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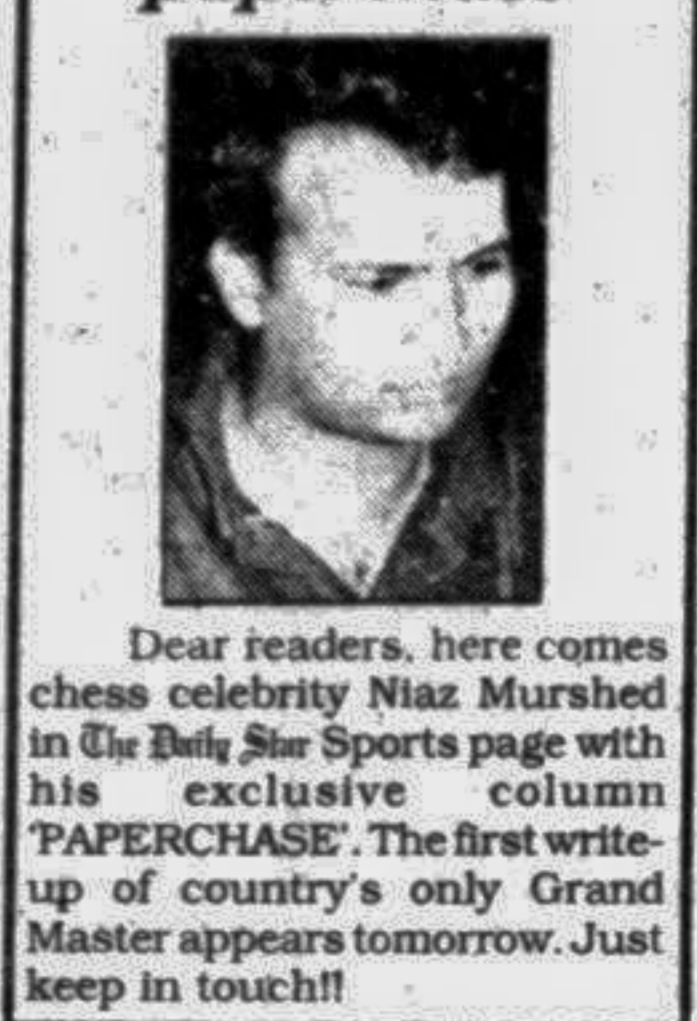
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Announcement
Grand Master's 'paperchase'



Dear readers, here comes chess celebrity Niaz Murshed in the Daily Star Sports page with his exclusive column 'PAPERCHASE'. The first write-up of country's only Grand Master appears tomorrow. Just keep in touch!

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LDCs may miss many global free trade-created opportunities, UNCTAD report says
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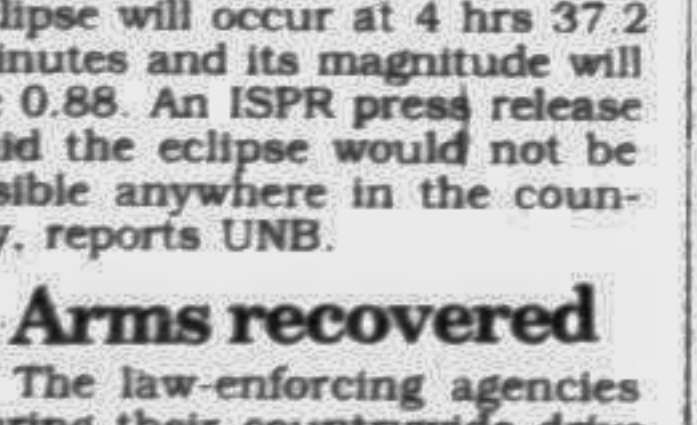
DSE MARKET

DSE price index	816.52 (+0.07%)
Market capital Tk	9542.86 cr
Transactions in volume	187174
Transactions in value	Tk 3.80 cr

International

Clinton, Kim agree to convene four-way talks immediately
US announces delivery of \$368m arms to Pakistan
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Dhaka Day by Day



Poetic Justice
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NEWS BRIEFS

Partial solar eclipse tomorrow
A partial solar eclipse will occur tomorrow according to Bangladesh Meteorological Department. The eclipse will begin at 31.4 minutes past 02 hrs Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) and continue till 6 hrs 43.3 minutes. The greater eclipse will occur at 4 hrs 37.2 minutes and its magnitude will be 0.88. An ISPR press release said the eclipse would not be visible anywhere in the country, reports UNB.

Arms recovered
The law-enforcing agencies during their countrywide drive recovered 45 firearms and some ammunition and arrested 18 persons yesterday. The recovered arms and ammunition include 12 sawed-off rifles, one pistol, one revolver, two single barrel guns, 24 pipeguns, two shutterguns, three LGs, 46 bullets and cartridges, 26 homemade bombs, reports UNB.

Khaleda questions neutrality of caretaker govt

BNP demands polls in May

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday demanded that the seventh Jatiya Sangsad elections be held by May.

"I call upon the Chief Adviser to arrange the elections by May and the Chief Election Commissioner to announce the election schedule immediately," Begum Zia told a huge public meeting at the Manik Mia Avenue in the capital yesterday afternoon.

"They (the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami) first wanted polls in May and they thought BNP was afraid of the May schedule. But we told the President that BNP was ready for polls in May," she said while expressing dissatisfaction over the delay in announcing the date of the election.

The former prime minister was critical of the non-party caretaker government and termed arrest of activists of BNP and its front organisations and lodging of false cases against them in its drive for recovery of illegal arms as unnecessary. She also accused it of 'inaction' against "those brandishing arms openly."

"This is not called neutrality. The neutral government must take action against all terrorists and illegal arms possessors irrespective of their party affiliation," the BNP chief said and warned of withdrawing her party's cooperation with the present government "if it failed to act impartially."

BNP organised the public meeting to celebrate "victory of democracy and of the Constitution." Yesterday's meeting was the fourth addressed by Begum Zia since she quit power on March 30.

Thousands of party activists and people from different parts of the city and its adjacent areas attended the meeting. The jubilant party workers were seen carrying banners, festoons, portraits of late president Ziaur Rahman and Begum Zia and 'sheaf of paddy', BNP's election symbol, while approaching the meeting venue chanting slogans. Hundreds of buses and trucks carried people from the distant city areas and surrounding districts.

Chaired by Begum Zia, the meeting was also addressed by BNP leaders Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdus Salam Talukdar, Majid UI Haque, Akbar Hossain, Abdullah Al Noman, Mirza Abbas, Fazlur Rahman Faisal, new entrants in the party Jamaluddin Ahmed and Anwar Zahid and leaders of BNP's front organisations, Begum Zia's eldest son, Tarek Zia was introduced to the audience. He also delivered a brief speech seeking people's support to her mother and her party.

In her 26-minute speech, Begum Zia highlighted the development works during her five years in power, castigated her political opponents for "blocking the development process and destroying the national economy in the name of agitation" and urged the people to vote her party in the coming polls to safeguard democracy, independence and sovereignty.

The BNP chairperson said, "If returned to power, we will take steps so that elected public representatives run the local government bodies like the Zila Parishad and Thana Parishad."

In reference to the election manifesto of her party, now being prepared, she said, "We'll give utmost importance on development plans for the womenfolk, the students and the youths."

Commenting on the recent public meetings of her party, Begum Zia claimed that large attendance in those meetings proved that people were with the BNP.

Seeking people's support for her party in the next general elections, she said, "The coming polls are very significant for us."

"Your votes will determine if democracy, independence and sovereignty of the country will exist or not. There is no alternative to BNP for salvaging the economy from the destruction caused by the recent non-cooperation programme. The sheaf of paddy is the symbol of welfare, democracy, independence and sovereignty."

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BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a huge public meeting at the Manik Mia Avenue in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Govt statement on defence ministry demanded

Simplify process to update voters' list: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has demanded updating of the present voters' list by simplifying the process of registration for the sake of a free and fair election.

Pointing out various flaws in the voters' list, the AL president said correction of the list by ensuring inclusion of the names of voters left out earlier and exclusion of fake voters was a must before the coming general elections.

Hasina was addressing a crowded press conference at Mahanagar Community Centre in the city yesterday afternoon. Reading out a written statement before the newsmen the AL chief specifically spoke on the issues of 'status' of the defence ministry, probe into corrupt practices of the 'fallen regime', removal of the 'political appointees' in public posts, arms recovery drive, role of the armed forces and that of the NGOs and the state-run media.

Responding to a query she said, "I am seeking a statement forthwith from the caretaker government regarding the status of the defence ministry."

"If the defence ministry does not come under the caretaker government, how will this government exercise its power?" she questioned.

In this context Hasina referred to the recent meeting of the Prime of her party, colleagues with the head of the caretaker government where the issue of the defence ministry's status came up for discussion.

Keeping the defence ministry under the President, according to Hasina, is contrary to the basic spirit of the Constitution and that of the parliamentary form of government. Through this decision, the President has virtually expressed his no-confidence in the non-partisan caretaker government," she said.

If the defence ministry continued to remain under the President the AL Chief feared, it might make the armed forces controversial and affect their image.

Brushing aside the BNP secretary general's allegation that Awami League was raising a controversy over the defence ministry, the AL chief said, "We are not raising any controversy."

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Hasina at the press confce

Major changes at secy, DC levels

By Staff Correspondent

Some major administrative changes were made yesterday which concerned at least five posts at the secretary level, four at the joint secretary level and 25 posts at the level of deputy commissioner and magistrate.

According to an official handout yesterday, Mohammad Ali, Secretary of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) Division, was made Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, replacing Sayed Ahmed, who was earlier posted in the Chief Advisers Secretariat as its Principal Secretary.

Abdul Hamid Chowdhury, Chairman of the Tariff Commission, was made Secretary of the Food Ministry in place of Abdul Muheed Chowdhury, who was transferred to the JMB Division as its Secretary, the handout added.

Risalat Ahmed, Director General (DG) of Bangladesh Television (BTV), was deputed to the Directorate of Food as its DG, while Shahrier Z R Iqbal, who was earlier heading the Directorate of Food, was brought on deputation as DG of the BTV.

Abdul Moktadir Chowdhury, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Distribution was made Joint Secretary of the Cabinet Division, replacing Mokbul Hossain, now made Joint Secretary of the Relief Ministry.

Mohammad Abdul Huq, Member of the Tea Board, was made Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, the handout added.

Mohammad Jalaluddin, DC of Munshiganj was made DC of Dhaka, Mohammad Ayub, DC of Narsingdi, was transferred to Sylhet as DC and A H M Nurul Islam, DC of Feni, was made DC of Jessore.

DC of Bhola Rafiqul Islam

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Mujibnagar Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The Mujibnagar Day, marking the establishment of the then provisional Bangladesh government headed by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to lead the Liberation War, will be observed today through holding seminars and symposiums and cultural programmes.

On this day in 1971, the provisional government of Bangladesh was formed at the now historic mango grove at Baidyernath Tala of Meherpur district. The place which came to be known as Mujibnagar became the focus of worldwide attention as the capital of Bangladesh during the Liberation War.

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3 DU halls raided, no arms recover

By DU Correspondent

Police raided three residential halls of the Dhaka University last night for the fourth time after the installation of the caretaker government, police sources said.

The two-hour raid starting from 9:30 pm was conducted in the Chhatra League (S-P) dominated Zahurul Haq Hall, Jagannath Hall and Salmullah Hall.

No arms and ammunition were recovered and none was arrested.

Textbooks to be sold from fair price stalls

In addition to the present system of sale, textbooks for classes Six and Nine will also be sold from fair price book stalls henceforth, reports BSS.

A government handout today said that the Text Book Publishers and Sellers' Association (TBPSA) will arrange fixing five such fair price stalls in Dhaka, three in each of the divisional headquarters and one each in the district towns.

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Adviser on law and order

Bureaucrats not serious, police in bad shape

By Staff Correspondent

The Communications, Shipping and Post and Telecommunications Adviser yesterday said that the arms recovery drive was yet to make the desired progress because the administration had been severely affected during the political unrest.

"I don't want to sound pessimistic," Syed Manzur Elahi told a group of businessmen at a discussion meeting at the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) auditorium. "We will not be 100 per cent successful in the arms recovery drive but we will try our best to hold a peaceful election."

The meeting, presided over by FBCCI President Salman F Rahman, was attended, among others, by the secretaries and high officials of the ministries of Communications, Shipping, Post and Telecommunications and Housing and Works.

"The police force is in a bad shape. Transferring the police officials will not improve the situation because they are the same elements who remain inactive in time of need," he added.

"The future of the country depends on the rule of law," Manzur Elahi told the FBCCI members who earlier expressed their deep concern about the law and order.

"We hold a Cabinet meeting every day and in our assessment, the law and order situation is not good. There is a credibility gap," he observed.

The Adviser said that although the caretaker government was formed under constitutional provisions, the bureaucracy "was not taking it very seriously."

"I get the feeling that the bureaucrats see us as a short-lived government and they feel

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Congestion surcharge

Team sent to persuade foreign shipping lines

From Nurul Alam

The delegation is supposed to hold meeting with the Singapore-based Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee (CFTC) and other foreign shipping lines to resolve the surcharge issue against the backdrop of the complete easing of congestion now as claimed by port officials.

Talking to The Daily Star today, acting chairman of the CPA Captain Zahiruddin Mahmud said, "There is no justification for imposing surcharge while the port is now completely congestion-free."

He informed that all the cargo vessels which were struck up at the port during the recent political unrest were "fully cleared off already with the resumption of port operations round-the-clock."

Besides, as of today, two jetties out of 13 main jetties fell vacant due to lack of ships

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DU faces fresh session jam

By M M Aminul Islam Sajal

Classes of first year and 2nd year honours courses of 1994-95 session under the Arts and Social Science Faculties had started on July 15, 1995 and were scheduled to be over by March 31 this year. Examinations were to begin from May 15.

Classes of third year Honours courses had started in mid-August, 1995 and were scheduled to be over by April this year. Examinations were to start from June 15.

But the classes could not be completed as per the schedule and so the examinations will also not be held in time.

Classes under the Faculty of Law started on July 1 and were scheduled to be over by January 31, and examinations were due from March 31.

But the classes could not be completed and the 2nd term examinations of the first, second, third and fourth year Honours classes, which were due in December, could not be held even at the end of March. The final year examination in the Law Faculty is now uncertain.

Under the Commerce Faculty, classes of the first, 2nd and third year Honours courses started on July 1 and were due to be over by April 22. Examinations were to begin from May 8, according to the academic calendar.

Classes of the first year and 2nd year Honours courses under the Science and Biological

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Kamal for election code of conduct thru' consensus

By Staff Correspondent

Gono Forum president Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said that a free and fair election could not be held unless illegal arms were recovered, influence of black money stopped and communal propaganda is banned.

Addressing the concluding session of the extended meeting of party's central committee, he said that an election code of conduct would have to be made with consensus of all political parties and provisions should be included in it to punish any party violating the rules.

Dr Kamal demanded appropriate role of radio and television.

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প্রাইম ব্যাংক-এর আজ প্রথম বর্ষপূর্তি

আমাদের সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দ ও তথ্যার্থীদের জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা

এই উপলক্ষে আপনাদের জন্য আমাদের উপহারঃ

৩ টি আকর্ষণীয় নতুন সঞ্চয় প্রকল্প

কিঞ্চিত্তিক সঞ্চয় প্রকল্প

মাসিক কিস্তিতে এ সঞ্চয় পড়ে তোলা যায়। মেয়াদ শেষে আকর্ষণীয় মুনাফাসহ নিশ্চিতভাবে অঙ্কের টাকা এককালীন প্রদান করা হয়।

কিস্তি	১০০/-	২৫০/-	৫০০/-	১০০০/-
মেয়াদ	মেয়াদান্তে প্রদেয় টাকা			
৫ বছর	৮০০০/-	২০০০০/-	৪০০০০/-	৮০০০০/-
৮ বছর	১৫০০০/-	৩৭৫০০/-	৭৫০০০/-	১৫০০০০/-
১০ বছর	২০০০০/-	৫০০০০/-	১০০০০০/-	২০০০০০/-

মাসিক মুনাফাভিত্তিক আমানত প্রকল্প

আমানতের উপর মুনাফা প্রতি মাসে প্রদান করা হয়। প্রতি ১,১০,০০০/- টাকার উপর প্রতিমাসে ১,০০০/- টাকা মুনাফা দেয়া হয়।

বিশেষ আমানত প্রকল্প

আমানতের টাকা ৭ বছরে বিক্রয় এবং ১০ বছরে তিনগুণ হয়। আমানত গ্রহণের সময়ই মুনাফাসহ সম্পূর্ণ প্রদেয় টাকার বিসিটি প্রদান করা হয়। যেহেতু ১০ বছরের জন্য কেউ ১ লক্ষ টাকা জমা দিলে তাকে ৩ লক্ষ টাকার বিনিময় প্রদান করা হয়। প্রয়োজনবোধে এ বিনিময় যে কোন সময় বিসিটি করে ডিসকাউন্ট করে টাকা উঠানো যাবে অথবা এ বিনিময় আমানত রেখে রাখা গ্রহণ করা যাবে।

সন্তানের শিক্ষা ও বিয়ে, অবসরকালীন সময়ে আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা, প্রবাসীদের প্রেরিত অর্থ ও বিবিধ প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিবেদিত ফান্ড, বিহার্য ফান্ড ইত্যাদির সর্বোচ্চ মুনাফা নিশ্চিত করার জন্য প্রাইম ব্যাংকের সঞ্চয় প্রকল্পের সুযোগ গ্রহণ করুন।

প্রাইম ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
একটি ব্যতিক্রমধর্মী ব্যাংক