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DSE MARKET

DSE price Index 848.56 (+0.47%)
Market capital Tk 5761.74 cr
Transactions in volume 305592
Transactions in value Tk 6.25 cr

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NEWS BRIEFS

Housewife found dead

By Staff Correspondent

A housewife was found dead at her Kathalbagan residence in the city late Sunday. Police recovered the body of Zinat Ara Ferdous alias Nayan, 27, at around 11pm and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

12 burnt alive in West Bengal

NEW DELHI, May 6: About 12 people were burnt to death and 17 others injured today when their bus caught fire in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal. The Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports AFP.

Divisional & dist level officials urged

Ensure fair voting without fear: CEC

representative government as expected by the people. "Go ahead ignoring any pressure and influence to ensure a peaceful atmosphere for holding the election in an impartial and neutral manner," he said.

The Election Commission is determined to hold the June 12 voting in a neutral manner. But it is you by whom the EC will operate all election activities throughout the country at field level.

Addressing a polls-preparatory workshop at the auditorium of the National Economic Council at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar here the CEC explained the importance of the coming election under the caretaker government and said all must put in their sincere endeavours to present the nation with a truly elected and

All divisional commissioners, additional inspector general

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Commentary

All that glitters is not gold

— some of it is defaulting bank loans

By Mahfuz Anam

Political parties, especially the two leading ones — AL and BNP — are now involved in a mad scramble to find suitable candidates to contest on their behalf. The only one criterion for suitability appears to be whether or not the candidate can deliver his or her seat to the party. If yes, then everything else — his past role in the liberation war, ideological orientation, past party affiliations, reputation, public image, etc. can be put aside. We are now witnessing politics of expediency at its vulgar worst, whose most tragic victim is likely to be the quality of politics in our country.

When dedicated party workers, at mid level, and sometimes even of the highest echelons, leaders see party

going on, is not put a stop to immediately. Otherwise, as in economics bad money drives out good money from the economy, so also bad politics will drive out good politics from our country, jeopardizing the fundamentals of our democratic process.

Everybody wants to win, especially political parties. But the question is, is at what cost? As it appears now, at any cost. And that is where we need to ring the alarm bells of reason, propriety, decency and honesty.

Most probably our warning will be most disdainfully brushed aside by the leading political parties — as all our views were over the last few years —, with the comment

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Election fever grips Chittagong AL-BNP close fight in most of 15 constituencies likely

From Nurul Alam

lobbying for party tickets, the sources informed.

In most of the 15 constituencies a close fight is likely, mainly between the candidates of Awami League and BNP as both the parties are learnt to have been developing individual strategies to win over the majority seats here.

In the 1991 election, BNP won in eight constituencies and AL in five while NDP in one and Jamaat-e-Islami in one out of the 15 seats.

This time crucial contests may be held in three constituencies in the city, including Chittagong-8 (Doublemoring), Chittagong-9 (Kotwali) and Chittagong-10 (Chandgaon-Boalkali). All three of these seats were being held by BNP

candidates. Outside the city, tough contests may be seen in Chittagong-1 (Mirsharai), Chittagong-4 (Fatikchhari), Chittagong-6 (Raozan), Chittagong-7 (Rangunia), Chittagong-11 (Patia), Chittagong-12 (Anwara) and Chittagong 15 (Banshkhali) according to political circles.

Meanwhile, Awami League leaders are reportedly planning to field presidium member Sajeda Chowdhury at Chittagong-5 (Hathazari) to challenge the BNP candidate who won the seat in 1991 polls. Chittagong-5 (Hathazari) is the home constituency of the AL leader's husband.

Besides, Awami League is

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Janata Tower case

HC rejects Ershad's appeal for bail

circumstances we do not like to consider the rule on merit. This is discharged.

The appellant's counsel submitted that Ershad had already served out 35 months of his sentence out of 63 months. The appellant is in jail custody since December 12, 1990 and he being an aged man of 67 years is entitled to be released on bail, he argued.

Deputy Attorney General Amirul Kabir Chowdhury with Assistant Attorney General Abdur Rouf opposed the bail prayer and submitted that the appeal filed by Ershad being a

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BSF kidnaps 2 Bangladeshis

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, May 6: The Border Security Force (BSF) of India kidnapped two Bangladeshis from near the 'No Man's Land' attached to the Sripur stone quarry in Gowainghat thana this morning.

Dhanu Miah, 15, a stone quarry labourer was collecting stones from near the zero line, adjacent to the border pillar number 1280.

The BSF men took him to the Indian territory forcibly.

They also kidnapped

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Rajuk Commercial Plot Auction Notice

Most ideally located Commercial-Cum-Residential Plot No. 9 and 11 of Sector No. 6, Shahjalal Avenue, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka measuring more or less 1194 sqm (17 katha 13 chatak 24 sft.) each will be allotted for 99 years lease on open auction.

Applications on prescribed form with terms and conditions to be obtained from Sonali Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk. 500/- (Five hundred) only in cash for each set (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates) from the intending bidders up to 2:00 PM on 20.5.96.

The auction will be held on 21.5.96 in the Conference Room 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10:00 AM.

Chairman
Rajdhani Unnayan
Kartripakha
DhakaDFF—9543-5/5
G-565

CPB announces 17-pt election manifesto

By Staff Correspondent

The Communist Party of

Bangladesh (CPB) released its election manifesto yesterday, pledging to repeal several constitutional amendments in order to restore the basic principles of the Constitution of 1972 which included democracy, secularism, nationality and socialism.

The 17-point CPB manifesto advocates for decentralisation of administration by empowering local governments, replacement of the open market economy with socialist economy, empowering women, strong control over law and order and checking corruption.

Jamaat will lead the coun-

try backwards, BNP and Jatiya Party are rightist reactionary political organisations. Awami League is also leaning towards the right by slipping away from the spirit of the liberation war.

CPB Secretary General Mujahidul Islam Selim said at a press conference at the party office in the city. Therefore, only the CPB and other leftist parties can ensure a true progressive change of the country.

He said "We appeal to the country's voters, where there is no leftist candidate, elect someone who believes in the spirit of the liberation war."

The press conference was also attended by CPB President Shahidullah Chowdhury, central leaders Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Dr. Dibalok Singh, Abdul Malek and others.

The manifesto stressed on restructuring of the rural economy so that no farmer can become landless. All agriculture inputs will be available to farmers at low cost. Various types of works will be available to the rural community.

The manifesto pledges to transfer the responsibility of monitoring and implementing development and administrative work to local governments instead of Parliament Members.

The CPB will also press for introducing a system where different political parties

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HSC exams now from June 30

By Staff Correspondent
The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations of 1996 will begin on June 30, according to an official handout issued in the city last night.

The examinations were earlier scheduled to start from June 6.

The decision was taken at a high level meeting presided over by the Adviser, Education, Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs ministries, Prof Md Shamsul Haq yesterday.

Education Secretary Abdul Haye, Additional Secretary Md Shahidul Alam, and other officials of the ministry attended the meeting.

The meeting also decided not to set up any examination centre outside the thana headquarters.

Imports rise by 7 pc

Imports rose by seven per cent in first eight months of the 1995-96 fiscal over the same period the previous year, according to figures released by Bangladesh Bank yesterday.

Letters of credit (L/Cs) worth Tk 17,835 crore were opened during the July-February period while the outstanding amount of L/Cs by end-February this year stood at Tk 9,887 crore.

Textile fabrics and accessories for readymade garments accounted for the highest import bills during the period. L/Cs worth Tk 4,165.12 crore were opened while the outstanding L/C amounts by end-February were Tk 2,202.13 crore.

L/Cs valued at Tk 1,603.08 crore were opened for machinery with L/Cs worth Tk 1,858.83 crore remaining outstanding by end-February. It was followed by rice for which L/Cs valued at Tk 1,523.03 crore were opened with L/Cs worth Tk 604.15 crore outstanding.

L/Cs were opened for petroleum products worth Tk 12,723.73 crore during the 8-month period with outstanding L/Cs valued at Tk 433.73 crore.

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JP interview begins

By Staff Correspondent
The Jatiya Party (JP) started interviewing nomination seekers for the 7th parliamentary elections at its Banani office in the city last night.

The eight-member JP parliamentary board headed by Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting chairman of the party, began interviewing the nomination seekers from Rajshahi Division at about 9.30 pm, two hours behind schedule. The interview was continuing till the end of the report late last night.

Over 400 aspiring candidates have sought nomination for 72 parliamentary seats in Rajshahi division, according to a JP sources.

The sources said that more than 1800 aspiring candidates have sought nominations for contesting in the 300 parliamentary constituencies in the country. The party had sold over 3650 application forms

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BTTB's digital line project

Fresh bonds worth Tk 294 cr may be issued for funding

Star Report

The government is likely to issue more bonds worth Tk 275 crore bonds in fiscal 1993-94 and Tk 335 crore bonds in fiscal 1994-95, all bearing an interest rate of five per cent, to partly finance the Tk 1281 crore BTTB project.

When asked about the rationale of floating new bonds at a time when payment on previous bonds are pending, a high official of the Post and Telecommunications Ministry said the financial institutions did not ask for interests on their purchased bonds in the first year, and in the second year, they did not ask for it in due time.

Bonds bearing 5 per cent interest, auctioned in March this year, had failed to evoke response from members of the public and financial institutions because of the upward trend in the call money rate, the sources said.

The official added that the banks should have asked for interests by April or May so that provision could be made

in the budget. The ministry of

fiscal further added that since the ministry did not receive any intimation in due time, it had not kept the provision and sought only Tk 225 crore under the ADP. However, he said there is no question of non-payment of interests as revised budget has addressed the issue.

The government had also floated Tk 275 crore bonds in fiscal 1993-94 and Tk 335 crore bonds in fiscal 1994-95, all bearing an interest rate of five per cent, to partly finance the Tk 1281 crore BTTB project.

When asked about the rationale of floating new bonds at a time when payment on previous bonds are pending, a high level meeting presided over by the Adviser, Education, Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs ministries, Prof Md Shamsul Haq yesterday.

Education Secretary Abdul Haye, Additional Secretary Md Shahidul Alam, and other officials of the ministry attended the meeting.

The examinations were earlier scheduled to start from June 6.

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