



## Inside Today

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## DSE MARKET

DSE price index: 825.20 (+0.58%)  
Market capital Tk: 5601.53 cr  
Transactions in volume: 200513  
Transactions in value: Tk 5.46 cr

## CSE MARKET

CSE price index: 403.23 (+0.21%)  
Market capital Tk: 2775.31 cr  
Transactions in volume: 15400  
Transactions in value: Tk 15.27 lakh

## Metropolitan

### Dhaka Day by Day

**Where Skin Colour Counts**  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

### New IGP calls on Chief Adviser

Newly appointed Inspector General of Police M Azizul Haq paid a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman at his office yesterday afternoon. The IGP stayed with the Chief Adviser for some time, reports UNB.

### DU Senate meet May 6

Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University, Prof. Emdadul Haque, has convened the special requisition meeting of the Senate May 6. The meeting will be held at the conference room of the university administrative building at 4 pm, said a DU press release yesterday, reports UNB.

### CU holidays

CHITTAGONG, Apr 24: Classes and offices of the University of Chittagong will remain closed from April 27 to May 6 on account of the death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque, Eid-ul-Azha, Buddha Purnima and May Day, a university press release said today, reports BSS.

### Flood Information Centre opens May 4

The Flood Information Centre of the Bangladesh Water Development Board will start functioning from May 4 for dissemination of day-to-day information about rainfall and river levels in the country. It will normally remain open from 8 am to 2:30 pm and upto 10 pm under emergency situation. The centre will operate till September 30 until further orders. The centre will be located at the 8th floor of WAPDA Building, Motijheel, Dhaka. All interested quarters may kindly contact the centre at Phone Numbers 9550755 and 9553118, says a press release.

### One electrocuted

By DMCH Correspondent  
A mason Azizul Haq, 22, was electrocuted while working in an under construction building at Kazi para in the city early yesterday, DMCH sources said.  
The body was sent to the DMCH for autopsy, sources added.

# No move yet to reactivate JRC

By M Anwarul Haq

The expected reactivation of the Bangladesh-JRC Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) has not materialised due to foot dragging by both the sides for nearly nine months following an "understanding" causing the country's northern region to suffer another year of widespread agricultural failure and environmental disaster.

Bangladesh is receiving an alarmingly low quantum of around 9,000 cusecs of Ganges water during the current lean season. This may fall even further during the leanest 10-day period which began on April 21. The lean season begins on January 1 and continues till May 31.

According to sources concerned, Bangladesh received

between 9000 to 12,825 cusecs of water during the present lean season and was receiving around this quantum since 1993.

That Bangladesh would be able to find at least a 'realistic' solution to the elusive water sharing issue which had strained relations between the two neighbours was echoed quite loudly when the two foreign secretaries met in Dhaka in June last year.

The Dhaka announcement followed the third and last round of secretary-level talks initiated at the behest of the Prime Ministers of the two countries during the SAARC summit in Delhi in May, 1995.

After the Dhaka talks between the foreign secretaries,

Farook Sobhan of Bangladesh and Salman Haider of India, at separate press conferences said that the two sides had reached an understanding on re-convening a meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission to establish a joint monitoring system "in a bid to find a permanent solution."

The JRC was set up soon after Independence but its meetings were discontinued from June 1990. A joint monitoring system was also in vogue, but it was stated after the Dhaka talks that monitoring of water flow would take place at four points, instead of three places previously.

The Indian foreign secretary did not specify the date of

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## Punish terrorists for fair polls: Khaleda

JESSORE, Apr 24: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today urged the caretaker government to take effective measures for punishing the "killers and armed terrorists" to ensure a free and fair election, reports UNB.

Talking to newsmen at the local airport on her way back to Dhaka from Khulna where she addressed a public meeting on Tuesday, she expressed concern over what she called continued attacks on her party leaders and workers by the activists of rival political parties.

She said her partymen were killed in different places, including Chittagong, Khulna and Jessore.

The former prime minister particularly mentioned the killing of a leader of her party's youth front in Khulna immediately after her public meeting there on Tuesday and said, "How will there be a free and fair election if such a condition

continues to prevail in the country."

She alleged that her party leaders and workers were being unnecessarily harassed across the country in the name of arms recovery.

The BNP Chairperson said she had conveyed her concern to the concerned authorities at the continuing acts of terrorism.

Earlier, Begum Zia visited Phulitana Thana BNP President Kausar Ali Jomaddar who was seriously injured in an attack by his political opponents.

Addressing the workers of her party and its front organisation at Jessore Circuit House in the morning, Begum Khaleda Zia said BNP will have to return to power in the next election for the sake of democracy and to safeguard the country's independence and sovereignty.

## Gano Forum rally in city Open debate on activities of parties demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Gano Forum leader Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged the caretaker government to arrange live television debate where members of the public would be allowed to put to the questions to the political leaders about their sources of income and their activities.

"Major political parties are holding big rallies and publishing colourful posters spending crores of taka but people do not know from where the money is coming," Dr Kamal said. "People have the right to know where from the money come."

Addressing a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city he said, "Election cannot be free and fair without recovering illegal arms and removing terrorism from the society."

Holders of black money should also be disqualified for contesting the polls, he said. Free and fair election cannot be held if the electoral process cannot be freed from the influence of illegal arms, and black money, he said.

"We want to see competition among genuine candidates, not among black money holders and political terrorists," the reported jurist said.

In this regard, he said measures should be taken so that if any candidate spends more than Tk 3 lakh in election campaign he will have to face a tribunal and if found guilty his candidature will be cancelled.

Dr Kamal said bank loan defaulters should be debarred from contesting the forthcoming election.

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## President says Defence portfolio provision can't be changed now

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has said the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces Division were placed under him according to the constitutional provision and "it cannot be changed during the tenure of the caretaker government," reports UNB.

"The situation was clarified to the people that it was done in accordance with the provision of the Constitution," he told a 23-member delegation of Combined Sangram Parishad that called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

President Biswas said people of different shades of opinions should wholeheartedly cooperate with the caretaker government in holding the next general election.

He expressed the confidence that the ensuing general election will be held in a free, fair and impartial manner in fulfilling the national aspiration.

Leaders of the delegation

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## WB urges caretaker govt for action in six areas

By Inam Ahmed and R M Titumir

The World Bank has urged the caretaker government to take actions in six areas during its tenure to "leave a prepared ground" for the next elected government to enable it to take "quick follow up steps", according to official source.

Dhaka mission chief of the Bank Pierre Landell-Mills has suggested the actions in a recent letter to Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman.

Acknowledging the nature and limitations of the caretaker government, the resident mission chief said in his letter that there were several areas where "urgent administrative actions" were needed to restore "business confidence."

He said that those administrative actions would bring momentum in many areas and help the next elected government take quick follow up ac-

tions to reactivate the economy.

The Bank said the government could make a public announcement that the on-going economic policy would be continued and all contracts made with the bank honoured by the caretaker government.

The Bank has urged the government to limit the size of fiscal deficit and inflationary impact by cutting low-priority public expenditure.

On the implementation of the ADP, the largest multilateral donor agency urged the government to restore the momentum in implementation of the ADP.

Citing example of "politically motivated" projects like the Shahjalal Fertiliser Factory, the WB advised the government to downsize the ADP by

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## Nor'westers hit Sirajganj, Kushtia:

1 killed, 19 hurt

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 24: A woman was killed and 19 others were injured as a nor'wester lashed three thanas of the district today, reports UNB.

The storm at a speed of about 100 kilometres per hour swept Sadar, Raiganj and Kazi para thanas in the evening. The victim, Omna Khatun, 36, was killed in lightning during the storm and downpour at village Kantanagar in Raiganj thana.

Two of the injured were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital and another was taken to Raiganj Thana Health Complex.

"At least 1,000 thatched houses and crops on about 9,000 acres of land were partially damaged while scores of trees uprooted by the nor'wester."

Kushtia Correspondent adds: Twenty-five people were injured in a severe cyclonic

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## One killed, 7 hurt as dacoits attack night coach in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 24: One person was killed and seven other passengers were injured when a group of armed dacoits attacked a night coach on the Jhenidah-Khustia highway early this morning, according to witnesses and police.

The dacoits looted valuables worth about Tk 20,000 from the bus passengers.

According to witnesses, a gang of about 10 armed dacoits, who were travelling in the guise of passengers, suddenly attacked the driver and took control of the coach at gun point near Jhenidah BSCIC estate at about 2:30 am.

The dacoits drove the coach towards Kushtia instead of Khulna.

During the robbery, the dacoits killed one passenger and injured seven others. The dead was identified as Alamgir Hossain, an assistant teacher of a high school in Baufal thana under Patuakhali district. At about 3.15 am the dacoits left the coach near Kushtia town, police said.

## Hasina, Rehana perform Umrah

President of Bangladesh

Awami League, Sheikh Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana along with other members of the family performed the holy Umrah at Makkah Manwara on Tuesday, a party press release said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina, Sheikh Rehana and their other family members left Dhaka on Tuesday for Saudi Arabia to perform the holy Hajj at the invitation of the Saudi King.

Sheikh Hasina offered her Fazr prayers at Makkah Manwara yesterday morning and returned to Jeddah in the afternoon. She and her family members left for Medina Sharif to offer Ziarat at the Mazar of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM).

A large number of expatriate Bangladeshes assembled at the Jeddah Airport to greet Sheikh Hasina and her family members on Tuesday, the press release said.



The Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum yesterday organised a children's rally in the city demanding incorporation of children's rights in the manifestos of political parties for the next parliament elections. - Star photo

## Salam for ensuring impartiality in arms recovery

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday called for ensuring that the arms recovery drive was conducted impartially.

"There's a word called self-defence. Law also gives the citizens the right of self-defence," he told newsmen while condemning Tuesday's attacks on his partymen at Khulna. A Juba Dal worker, Rafiqul Islam Dulal was killed and three others were critically injured there while returning from a public meeting addressed by BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia.

Asked for explanation of his contention on self-defence, Salam Talukdar said, "It's self-explanatory. You can give your own meaning to it."

Speaking at the regular press briefing at the Naya Paltan central office of the BNP, Talukdar also referred to

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## 17 Eid cattle markets open tomorrow

Star Report

Trading at the city's 17 sacrificial animal markets begins from tomorrow and will continue till Eid day on April 29.

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has already leased out 15 of the markets till yesterday while tenders were floated for the fourth time for the other two — one at Jigatala Hajiribagh Ground and the other at the Rayer Bazaar Playground.

According to the DCC sources, average earnings from the sacrificial animal markets dropped by Tk 20 lakh this year than that of last year. The earning from this

head was around Tk 70 lakh in 1995.

Officials concerned at the DCC attributed this fall in earnings to various factors including "a sort of understanding" among the bidders about offering low bids land shortage and the economic impact of the recent political unrest.

The Navabazar sacrificial animal market, the biggest among the 17, was leased out at Tk 14 lakh only whereas it was leased out at over Tk 30 lakh during the Eid-ul-Azha festival last year.

Mutual understanding

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## US firms expect 'better' business this year

By Staff Correspondent

American businesses in Bangladesh had a 'very good' year in 1995 and they expect even 'better' business this year, said a survey by American-Bangladesh Economic Forum (ABEF), conducted among its members.

Most of the Forum members, however, indicated in the survey that the performance of the Bangladesh economy as a whole might be "somewhat worse" this year.

Although the expectations for the economy were that it would not grow as fast as in

1995, most of the ABEF members thought that their operations, measured by sales, investment, or profits would improve. The members' expectations are that their companies will find 1996 a very good year despite a weaker economy," said the survey.

The results of the survey were presented at a luncheon meeting in a city hotel yesterday, chaired by ABEF President Forrest E. Cookson and attended by, among others, Deputy Chief of US Mission in

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## Dudayev dead, his aide says



Picture taken January 11, 1995 of Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev (sitting) and soldiers at a press conference in a village, west of Grozny. - AFP/UNB photo

MOSCOW, Apr 24: A top rebel field commander in Chechnya said reports of separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev's death are true and that the breakaway republic is observing three days of mourning, reports AP.

The comments by Shamil Basayev, a hero among rebel fighters, were carried on rebel television late Tuesday, according to the Interfax news agency. They added weight to a report by the ITAR-Tass news agency that Dudayev was killed Sunday in a Russian airstrike.

Dudayev's death would have major — though as yet unpredictable — consequences on

MOSCOW, Apr 24: Slain Chechen rebel leader Dudayev was buried today, his successor Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev said. He was taking part in the funeral ceremony, Tass said in a report from the Chechen village of Shalazhi, according to Reuters.

the bitter, separatist war that has raged for 16 months in Chechnya.

His fighters could splinter, making negotiations with Moscow even more difficult. Dudayev the martyr could become a powerful rallying symbol for his followers.

On the other hand, talks had gone nowhere with Dudayev in charge, and it was possible that a successor could emerge with new ideas and willingness to reach a peaceful settlement.

Things are very uncertain now, and dangerous for Moscow — Russian lawmaker Kon-

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## নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়

শেরেবাংলা নগর  
ঢাকা

## বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নির্বাচন কমিশন ভোটার তালিকায় নাম অন্তর্ভুক্তি, সংশোধন, কর্তন এবং হালনাগাদকরণের কার্যক্রম আসন্ন জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচনের তফসিল ঘোষণা না করা পর্যন্ত অব্যাহত রাখার জন্য রেজিস্ট্রেশন অফিসারদের প্রতি নির্দেশ প্রদান করেছে।

কয়েকটি রাজনৈতিক দলের দাবীর প্রেক্ষিতে ভোটার তালিকা হালনাগাদকরণের সময়সীমা বর্ধিত করার এ সিদ্ধান্ত গৃহীত হয়েছে।

উল্লেখ্য, নির্বাচন কমিশন ভোটার তালিকায় নাম অন্তর্ভুক্তি, সংশোধন, কর্তন এবং হালনাগাদকরণের কার্যক্রম অব্যাহত রয়েছে বলে ১১-৪-৯৬ইং তারিখে এক সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে জানিয়েছিল। পরবর্তীতে ১৮-৪-৯৬ইং তারিখে অপর এক বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে এ কার্যক্রম ২৬ এপ্রিল, '৯৬ পর্যন্ত অব্যাহত রাখার জন্য রেজিস্ট্রেশন অফিসারদের প্রতি নির্দেশ জারী করেছিল।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি-১১০-২০/৪  
৯-২৯মেসবাহ উদ্দিন আহমেদ  
জনসংযোগ কর্মকর্তা