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Parliamentary
Democracy-II

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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 862.01 (+0.24%)
Market capital Tk 583.04 cr
Transactions in volume 90929
Transactions in value Tk 2.36 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 399.71 (+0.81%)
Market capital Tk 3342.35 cr
Transactions in volume 1605
Transactions in value Tk 13.09 lakhs

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Lazy, Hazy, Crazy
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NEWS BRIEFS

Ex-MP expelled
from BNP

The Bangladesh Nationalist
Party (BNP) has expelled Alam
Khan, a former MP from
Chandpur, for contesting the
coming election against the
BNP candidate violating the
party decision. Khan has been
expelled with immediate effect,
a brief party announcement
said yesterday, reports
UNB.

June 12 declared
public holiday

The government has declared June 12 as a public
holiday on the occasion of the
national election, an official
announcement said last night.
The day has been declared a
holiday to enable the officers
and employees of the government,
semi-government and
autonomous bodies and private
offices, other establishments
and organisations to cast their
votes in their respective areas,
reports BSS.

68 more firearms
recovered

Police recovered 68 illegal
firearms and arrested 12 people
for possessing unauthorised
arms and ammunition from
across the country in 24
hours till 8 am yesterday. The
recovered arms were: two
rifles, two sawed off rifles, six
revolvers, three pistols, 45
pipe guns, five single barrel
guns and five light guns.

Khaleda visits
injured people

MYMENSINGH, June 2.
BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today visited the
Mymensingh Medical College Hospital to see the people injured in Saturday's tragic incident. UNB.

The Daily Star

DHAKA MONDAY, JUNE 3 1996

MOHARRAM 15, 1417 HIJRI



Squally winds accompanied by thunder shower disrupted life in the city yesterday afternoon.

— Star photo

Positions in local bodies promised Most AL 'dissidents' tamed, party leaders think

By Reaz Ahmad

Awami League managed to restrain most of the 'dissidents' in the party from contesting the June 12 parliamentary elections, party sources said.

Though 26 'dedicated' local-level leaders of the AL had initially thrown challenge to the party nominees in some constituencies, most of them later withdrew from the race as independent candidates to throw their weight behind the party candidates, they pointed out.

The sources, however, could not confirm how many of the 'dissidents' who posed a threat to the party nominees finally withdrew their candidature.

AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman recently warned the dissidents of organisational action if they violated party disciplines.

A senior party leader told The Daily Star that party chief Sheikh Hasina's assurance of honouring the dedicated leaders in local body

elections worked magically.

Hasina had said on some occasions that, if voted to power, her party would decentralise the administration and have elected local bodies at union, thana and district levels in which many dedicated party leaders could get leadership positions.

AL publicity Secretary Mozaffar Hossain Paltu and Assistant Law secretary Advocate Sahabt Khutun, who were defeated in the 1991 polls, did not get party tickets this time.

But both of them are now passing busy time accompanying the party president in her election campaign tours.

A few, the names of whom may be found in the list of independent candidates, are also convinced by now that they should work unitedly for the party candidates in their respective constituencies. But expiry of the limit for withdrawal of candidature prevented them from formally announcing their staying away from the fight against party candidates, said an AL presi-

dent member.

Referring to Zillur Rahman's recent warning to the dissidents, a senior party leader said, "The way things are coming gradually under our control, I hope there will be no need to take any disciplinary action."

In the 1991 parliamentary

polls, many veteran local-level

AL leaders were enraged by

the party leadership's decision

of sharing the party symbol

boat with some left-leaning

parties in over 30 seats. This

time any such possibility was

ruled out, party insiders

pointed out.

One insider, however, said,

"It is now evident from the current scenario in various constituencies that even if no dissidents throw direct challenge to party nominees, some of them may refrain from giving their support to them."

In at least one seat in the capital and one in Madaripur, some deprived persons were not yet supporting the party candidates, he added.

Witnesses said Ramzan Ali, 60, and his daughter Mamata, 22 of village Bhatpuri in Sadar thana died on the spot when their house collapsed during the storm.

Ten of the injured were rushed to the Sadar Hospital.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reports: Three motor

launches and at least 15

engine boats capsized at Sirajganj Ghat when the nor-west

lashed the area at around noon.

ML Ashura capsized with about 130 passengers on board

while on the way to Bhulipur

that only 20 yards away from

the paltan. All passengers were

rescued. The other two

launches - M L Bullet and

Rafidut - capsized while they

were anchored at the paltan.

Fifteen engine boats capsize

d at the midstream while

they were coming from Bhanpur Ghat. Two of the boats were carrying cattle.

Some passengers said, they

had seen 20 dead cattle float-

ing near a char.

BSS from Bogra adds: At

least five persons were injured

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Khaleda's fresh package of welfare programme

Braving inclement weather

and heavy rains, tens of thou-

sands of cheering farmers

elders, women, teachers

workers, youths and students

poured into the meeting

places and way-side gather-

ings, carrying sheaf of paddy

the election symbol of BNP.

Describing the sheaf of

paddy as the symbol of 'rahmat,

barkat, blessings of the

Almighty Allah, peace, bumper

crops, and sovereignty, Begum

Zia said by voting for her party

symbol in 1991, the farmers

had produced bumper crops

after receiving various incen-

tives, commonman easily

availed of the credits for em-

ployment generating ventures.

The poor received food for ed-

ucation and girls had tuition-

free education and stipend

upto class ten.

The BNP chairperson was

addressing a series of huge

public meetings and way-side

gatherings in different con-

stituencies of Netrokona,

Mymensingh, Brahmanbaria

and Habiganj on the first day of

her three-day marathon elec-

tion tour.

The former prime minister

regretted that if her govern-

ment had declared June 12 as

a public holiday, the people

would have been able to

participate in the election

process.

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AL manifesto aims at down-trodden: Hasina

COMILLA, June 2: Awami League president Sheikh Hasina today urged the people

to give their verdict in favour of the Awami League to enable it to establish a society free

from poverty, illiteracy, cor-

ruption and terrorism, reports UNB.

She was addressing a big

public meeting at Town Hall

premises here this afternoon.

If voted to power, Awami

League will behave like ser-

vants of people and not their

masters, Sheikh Hasina ob-

served.

She told the crowd that

people voted for Awami League

in 1970 to bring independ-

ence. "Now vote for Awami

League to safeguard and con-

solidate our national indepen-

dence and sovereignty," she

said.

Referring to the 21-point

election manifesto of her

party, she said it contained a

ray of hope for the exploited,

neglected and the down-trodden

people.

Underlying the spirit and

values of the liberation war,

Sheikh Hasina stated that her</p