

**Sobinaye jante
Chai : JP today**
Sobinaye Jante Chai, the BTV special election programme, will feature Jatiya Party today represented by Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Barrister Moudud Ahmed and Anwar Hussain Manju. The panel of questioners will be Mahfuz Anam, Abed Khan and Dr Ataur Rahman.

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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	890.50 (+0.02%)
Market capital Tk	9978.03 cr
Transactions in volume	141107
Transactions in value Tk	2.81 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	294.47 (+0.09%)
Market capital Tk	5298.53 cr
Transactions in volume	23755
Transactions in value Tk	2.81 bdkh

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NEWS BRIEFS

C'wealth team meets CA

A 14-member delegation of Commonwealth election observers led by Tansir Md. Gosali Shafie called on Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman at his office yesterday. The Chief Adviser said, their presence is a good sign and would help the election process. He assured them of all possible cooperation, reports BSS.

CA visits Ministry of Information

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman visited the Information Ministry at the Secretariat yesterday. During the visit, Information Secretary Kazi Raquibuddin Ahmed and other senior officials apprised the Chief Adviser of various development programmes of the Ministry, reports UNB.

EC warns 16 more for violating COC

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday issued warnings to 14 candidates and two leaders of the four major political parties for violation of the election code of conduct (COC).
The warnings were issued on the basis of recommendations of the district electoral committees.
The EC had earlier accepted the recommendations of the enquiry committees against the candidates and the leaders for violating different clauses and sub-clauses of the COC, said an EC press release.
With these 16, the total number of candidates and political leaders receiving warnings from the EC rose to 100.
Of those warned yesterday, nine belong to BNP, three to the Awami League, two to

Jatiya Party (JP) and two to Jamaat-e-Islami.
They are: ASM Hannan Shah (Gazipur-4), Mosharruf Hossain Shajahan (Bhola-1), Hafizuddin Ibrahim (Bhola-2), Major (rttd) Hafizuddin Ahmed (Bhola-3), Nazimuddin Alam (Bhola-4), ASM Mostafizur Rahman (Bagerhat-2), Jahan Ara Begum (Rajbari-1) and Khairul Mia (Laxmipur-3) of BNP, Dr HBM Iqbal (Dhaka-10), Mir Sakawat Ali (Bagerhat-2) and AKM Shajahan (Laxmipur-3) of Awami League, Alhaj Ismail Hossain Bengal (Dhaka-10) and Maulana MA Mannan (Chandpur-6) of Jatiya Party and M Nasruddin (Naogaon-4) of Jamaat-e-Islami.
The two leaders who were given warning are Nurul Amin alias Ruhul Amin of Jamaat in Pirojpur and Nizamuddin of

BNP in Bhola district.
The violations included use of coloured posters and loud speakers beyond the specified time, wall writings and bringing out truck and bus processions. The EC asked the candidates to refrain from further violation of the code of conduct.
UNB adds: The EC Wednesday asked AL candidate for Dhaka-10 Dr HBM Iqbal to withdraw all multi-colour posters under exhibition-2 series immediately.
It directed the BNP candidate for Rajbari-1, Jahan Ara Begum, to remove all wall writings within three days.
The EC also asked Ismail Hossain Bengal (Dhaka-10) of JP, Khairul Mia (Laxmipur-3) of BNP and AKM Shajahan of BNP and AKM Shahjahan



Ballot papers for the June 12 elections being sent to districts from the BG Press in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Sending of ballot papers begins

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday started despatching ballot papers to different districts of the country.
On the first day yesterday ballot papers were sent to 29 districts. The Returning Officers had sent trucks to Dhaka with police escorts to carry the ballot papers directly from the BG Press, sources at the EC said.
The EC, in its three-phase plan, is expected to send ballot papers to 26 more districts today. The remaining nine districts, including Dhaka, would be covered tomorrow.

Over 4 lakh forces to be deployed during election

More than four lakh members of police, BDR, Ansars and armed forces will be deployed to maintain peace and discipline for holding the coming Jatiya Sangsad election fairly and peacefully, reports BSS.
This was stated yesterday at the coordination meeting of the law enforcing agencies concerned with the election, according to an official hand-out.
Presided over by Home Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, the meeting laid utmost priority to coordination among the law-enforcing agencies entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining law and order during the election. The meeting was informed that the programme for deployment of police, BDR and Ansars at the field level has been finished.
Director General of Ansars and VDP Major General Anwarul Kabir Talukder, Inspector General of Police Azizul Huq, Director of Armed Forces Division Brigadier Alam Fazlur Rahman, representatives of army, navy, air force, BDR, coast guard and senior officials of the Home Ministry were present at the meeting.

One killed, 8 hurt in Sandwip clash

CHITTAGONG, June 5: One woman was killed and eight others were injured when some miscreants attacked and fired on inmates of some houses at Inatishpur union of Sandwip thana this morning, reports BSS.
According to district police, the clash erupted when a group of Awami League supporters, stormed the Zia Smriti Sangsad office last night and dropped the name plate of the office.
In protest against the incident, a group of armed miscreants numbering 40 to 45 attacked several houses of Awami League supporters and later fired on them. As a result seven persons, including two women sustained bullet injuries. Of them Rasheda Begum, 87, succumbed to her injuries at local health complex in the afternoon while the other Abdul Karim was admitted to Chittagang Medical College Hospital with critical condition, the sources said.
Abdul Baten, Abdul Mannan, Ashia Begum, Kazi Arif and Saiful Alam are undergoing treatment at local health complex.

Shahabuddin murder: Four sent to jail

Four of the five persons arrested in connection with the murder of city Awami League leader and ward commissioner ASM Shahabuddin were sent to jail yesterday.
Police, however, continued to interrogate Salmuddin alias Saitu, one of the 10 accused in the FIR. Saitu was placed on a fresh two day's remand Tuesday.
Police said that the four arrested persons — Faisal Ahmed, Kamruzzaman Titu, Anwar Hossain Khokon and Dalimuddin Mridha — were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday morning.
Police was yet to ascertain the motive behind the killing of Shahabuddin who was gunned down by a gang of youngmen near his residence at West Agargaon Friday afternoon.

One murdered in Mirpur

One young man was murdered at Mirpur in the city last night.
The victim identified Shahid 20, was found lying at Nadim Ali Mazar road with the tendons of his hands and legs cut, said sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).
Some passersby took Nadim to the DMCH where doctors declared him dead.
According to police, Nadim was fatally injured during a clash between two groups of terrorists at around 9 pm.

C'wealth observers to send report to parties

Leader of the Commonwealth Observer Group to Bangladesh said in Dhaka yesterday that his delegation would assist in whatever ways we can in supporting the electoral and constitutional process in the country, reports UNB.
Former Malaysian Foreign Minister Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, as Chairman of the group, is leading the 12-member Commonwealth team, which arrived on Tuesday at the invitation of the government, to observe the proceedings of the June 12 election.
The group's objective is to observe the organisation and conduct of the election in accordance with the laws of Bangladesh and to form impartial judgement based on our observations," Shafie told a press conference at a local hotel yesterday morning.
Responding to a query, he said: "We'll neither supervise

Fair polls must for political stability: Solarz

A former US Congressman described the upcoming elections in Bangladesh as "one of the most important, if not the most important elections in the history of the country" and predicted that "if Bangladesh can achieve a relative amount of political stability, then it can maximise its efforts in stabilising other parts of its infrastructure," reports BSS.
According to Stephen J. Solarz, former chairman of the House Sub-committee on Pacific and Asian Affairs, "free and fair elections are necessary to establish political stability in the country and for that matter in the region," said a USIS news report, released in Dhaka yesterday.
Solarz will co-chair a National Democratic Institute delegation of Observers to monitor the upcoming elections in Bangladesh.
Speaking to reporters at the foreign press centre in

Prisoners may be freed from today

Release of prisoners under a government remission of sentences for certain categories of prisoners is expected to start from today, according to highly placed official sources.
Meanwhile, several boards comprising the deputy commissioners, civil surgeons, DIGs of prisons and the jail superintendents all over the country started enlisting the names of prisoners to be given benefit under the remission of sentences.
The Daily Star had reported earlier that invoking the Section 401 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) the government has decided to give remission of sentences to some category of prisoners to be effected from March 31 last, the day the caretaker government started functioning.

June 10 public meetings Enquiry report sent to CA for disposal

The Election Commission (EC) has finally sent to the Chief Adviser the report of an enquiry committee after it apparently failed to determine which party had first sought permission for holding a public meeting at the Manik Mia Avenue on June 10.
As many as 49 days have elapsed since the two major parties — the Awami League and the BNP — have been trying to secure permission to hold their last public meeting ahead of the June 12 polls.
Both the parties immediately after the polls date announced on April 27, had declared the time and venue of their last projection meeting.
A ban on all election campaigns, as per law, 48 hours before the polls date comes into effect.
Official sources indicated that neither AL nor BNP is likely to get permission for holding public meeting on their desired venue on the June 10. Both the parties may be advised to arrange their rallies at other venues they added.
The Electoral Enquiry Committee, in its report submitted to the EC on May 31, said that it received no documentary proof to determine which party had first sought permission for the rally.
The committee, comprising sub-judge Nurul Islam and senior judge Atiqur Rahman of Dhaka earlier heard the representatives of the DCC, the DMP, the AL, the BNP and the Tejgaon, Mohammadpur and Dhanmendi thanas following an AL complaint lodged with the EC.



Leader of the Commonwealth election observer team Tansir Dr Md. Gosali Shafie addressing a press conference at a city hotel yesterday. — Star photo

Guidelines for polls observers

The Election Commission has released the guidelines for observers with basic facts of the June 12 parliamentary election, reports UNB.
The facts are:
Total constituencies: 300, total returning officers: 67, total assistant returning officers: 506, total voters: 56.7 million, total male voters: 28.7 million, total female voters: 27.9 million, total polling stations: 25,957, total polling booths: 1,14,749, total presiding officers: 25,957, total assistant presiding officers: 1,14,749, total polling officers: 2,29,498, total polling officials: 3,70,204, total contesting political parties: 81, total available symbols: 138, total contesting candidates: 2574, total female candidates: 36 (constituencies 48) Polling day: June 12, 1996. Polling time (without break): 8 am to 4 pm.

Salman granted leave to appeal against HC order

The Appellate Division granted Salman F Rahman leave to appeal against the High Court judgement and rejected Dr Kamal Hossain's prayer for disposal of the appeal before the June 12 parliamentary election.
The full bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court presided over by Chief Justice Abu Taher Mohammad Afzal also rejected another prayer Dr Kamal's for stay of the election process in the Dhaka-9 Jatiya Sangsad constituency till disposal of the appeal.
The highest judiciary of the country further rejected Dr

AL to serve people, not party interest: Hasina

RAMSHEEL (Gopalganj), June 5: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today said the ousted BNP government had degraded Bangladesh as a nation of beggars and feared the economy would be ruined if the party is voted back to power, reports UNB.
Addressing a number of public meetings and wayside rallies in four southern districts, she said some 5,000 industries had been closed down while dozens of farmers and workers killed during the five-year rule of the BNP.
"They are telling now a tale of development, but in reality, the country has become a market of Indian goods," she said urging people to vote for the Awami League to make the country self-reliant and free it from the vicious cycle of poverty.
Hasina, who is contesting the next election for Kotailpara-Tungipara seat, said the Awami League would ensure balanced development of

Memo to EC AL observes Anti-Terrorism Day

The Awami League observed Anti-Terrorism Day yesterday through rallies and demonstration across the country demanding the arrest of terrorists to ensure fair polls, reports UNB.
In the capital city, it brought out a procession, held a rally and submitted a memorandum to the Election Commission demanding effective measures to curb terrorism.
The AL procession started from the party office at Agargaon of Ward No 41 and ended at Islamia Eye Hospital crossing through an anti-terrorism rally.
Addressing the rally, Awami League leader SAMS Kibria accused the BNP of resorting to the politics of killing and conspiracy and of unleashing terrorist activities for last five years.
He said the country was heading towards ruination due

SC rejects Mayeedul's petition

Former president HM Ershad finally stands qualified to contest the June 12 parliamentary election as the Appellate Division yesterday rejected AKM Mayeedul Islam's petition for leave to appeal against the order of the High Court Division.
The division bench of the HC comprising Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Md Fazul Huq by an order dated May 19 summarily rejected Mayeedul's writ petition filed on the ground that Ershad is disqualified to be elected a member of the parliament as he is a convict.
Against the order of the HC Mayeedul, former minister in Ershad government, now his rival candidate, a BNP nominee in the Kurigram-3 Jatiya Sangsad constituency, preferred the petition for leave to appeal before the Appellate Division.
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BNP foiled plot against democracy: Khaleda

SIRAJGANJ, June 5: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today said her party had foiled conspiracy to destroy the democracy and kept the democratic process going in the country, reports UNB.
"BNP introduced both multi-party system and parliamentary democracy in the country," she said while addressing a number of public meetings in Dhaka, Manikganj, Pabna and Sirajganj districts on way of her North Bengal tour.
She criticised her political opponents, saying that they have no relation with the people. "Only BNP remained beside the people in their time of hardship," she added.
Begum Zia urged them to vote for sheaf of paddy and termed it the symbol of multi-party democracy and protection of country's independence and sovereignty.
"Help BNP in protecting the country's independence and sovereignty and continue the trend of development across the country," she urged.
The BNP chief said the country and the people would be affected seriously and development endeavours be disrupted if her party did not return to power.
The former Prime Minister said many people were now moving door to door to buy votes. But money will not work because they come to common men only when there is election.
Begum Zia today addressed meetings at Dhamrai in Dhaka, Sadar and Baniajuri in Manikganj district and Nagarbari ghat, Chinakhora and Bera in Pabna district, Ullapara, Shahjadpur, and Sadar in Sirajganj district.
She introduced party candidates Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan (Dhaka-13), Advocate Nizam Uddin Khan (Manikganj-3), Khandakar Delwar Hossain (Manikganj-1), A K M Selim Reza Habib

Export earning to cross target despite unrest, says govt

The government yesterday dispelled apprehensions about shortfall in export earnings this fiscal year and forecast that the earnings would instead exceed the target despite the adversities caused by the recent political unrest, reports UNB.
The Ministry of Commerce, at the 28th meeting of the Export Promotion Council (EPC) disclosed that the export earning during July '95-April '96 stood at 3,166 million US dollars.
The earnings marked an increase by 9 per cent over the figures of the corresponding months of the last fiscal year.

After a slowdown in the troubled months of February and March, monthly export earnings climbed to 336 million dollars in April. The Ministry expressed the hope that export earnings would exceed the annual target of 3,800 million dollars if the trend in April continued in May and June.
Adviser for the Ministries of Commerce, Jute, Industries and Textiles Shegufa Bakht Chowdhury, who presided over the EPC meeting, attributed the success to efforts by the private sector.
He advised the exporters to be more dynamic and innovative to face the challenge in the post-Uruguay Round global trade regime. He also stressed the need for better coordination among ministries to boost exports.
Different chambers and trade associations put forward a total of 51 proposals for consideration of the Council.
Both the government side and the private sector expressed concern at the trend of raising non-tariff barriers by the developed countries to developing countries' exports.
EPB Vice-Chairman Anisul Huq Chowdhury cautioned the exporters about growing

threats of non-tariff barriers against some of the country's major items, including shrimp, readymade garments and leather.
Commerce Secretary A H Mofazzel Karim advised exporters, specially the people in the shrimp sector, to do away with unholy practices which could jeopardise the market.
According to an analysis of the export performance this year, readymade garments, knitwear, raw jute, jute and chemical products fared better than last year. On the contrary, earnings from frozen foods, leather and jute goods dropped in spite of rise in their

international prices.
Our Staff Correspondent adds: FBCCI Vice-President Rashiduzzaman Duda, Metropolitan Chamber President Samson H Chowdhury, Dhaka Chamber President Ali Hossain were among the private-sector leaders who spoke at the meeting.
FBCCI Vice-President suggested for making export income tax-free.
In a written paper, the MCCI president suggested for taking measures to fall the 20 per cent counter-veiling duty imposed by India on Bangladeshi exports, in violation of the SAPTA.

The BGMEA demanded waiving of pre-determined value addition rate from non-quota ready-made garments items or fixation of the highest ceiling of value addition at 10 per cent.
Bangladesh Jute Association demanded implementation of the government directives to waive interests on the 'due loans' of raw jute exporters and withdrawal of the system of 'tax-at-source'.
Senior officials of some ministries and departments including foreign secretary Faruque Sobhan attended the meeting.