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### DSE MARKET

DSE price index 844.57 (+0.41%)  
Market capital Tk 5794.55 cr  
Transactions in volume 254916  
Transactions in value Tk 554 cr

### Metropolitan

#### Dhaka Day by Day



Just Another Variety of Extortion

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Special DU Senate session today

By DU Correspondent

A special session of the Dhaka University Senate will be held at 3:30 pm today with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed in the chair, according to official sources. The special meeting has been convened by the VC, who is the president of the Senate, following requests from some 32 pro-Awami League senators.

### First Hajj return flight arrives

The first return flight of Bangladesh Biman arrived in Dhaka yesterday from Jeddah with 301 pilgrim-hajjis. An official handout said 7,721 pilgrims went to Saudi Arabia under government management this year. Biman will operate 26 flights up to May 23 to bring them home, reports UNB.

### Akhtaruzzaman granted bail

From Our Correspondent  
KISHOREGANJ, May 5: Major (ret'd) Akhtaruzzaman, a former MP of BNP, was released on bail today. The party workers accorded a reception to Akhtaruzzaman in the jail gate. The former MP, along with two other party activists, were taken into custody following an untoward incident over the arrest of a Jubo Dal leader last Wednesday.

### Mosharraf joins BNP

Former Industries secretary Mosharraf Hossain yesterday formally joined the BNP by presenting a bouquet to BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia at party election office at Kakrail in the city. Former deputy prime minister Jamaluddin Ahmed and BNP Joint Secretary General Abdullah Al Noman were also present, reports BSS.

## No ID card needed to cast vote

Voters will not require the voters' identity cards to cast votes in the coming elections, an Election Commission press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The press release said the President had postponed the operation of the act formulated earlier requiring the voters to cast vote with identity cards through promulgating an ordinance on April 25 last.

Now any person would be able to cast his vote in the elections only if his or her name is enlisted on the voters list of the respective areas, the press release added.

### Polling expenditure

The Election Commission yesterday also asked the contenders of the coming parliamentary polls to submit the description of possible sources of their polling expenditure

within seven days of the date set for withdrawal of candidature.

Following statements are to be made in the description:

1. The sources of personal income which would be expended for polling.

2. The amount of money to be provided by the relatives as debt, donation or voluntary subscription and the sources of income of the relatives concerned.

3. The amount of money to be provided by any other persons as debt or voluntary subscription.

4. The amount of money to be provided by any institution, political party or any organisation as voluntary subscription.

5. The possible amount of money to be provided by any other sources.

According to the Representation of Public Order,

1972, the contending candidates will have to submit the return of their annual income and expenditure in the prescribed form.

If the candidate is an income tax payer, he will have to submit a copy of the income tax return submitted last time along with the statement. A copy of this statement (to be submitted to the respective returning officers) will have to be sent by post to the Election Commission.

The EC warned that if any contender spends money from any sources other than mentioned in the descriptions, and violate the concerned by-laws of the Representation of Public Order, will be accused of corruption and liable to be sentenced for minimum two years and maximum seven years of rigorous imprisonment or together with fine.

## More EC bodies to check irregularities

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission (EC) has set up two more bodies in addition to the existing Electoral Enquiry Committee (EEC) to check the irregularities during the coming parliamentary elections, EC sources said.

A four-member Task Force and an Observation Committee were set up at the EC Secretariat and in the field level respectively, the sources said.

One or more observation committees will be set up in every district. After detecting irregularity the committees will immediately inform the EEC, set up at every district headquarters.

According to the EC sources, the EEC, in turn will conduct its investigation into the complaint. And after completion of the investigation, the EEC will submit its report to the Task Force, the sources said.

See Page 12 Col 8

## Interview concludes AL may announce list of candidates on Thursday

By Reaz Ahmad

Awami League is likely to announce on May 9 the names of 300 party candidates for the seventh parliamentary elections, according to party sources here.

The sources hinted yesterday that the AL Parliamentary Board which interviewed 1485 nomination seekers in the last two days was expected to finalise the list of nominees for all the 300 seats of the Jatiya Sangsad by May 8 and make it public on the following day.

The sources further told this correspondent that there was a strong possibility of announcement of the election manifesto of the party on the

same day.

Awami League yesterday completed interview of nomination seekers. A total of 863 aspirants from Chittagong, Sylhet and Dhaka divisions faced the AL Parliamentary Board yesterday.

Party chief Sheikh Hasina who heads the 11-member board, took the interviews at the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue till 11 pm last night.

There are 168 Jatiya Sangsad seats in 32 districts in Chittagong, Sylhet, and Dhaka divisions.

A total of 310 aspirants

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## HSC exams date may be shifted

By Staff Correspondent

The Higher Secondary Examinations (HSC) due to begin from June 6, is likely to be rescheduled, according to an authoritative source in the education ministry.

The new schedule will be decided today at a high-level meeting here with Prof. Shamul Haq, Adviser for Education, Youth and Sports in the chair which will be attended by the chairmen of all the five education boards in the country.

The examination date is being re-fixed taking into consideration the June 12 general elections, the source said. "The fresh date will be announced after consulting the people who organise it," he said.

When contacted chairman of Dhaka Board Prof. Moezuddin Ahmed said that the Adviser had called him for a meeting in which the date of HSC examinations would also be discussed.

This year, for the first time in the country, the HSC examinations will be held with uniform set of questions for all the five education boards, the source pointed out.

## BB advice to redeem matured govt bonds with interests

Bangladesh Bank has advised individuals and institutions, including banks, holding matured government bonds to place claims for redemption, reports UNB.

The central bank, in a press release yesterday, said the matured bonds should be submitted to the banks from which those had been purchased for redemption alongwith interest.

The advice came apparently following a report published in a national daily saying that the government was defaulting on payment of interests and principal of its bonds.

According to the daily, the government issued investment bonds worth Tk 1500 crore during 1993 and 1994 to draw domestic funds for some priority projects. Various commercial banks bought the lion's share of those bonds.

## BNP did a lot for people, says Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said there is no alternative to BNP to deliver service to the people and ensure development of the country, reports UNB.

Talking to newsmen at the party's Kakrail office, she hoped that her party 'will do better' in the coming election due to her government's success in achieving progress and prosperity of the country during its five-year rule.

The former Prime Minister said the people would reject those who resigned from the parliament without completing their full term. The people had elected them for five years, she said.

Begum Zia claimed that the BNP had done a lot for the welfare of the people against the politics of destruction and anarchy of different political parties.

Referring to the 170 days of hartal and non-cooperation movement by three political parties, she said, "We have earned the confidence of the people by carrying on the development works despite anarchy let loose by those parties across the country."

The BNP chairperson expressed her gratitude to the people for standing by her party in countering the 'conspiracy to destroy BNP.'

She called upon the people to rally round BNP which, she said, is the main platform of the nationalist forces.

## Hearing of Ershad's appeal today

The hearing of former President Hossain Mohammad Ershad's appeal against the judgement of special tribunal, Dhaka, in Janata Tower Case was adjourned till today before a High Court division bench, reports BSS.

Another appeal-hearing of Ershad against the judgement of Special Division Judge, Dhaka, in the corruption case was adjourned till July 5, 1996 before the same division bench.

Both the cases were adjourned on the prayer of H M Ershad's lawyers, senior Advocate Abdul Malek and senior advocate Khondker Mahbub Hossain.

Deputy Attorney General Amirul Kabir Chowdhury appeared for the state.

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## 258 more face BNP interview 13 lone applicants from Dhaka division

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP nomination board continued interviewing the aspirants for the party tickets in the June 12 parliamentary election for the second consecutive day yesterday.

On the day, 258 nomination seekers for 59 seats of 12 districts under the Dhaka division were interviewed. BNP office secretary Nazrul Islam Khan told journalists at the party's Kakrail election office in the city last night.

Those who faced the BNP nomination board yesterday included Abdus Salam Talukdar, Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf, Humayun Khan Panni, K M Obaidur Rahman, Shahjahan Siraj, Lutfar Rahman Khan, Abdul Karim, Jahanara Begum, Sirajul Haq, A B M Zahidul Haq and Mahmudul Hassan.

There were lone applicants

for the BNP nomination in 13 Jatiya Sangsad seats. The

applicants are: Abdus Salam Talukdar (Jamalpur-4), Sultanul Mahmud Babu (Jamalpur-2), Sirajul Haq (Jamalpur-5), Lutfar Rahman Khan (Tangail-3), Shahjahan Siraj (Tangail-4), Abdus Salam Pintu (Tangail-2), A B M Nazmul Huda (Mymensingh-3), Advocate Abdul Karim (Netrokona-1), Nurul Amin Talukdar (Netrokona-3), Lutfuzzaman Babar (Netrokona-4), Zahed Ali Choudhury (Sherpur-2), Nazrul Islam (Sherpur-1) and Mahmudul Haq (Sherpur-3).

Headed by BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, the party parliamentary board yesterday took interviews of party ticket aspirants from Tangail, Mymensingh, Netrokona, Ki-

See Page 12 Col 8

### Election manifesto

## Jamaat for Islamic democratic state

By Staff Correspondent

Jamaat-e-Islami, if voted to power, will amend the Constitution and declare Bangladesh an 'Islamic democratic welfare state' where the holy Quran will be the source of all laws, according to the party's election manifesto announced here yesterday.

"Imposition of the law of Quran does not mean that hands of thieves would be cut as is misunderstood by many people. We will impose the law in phases according to social acceptance," Jamaat Ameer Prof. Golam Azam said while announcing the manifesto at a press conference at the Al-Falah auditorium.

The manifesto outlined the party's Islamic economic system and its policies regarding farmers, women's rights and rights of non-Muslims.

The party's foreign policy, defence policy, education policy and steps for maintenance of law and order, political stability, and consolidating democracy were also outlined.

Golam Azam said that Jamaat did not believe in terrorism. "If voted to power, Jamaat will root out all types of terrorism and improve the quality of politics in the country."

The manifesto also reiterated Jamaat's old slogan about

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## WB study on reforming public sector Increased efficiency needed to get out of low growth trap

Star Report

The country needs to significantly improve the performance of its public sector to get out of the persisting low growth trap, observed a World Bank study on the functioning of the government.

"A quantum leap in efficiency and effectiveness of the government is needed if Bangladesh has to accelerate and sustain growth, reduce poverty, anticipate the opportunities and challenges of the future, and enable its enterprising citizens and private sector to realise their full potential and compete in a fiercely competitive global markets," said the recent WB study entitled 'Government that works: reforming the public sector'.

The study emphasised the importance of ensuring a transparent and open government, bringing about accountability in public sector agencies and streamlining laws and regulations to improve public sector efficiency.

It reiterated that the public sector's range of functioning should be restrained to core areas where others are not prominently active, because an overextended government can not be efficient.

Improving the level and nature of accountability and responsiveness of public sector agencies to citizens was also stressed.

"A government and public institutions accountable to their owners work better," the

WB study observed.

It also said the regulations, laws and processes through which the government interacts and regulates the citizens and private sector should be streamlined. The level of transparency, fairness and accountability of the legal and regulatory institutions, policies and practices, have a major bearing on the efficiency of the government.

The rules and processes by which the government conducts its policy and decision-making functionings should also be overhauled since sound policy formulation, its effective implementation and speedy and transparent decision-making are hallmarks of an efficient government, the study noted.

## Chechens down Russian plane

GROZNY, Russia, May 5: Chechen rebels shot down a Russian Su-25 warplane and kidnapped 11 Moscow-backed police officers while their leader today rejected President Boris Yeltsin's offer for peace talks, reports AP.

The jet fighter was brought down this morning during a reconnaissance mission near the eastern village of Maipurt, Defence Ministry officials told The Associated Press. Its pilot was reported killed.

According to Russian news

reports, it was the fifth Russian warplane shot down in Chechnya since the war there began in December 1994.

The rebels also appeared to intensify their attacks across the breakaway republic.

The Russian military command reported nearly 30 shooting attacks on its forces in Grozny, the ruined Chechen capital, and elsewhere in Chechnya since late Saturday.

In Grozny yesterday, rebels armed with automatic weapons attacked the Russian Interior

Ministry building, setting off a two-hour firefight in which they killed a Russian officer.

In a separate ambush, a Russian armoured personnel carrier exploded on a land mine planted on the outskirts of Grozny yesterday. No casualties were reported.

"A real cannonade that could be compared to the first days of the armed conflict in Grozny was heard in the Chechen capital throughout the night," the ITAR-Tass

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## 2 snatched from police custody

PIROJPUR, May 5: Armed miscreants snatched two wanted criminals from police custody soon after their arrest in Hularhat river port area in Sadar thana today, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided Hularhat Bazar and arrested Monir and Anwar at about 11 am.

Police and witnesses said a gang of about 25 miscreants intercepted the police van carrying the arrested to Sadar thana and took away the accused exploding bombs and beating the police with lethal weapons.

## Israel, PLO begin talks

TABA, Egypt, May 5: Israeli and Palestinian teams begin talks today to try to resolve issues that have bedeviled peace talks for nearly five years, including Jewish settlements and the future of Jerusalem, reports AP.

The opening session was expected to be largely symbolic, showing both sides are committed to start final status negotiations according to schedules set in their earlier agreements.

Still, talks on such contentious issues as whether a state of Palestine will exist beside Israel show how far the two sides have come since peace talks started in 1991. Before that Israel would not even talk to the PLO, let alone discuss a Palestinian state.

In essence, the questions to be settled have been fought over since Israel was established in 1948 and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were driven from their land.

## JP begins interview from today

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party (JP) starts conducting interviews of the intending candidates for the coming parliamentary elections at its Banani office in the city today according to party sources.

An eight-member parliamentary board of the party will start interviewing division-wise the aspiring candidates for the 300 parliamentary constituencies of the country, the sources added. The interview process will continued for four days.

On the first day of the interview today, the nomination seekers from Rajshahi are scheduled to face the nomination board, while on the next day the board meets aspirants from Khulna and Barisal, followed by the intending candidates from Chittagong and Sylhet the next day. On Thursday,

the board is scheduled to take interviews of the intending candidates from Dhaka division.

According to the party sources, over 3650 application forms were sold till yesterday the deadline for form distribution.

Over 750 applications were submitted seeking nomination. The party sources indicated that the party might enter into and election alliance in at least 20 constituencies with some smaller parties, sharing its election symbol 'plough'.

At the JP headquarters at Banani nomination seekers were seen crowding, while the party was also selling vests and T-shirts, with pictures of its party leader H M Ershad embossed on one side and its election symbol 'plough' printed on the other side.

## Storm hits Lalmonirhat, kills one, injures 20

LALMONIRHAT, May 5: One person was killed and 20 others were injured in a nor'wester that lashed the district on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Police said Altaf Hossain, 32, a day labourer, died when he came in touch with a live electric wire snapped at Mission Road in the town during the storm.

The storm hit Sadar, Kaliganj, Hatibandha, Patgram and Aditmari thanas at about 11

pm and lasted about half an hour.

Some 500 houses were damaged at Mouja Sakati village in Kaliganj thana which was affected most by the storm. Some 20 people were injured there.

Six of the injured were admitted to local health complex. A large number of electric poles and trees were uprooted and standing crops damaged in the storm.

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