

## Inside Today

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### DSE MARKET

DSE price index 836.33 (+1.39%)  
 Market capital Tk 5520.76 cr  
 Transactions in volume 128167  
 Transactions in value Tk 2.51 cr

## Dhaka Day by Day



No Qualms About Dirt  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Defence ministry under President

The government has taken a decision to this effect that the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Division will be under the President, a PID handout said yesterday, reports BSS.

### Chief Adviser meets President

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday afternoon. He stayed with the President for quite some time, reports UNB.

### Housewife stabbed to death in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 8: A young housewife was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants at Patharghata in the city today. The victim was identified as Rekha Rani Das, 32, wife of Balai Banik, a goldsmith. Police and witnesses said a group of about six miscreants stormed their residence at about 11 am and stabbed her repeatedly. She was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared her dead, reports UNB.

### Jamaat public meet in Ctg Apr 15

CHITTAGONG, Apr 8: Jamaat-e-Islami today shifted the date of its planned public meeting at Lalidighi Maidan from April 14 to April 15. Chittagong city Jamaat publicity secretary Moulana Liaquat Akter Siddique said that this change was due to some unavoidable circumstances. Ameer of Jamaat Golam Azam will address the public meeting, reports UNB.

### Hasina goes to Khulna today

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina leaves today for Khulna on a day-long organisational tour. She will address a public meeting at the Circuit House Maidan at 3 pm, a party press release said here last night. Central leaders of the party will accompany Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.

## Faizur Razzaque appointed EC secy Abu Hena new CEC

By Staff Correspondent

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday appointed Mohammad Abu Hena, a former member of the Planning Commission, the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), an official announcement said.

The President will administer the oath of office to the CEC at a simple ceremony at the Bangabhaban at 10 am today. Mohammad Abu Hena replaces Justice AKM Sadeque who resigned Saturday.

Mohammad Abu Hena, who joined the civil service in 1963, had retired from the government service earlier. He completed his two-year contract service as a Planning Commission member yesterday.

Faizur Razzaque, secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources was also posted as Secretary of the Election Commission yesterday. He replaces Ershadul Huq.

During the 1991 parliamentary elections, Razzaque was the Joint Secretary at the EC Secretariat.

Abu Hena, the seventh CEC, is the first person to be appointed to the post from the civil service cadre. All previous CECs were from the judiciary.

Talking to a group of reporters at his Planning Commission office yesterday the new CEC said he would

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take up the challenge to conduct a free and fair election in the country.

He emphasised on the co-operation of all quarters including the political parties for holding a free and fair election. As per constitutional provisions, the next parliamentary election is to be held by June 28.

'I have always been a non-partisan man. I am retiring today from my Planning

Commission post and I had an intention of going into retirement with my family,' Abu Hena said.

'But for the sake of the future generation and safeguarding democracy in the country, I have decided not to step back,' he said. 'I would take up the challenges to perform the duty as the CEC neutrally.'

Abu Hena, who was a Boy Scout and has been involved in the scout movement said that he would perform his duty as a scout and do his best to ensure a free and fair election in the country.

When asked how he would act to restructure the Election Commission (EC), he said that he would think about it when he starts office.

Mohammad Abu Hena's appointment comes two days after the resignation of former CEC Justice A K M Sadeque. It was also learnt from offi- See Page 12 Col 1

## Taka devalued by 50 poisa

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday devalued the Taka by another 50 poisa against the US dollar with immediate effect in the wake of persisting demand by the country's business circles.

With the new downward adjustment of taka, the central bank buying rate now stands at Taka 41.40 instead of the previous Taka 40.90. The bank's selling rate to the authorised banks in now set at Taka 41.60 instead of the earlier Taka 41.10, said a BB press release.

With the latest revision, a unit of greenback has become 1.22 per cent costlier against the taka.

Appreciation of taka against the neighbouring country's currency was considered by the country's exporters as a major obstacle in maintaining the competitive edge in the export markets.

The last adjustment was made on January 8, 1996, when the taka was adjusted downward by 0.25 poisa. Following revaluation of taka by See Page 12 col 7

## 21 bullets recovered from 11 DU halls

By DU Correspondent

Police raided all eleven residential halls for male students of the Dhaka University yesterday for the second time in a week and recovered 21 bullets, 12 cocktails, two sets of walkie talkie and a small quantity of hashish.

Ten people were arrested during the two-hour raid from 5:30 am. All of them were outsiders, police said.

Sources at the halls said that many armed outsiders who were activists of political parties had left the dormitories at the instruction of their leaders following a rumour Sunday evening that those would be raided again.

Police picked up four outsiders from Sergeant Zahurul Haq hall and recovered 11 bullets. Ten bullets and a small quantity hashish were recovered from Jagannath hall. Police recovered 12 cock-

tails from Sir AF Rahman hall. Four persons were arrested and two sets of walkie talkie were recovered from Shahidullah hall. Two others were arrested from Mohsin hall.

Police had raided six DU halls on April 2 and recovered 14 firearms, 397 bullets and some explosives.

The operations were conducted as part of the country-wide drive to recover illegal arms ahead of the general election, said a police official.

Meanwhile, an emergency meeting of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) will be held today at the university club at 4 pm.

The meeting will discuss the prevailing law and order situation on the campus, said a DUTA press release yesterday.

## 600 more SSC examinees expelled

More than 600 SSC examinees were expelled from different centres throughout the country for adopting unfair means in the examination yesterday, the second day of the examination, reports UNB.

Official sources said 26 students were expelled from various centres under Jessore Board, 343 under Rajshahi and 144 under Chittagong Board during the Bangla 2nd paper examination.

A total of 4,78,275 candidates are appearing in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination from 755 centres at home and abroad under the aegis of five education boards.

The boardwise break up of the candidates are Dhaka: 1,41,000, Rajshahi: 1,20,000, Jessore: 85,000 and Chittagong and Comilla: 1,30,000.

## Tk 100 cr DESA plan for power distribution

An emergency power rehabilitation programme of Tk 100 crore will be undertaken for power distribution in greater Dhaka, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a review meeting of the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) yesterday. Adviser for the ministries of Energy and Mineral Resources, and Water Resources Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury presided.

The meeting was informed that a project entitled '9th Power Projects' for expansion and development of greater Dhaka power distribution network is now under formulation stage. Implementation of the project is expected to begin in 1997.

It was informed in the meeting that the distribution system loss of the DESA is now below 30 per cent.

The present demand for electricity in greater Dhaka is about 910 megawatt and the number of consumers is about 5 lakh. In 1991 the demand for electricity was 550 megawatt and the number of consumers was about 3.66 lakh.

## Merrill meets Chief Adviser

US Ambassador to Bangladesh David N Merrill paid a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

The Ambassador congratulated Rahman on his assumption of the office of Chief Adviser. Merrill spent some time with him.

The Chief Adviser requested the US government to take benign attitude in raising the import quota of readymade garments from Bangladesh to the United States in view of the setback suffered during the recent political turmoil.

He also stressed on maintaining the present US aid level to Bangladesh.

The Ambassador assured the Chief Adviser that he would convey the request to his government for positive consideration.

Meanwhile, Khulna city Mayor Shakh Tarebur Rahman yesterday called on Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman at his Tejgaon office. The mayor stayed with the Chief Adviser for sometime.

## Khaleda tells public meeting at Chandina Coming polls to decide fate of country's independence

CHANDINA, (Comilla) Apr 8: The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) today launched its unofficial election campaign with party Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia urging the people to vote for the BNP to protect democracy and sovereignty of the country, reports UNB.

The next elections will decide the fate of the country's independence and sovereignty... determine whether independence and sovereignty will remain or not,' she told a huge public meeting at the local Redwan Ahmed Degree College ground in the afternoon.

She said the next parliamentary elections is very much crucial for the nation. Through this election, you

will have to decide if you want to protect democracy and development.

The BNP chairperson, on the first day of her two-day organisational tour today, addressed a number of wayside meetings before reaching Feni, her own constituency, where she will stay overnight.

Tomorrow morning, Begum Zia will resume her journey by road to Chittagong where she will address a public meeting at the Outer Stadium in the afternoon.

Addressing the wayside meetings, the former Prime Minister said they had handed over power to the caretaker government to protect the Constitution and the democratic process in the country.

She said the formation of the caretaker government is the victory of the people and of the BNP because through this process, the BNP has protected democracy, independence and rights of the people.

'We have handed over power to the Chief Adviser of the interim non-party caretaker government through a constitutional process according to our promise.'

The former prime minister said that at a time when her government was doing everything to protect democracy and Constitution, some opposition parties started the 'conspiracy to foil the development activities to ruin democracy and economy of the See Page 12 col 7

## Saidabad Water Treatment Plant Accord with France on civil engineering design soon

By Sharier Khan

The Dhaka WASA is likely to sign an accord soon with France worth seven million French franc (Tk 4 crore 20 lakh) for making provision for the preparation of civil engineering design of the Saidabad Water Treatment Plant, according to official sources.

Under the agreement, the design of the 167.6 million US dollar project will be completed independently.

The agreement would lead to the floating of tenders for the civil engineering work of the Saidabad plant before the contract for the project's fourth component, signed between WASA and Degremont of France, for supply and installation of electro-mechanical

equipment comes into force. The French government is also providing 152.7 million Francs or 18 per cent of the project cost as grant. But the grant would be effective only when the IDA of the World Bank agrees to provide 76.2 million dollars (or 43 per cent of the project cost).

The IDA's approval for the fund is tagged with five conditionalities to be fulfilled by the WASA.

The proposed water treatment plant would provide around 225 million litres of water daily using the water from the river Sitalakha when completed in three phases in 2010.

Currently, the WASA sup-

plies 78 crore litres of water daily against a demand of nearly 140 crore litres while it sustains a system loss of 48 to 52 per cent.

If the government fails to fulfil the World Bank's conditionalities tagged with The Saidabad Water Treatment Plant project by April 24, the fate of the project may again become uncertain.

On April 24, the 76.2 million dollar credit proposal would be placed at the World Bank's board meeting in Washington for final approval. This Board meeting was initially scheduled at September last. But as WASA had failed to fulfil the conditionalities, it See Page 12 Col 2

## Jamuna Bridge Villagers attack police serving eviction notice

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 8:

Villagers today attacked policemen here when they tried to serve eviction notice at Dakhayabari village in Saidabad union, the western side of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, reports UNB.

Witnesses said several hundred villagers, including women, swooped on the police as they went to the village with a written notice asking the villagers to leave it within a week. None was reported hurt.

Police, however, left the scene amid protest displaying the notice with a local shop.

Meanwhile, Saidabad UP Chairman Khademul Moni, in a written statement, condemned the police for assaulting village women, but police denied the allegation.

Villagers alleged that the Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Authorities were trying to drive them out of the village depriving them of adequate compensation.

## Ershad appeals to Chief Adviser for his release

Former, president and chairman of the Jatiya Party H M Ershad has advised his counsel to urge the Chief Adviser of the caretaker government to secure his release from prison if necessary on parole for saving his life and lead his party in the coming national elections, reports BSS.

Ershad told his counsel Advocate Mahabub Rahman, a former minister, during the court hearing of the Manzoor murder case on Saturday, that, failing which, proper participation of Jatiya Party would not be possible, according to a press release.

The press release signed by See Page 12 col 6

## Emergency in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Apr 8: President Chandrika Kumaratunga has proclaimed a nationwide 'state of emergency,' giving herself sweeping powers to enact laws, it was announced today, reports AP.

The announcement was made in Parliament by Speaker Kiri Banda Ratnayake, who said that the emergency was promulgated on April 4 'to maintain law and order.' It was not announced earlier due to the Easter holidays.

Political analysts say Mrs. Kumaratunga will use the powers to postpone election to municipal and area councils which are required to be held in June.

Parliament, which is controlled by Mrs. Kumaratunga's

People's Alliance Party, has to vote on the presidential proclamation within 30 days if she wants to prolong it.

The nationwide election, held every four years, were scheduled for last June, but the minister of local government postponed them for a year. The constitution does not give the minister powers to postpone it again.

'It's quite likely that the President wants to avoid the elections,' said Jehan Perera, a political analyst. 'With the civil war taking up much of her time and effort, she has not paid attention to the elections, and she may be afraid her party will lose.'

The People's Alliance has not drawn up a list of candi-

dates for the elections.

A defeat in the local government polls, that will be seen as a referendum on her policy to fight the Tamil rebels to a finish, would increase pressure on Mrs. Kumaratunga to call general elections.

The state of emergency had been in force in the north and east of the country, and the capital, Colombo, almost continuously since 1983, giving the military wide powers to arrest and jail suspects.

Mrs. Kumaratunga had lifted the emergency from the rest of the country after she came to power in 1994.

The rebels are fighting for an independent homeland in the north and east for minority Tamils.

## Electricity from wind power under study

By Govinda Shil

Wind power can be used to produce as much as 2000 MW of electricity in the coastal areas of the country, scientists of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission say.

Geographical location of the country, particularly its coastal area is ideally suited for use of wind power for generation of electricity on 'commercial basis,' they say after years of experiment and study of wind speed in Patenga, Cox's Bazar, Teknaf and Moheshkhali.

'We can produce as much as 2000 mw of electricity from wind power in the coastal areas,' said Fazlur Rahman a young scientist of the BAEC

who pioneered the concept.

An experimental turbine that could generate one kilowatt of electricity is likely to be installed at the BAEC head office in Dhaka next month, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Rahman has been studying the wind speed in the coastal areas for the last three years. The results are quite encouraging with an average speed of more than 7 meter per second, enough to generate electricity commercially,' he said.

The turbine would be constructed with local raw materials using simple technology

and would cost around Taka 30,000. An imported turbine costs more than Taka 3 lakh, some other scientists in the BAEC said.

'Seeing data on wind speed, many countries like Germany, UK, USA, Sweden and Denmark, have shown interest in investing in this sector,' said Fazlur Rahman. He said, neighbouring countries like India and Sri Lanka are generating power using wind turbines.

The BAEC scientist said, some developed countries have already began talks with the BAEC to launch joint venture projects. Prospective investors

from some other countries have also shown interest to carry out feasibility study, they said.

Rahman's paper on 'Prospects of Wind Energy in Bangladesh' has been accepted recently by the 'World Renewable Energy Congress (WREC)' based in the USA. Rahman has been invited by the WREC to deliver a lecture on the subject in June this year.

Kazi Abul Hasnat, a senior scientist of the BAEC said, Bangladesh has good prospects for producing electricity using wind.

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