number of important donor missions visits and consultation meetings, in which the aid size of the donors for a fiscal year is decided were cancelled as the political crisis persisted.

The Economic Relations Division of the Finance Ministry has already sent letters to the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan to resume their missions and annual consultation meetings, sources said.

At least eight important missions of the World Bank had been cancelled because of the political stand-off.

Meanwhile, the Paris Aid Club meet now scheduled for July is likely to be shifted further till a new political government takes over, according to a Finance Ministry source.

Move to resume aid consultation meetings

Star Report

BNP's drive to boost workers' morale soon

By Nazmul Ashraf

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is going for a country-wide organisational drive to revitalise its units and to boost the morale of its workers after the party relinquished power, BNP sources said.

As part of the plan, which also aims at preparing the party for the coming general elections, all the former ministers, members of parliament and central leaders have been instructed to go back to their respective areas and take up political programmes there.

Party chief Begum Khaleeda Zia is scheduled to go to Chittagong on an organisational tour on April 9 while other central leaders are likely to leave the capital for their respective areas shortly. Most of the former BNP MPs, who had been in the city during the re-

cent political changeover, have already gone back to their constituencies following directive by the party chief.

Begum Zia, while talking to newsmen at the BNP central office at Nayapattan in the city Tuesday evening, confirmed her scheduled Chittagong tour. In response to a question she said, "It's not an election trip but a political one."

The BNP chairperson has started meeting her party leaders of different areas and leaders of various professional groups at the party central office. This would continue.

Party insiders said that in these meetings, Begum Zia listened to the problems her party leaders and workers were facing and sought their suggestions as to how to

See Page 12 col 8

Corruption charges against BNP leaders can't be proved : Salam

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Alhus Salam Talukdar said yesterday that the corruption charges brought by some rival political parties against the former BNP ministers were not backed by any documents.

"It is something they have been trying to establish since long. The opposition parties had raised the same issue in the fifth Jatiya Sangsad. But they failed to produce any document after the Speaker asked them for the same," the BNP leader told newsmen at his party's Nayapattan central office yesterday evening.

Salam Talukdar was asked to comment on the demand raised by the Liaison Committee of the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-

See Page 12 col 1

JCD activist shot dead

Two killed, 20 injured in Ctg violence

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 3: Two persons were killed and 20 people were injured in separate incidents of violence here today, police and witnesses said.

One Md Moynuddin, 24, identified as an activist of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen while he was watching television in front of a shop at Sandwip bazar at around 10 pm last night, police said.

During the attack, five other people were also injured and, of them, one Kabir received serious bullet wounds, police said. The injured were admitted into hospital.

Chhatra Dal leaders blamed the activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir for the attack and killing, but Shibir denied it.

Another person, Abdul Gani, 35, was killed at Fatikchhari today, police said. But police could not give details of the killing.

One Chhatra Dal activist received bullet wounds this afternoon at GEC crossing in the city while he was watching

television inside a shop, police said.

He was identified as Tofazzal Hossain. He was rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Police said Tofazzal was shot at by three gunmen who suddenly stormed into the shop and attacked him.

Chhatra Dal blamed the act. See Page 12 col 8

Another dacoity on Ctg-Cox's Bazar highway : 1 killed

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 3: Another dacoity was committed on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway in less than 24 hours.

A person was shot dead and another injured critically during the robbery. A gang of about 15 armed dacoits stopped at gun point at least 9 vehicles on the highway near Eidgaon Jamjania bridge around 3:30 am and robbed the

See Page 12 col 7

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