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DSE MARKET

DSE price index: 893.89 (+0.85%)
Market capital Tk: 6088.43 cr
Transactions in volume: 195878
Transactions in value Tk: 3.91 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index: 395.06 (+0.09%)
Market capital Tk: 2303.50 cr
Transactions in volume: 1480
Transactions in value Tk: 17.54 lakh

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NEWS BRIEFS**IU summer vacation**

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, June 8: All offices and classes of the Islamic University will remain closed from today for summer vacation. A press release of the University said, the offices will reopen on June 17, while classes will resume on June 25.

Tk 6cr equipment for ZIA rotting under open sky

By Inam Ahmed

A costly equipment. Disabled Aircraft Recovery System (DARS), procured under a British commodity aid and put into operation at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) in 1991, has been lying unserviceable due to utter negligence of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for more than three years now.

The British government had offered a grant in 1994 for servicing of the DARS at a cost of about two lakh pounds which would be totally free and would not require any counterpart fund from the CAA.

But the CAA has been dragging its feet over the issue for the last three years, according to sources concerned.

The DARS, costing about Taka six crore including duties was supposed to be kept in a hanger and routinely maintained as per the manufacturer's manual. But it was left under the open sky to rot and

as a result, some of its vital parts became unusable. The condition of the DARS was revealed to the authorities when a DC-10 aircraft of Biman broke its nose-wheel in May, 1993 during a troubled landing and overshoot the runway by half a mile into the soft ground.

The remnant serviceable parts of the DARS package namely the pneumatic elevator were used successfully in conjunction with army vehicles to tow the aircraft to a hanger for repair. The salvage operation took about seven days. But it would be a few hours work had the full DARS package of equipment been operative, the sources said.

Knowing the condition of the DARS, the British government had reminded the CAA that the onus of remedial action to bring the DARS back to full serviceable condition

rested on the CAA and enquired as to what remedial actions it intended to take to make the equipment fully serviceable.

On May 26, 1993, The British High Commission first wrote to the Chairman of the CAA expressing its concern over the state of the DARS and said, "It would be useful if you could confirm that any further equipment which may be supplied to CAA under UK commodity aid will be properly maintained to ensure it will be available when needed."

But the CAA and sat on it for a long period. After waiting for more than 17 months, and finding that the CAA was not taking any corrective actions, the British High Commission sent a second letter to the Chairman of the CAA on October 27, 1994.

The letter said, "It would See Page 12 Col 4



A delegation of South Asian Non-Government Election Observers' team called on Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman at International Conference Centre yesterday. —PTD photo

CEC tells The Daily Star Any irregularity will be severely dealt with

By Morshed Ali Khan

The Election Commission (EC) would not hesitate to stop polling in any centre, the moment any report of irregularity reaches it, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Mohammad Abu Hena has said.

The EC will deal severely with any kind of irregularity during the polls and shut down any polling centre having reports of violence, rigging, overpowering or any kind of irregularity, the CEC asserted in an interview with The Daily Star on Friday at his office.

The Returning Officers and other officials have been empowered to do so in case of irregularity, he said.

The CEC also disclosed that to facilitate fast communica- See Page 12 Col 1



CEC Abu Hena making a point during the interview.

'People crossing border under normal rules'

Bangladesh Rifles has been performing its duty constantly along the border so that none can enter Bangladesh illegally and the government is determined to resist any kind of illegal activity along the border, reports BSS.

This was stated in an official handout issued here last night to present an actual picture following publication of reports in a section of the press, on illegal entry of people from across the border to 'avoid any confusion, excitement and unnecessary debate just before the election.'

The handout said attention of the government has been drawn to a news item which appeared in a daily newspaper on June 7 stating that 'thousands of fake voters have been crossing into Bangladesh from India through border routes.' Some other daily newspapers have also published reports on infiltration of voters from India, it said.

The handout said people were travelling through border See Page 12 Col 3

9 Japanese observers due tomorrow

An election monitoring team of Parliamentarians League for Japan-Bangladesh Friendship will be on a 6-day visit to Bangladesh from Monday to observe the Wednesday's general election, reports UNB.

The nine-member team is headed by Shin Sakurai, member of the House of Representatives, Deputy Secretary-General of the Liberal Democratic Party, and vice-president of the Parliamentarians League, said a Japanese embassy press release yesterday.

Other members of the team are: Enju Tsukada (New Frontiers Party), Katsuyou Ogata, Tetsuo Kitamura and Makoto Teneda (Social Democratic Party), Susumu Hasumi (Liberal Democratic Party), Keisuke Ito (Secretary General, PLJBF), Kenji Okada and Yoshiharu Araki (MOFA). See Page 12 Col 3

Rallies at Manik Mia Avenue banned

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has banned all sorts of rallies, processions and demonstrations at the city's Manik Mia Avenue and other major roads in the area today and tomorrow.

The ban was imposed anticipating outbreak of trouble at the Manik Mia Avenue, Parjatan Crossing and Bijoy Smarani areas where some political parties had called public meetings on June 10, said a DMP press release issued last night.

The ban followed a decision by the caretaker government not to allow any of the parties which had earlier applied for permission to hold public meetings at Manik Mia Avenue on June 10, the last day for campaigning for the June 12

general election, official sources told The Daily Star last night.

Earlier, the Election Commission sent to the Chief Adviser the report by the Electoral Enquiry Committee that failed to determine which party was the first to apply for permission to hold rally at the Manik Mia Avenue on June 10.

Both the Awami League and the BNP had earlier applied to the Dhaka City Corporation for permission to hold rallies at Manik Mia Avenue on June 10.

Meanwhile, the Awami Secchihaaseok League had also called for a public rally at the Manik Mia Avenue on June 9.

The ban also covers the areas from the west end of See Page 12 Col 4

JCD worker killed in Bhola clash

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 8: An activist of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was killed in a clash between BNP workers and police in Bhola today. The clash that took place in front of the Press Club followed the arrest of two BNP leaders.

Witnesses said, police arrested JCD leader Abdul Kader Selim and Raisul Alam, joint convener of BNP sadar thana of Bhola, on Friday night. They are wanted in connection with two cases, police said.

In protest against the arrests, the BNP brought out a procession yesterday morning.

While going to the office of the Bhola Superintendent of Police, angry protesters attacked and ransacked the office near Bangla School. At one stage the protesters were locked in a clash with police in front of the Bhola Press Club. See Page 12 Col 3

Re-elect BNP, or country and people will suffer : Khaleda

RAJSHAHI, June 8: BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today said if her party is not voted back to power, it is not the party but the country and its people would suffer a lot in the days ahead, reports UNB.

She cautioned the electorate not to make any mistake in casting their valuable votes and called for the people to reject the 'anti-people politics' in Wednesday's parliamentary election.

"Your vote in wrong place could result in a great loss to the country, inflicting limitless suffering on the people," the former prime minister told a huge public meeting at the Sahabazar crossing in the city in the afternoon.

Observing that throwing bombs or setting fire to vehicles or shop are not politics, Begum Zia said the real politics is to serve the nation and develop the country, sinking

party interests. "You should not vote for any party which will not do anything good for you," she said and urged the people to vote for 'sheaf of paddy,' the election symbol of her party which is committed to eradicating people's miseries.

Alleging that some political parties are using money to have vote, Begum Zia said, "we have no money to spend beyond the limit fixed by the Election Commission for election purpose."

Launching blistering attacks on her political opponents, the BNP chairperson said they wanted to capture power by any means only because they want to renew the 25-year slavery treaty, which enchained the nation.

Continuing her tirade against AL-JP-Jamaat, she said: "Those who were engaged in the politics of hanged, non-cooperation, anarchy and arson are not patriots. They cannot be the real friends of people.

Begum Zia observed the people, who tolerated a lot, did not throw any bombs as they did not want anarchy. "Ballot is the bomb of the people. Use this bomb on June 12 to uproot them from politics," she said.

Without naming any party, she alleged that they are now working according to the advice of a particular country. BNP did not run the country on anybody's instruction, but according to the Constitution, she said.

See Page 12 col 8

Ershad may not be able to cast vote

Star Report

Jailed Jatiya Party (JP) chief H M Ershad might lose opportunity to cast his vote in the ensuing general elections due to delay in applying for postal ballot, according to official sources.

Prisoners are allowed to cast their votes from jail through postal ballots, for which the voter has to apply to the Returning Officer (RO). See Page 12 Col 1

Radio's 69-hr programme

Radio Bangladesh will broadcast a nonstop 69-hour service from 6 am on June 12 to 3 am on June 14 to cover general election and announce its results, reports UNB.

Its all regional stations will relay the election programme from 8 pm on June 12 upto the end of the special broadcast.

Special bulletin on the election results will be broadcast every one hour and flash bulletins also be arranged from the special studio set up at the See Page 12 Col 3

895 prisoners freed so far

A total of 895 prisoners were released till yesterday and a few hundred are likely to be freed soon, under the government-announced remission of sentences, according to highly placed official sources.

Remission of sentences for certain categories of prisoners was announced recently, with effect from March 31.

With a capacity of over 20,000, the jails in the country presently has some 40,000 prisoners said an official.

A day-long visit to Dhaka-II Electioneering at its peak

By Reaz Ahmad

Hectic electioneering is on in the city's Dhaka-II constituency (Mirpur and Pallabi) with only one day left for candidates to seek votes as the campaigning ends at tomorrow midnight.

As many as 19 candidates including two female and three independent candidates are contesting the June 12 parliamentary polls from this seat.

During a visit to the constituency, one of the eight in the capital, this correspondent came across a number of campaign teams engaged in door-to-door electioneering.

Talking to The Daily Star, a group of five female political activists, campaigning in favour of a major party's nominee in Pallabi area, said that they were also making their best efforts to remove misunderstanding among many female voters who according to them,

were being misled by rival parties propagandists. Kamal Ahmed Majumder of Awami League and Md Ekhlash Uddin Molla of BNP are seen as tough challengers to each other. The Jatiya Party nominee Md Taibur Rahman and Jamaat Islami's Khandaker Abdul Mannan are also considered as strong contenders.

A businessman in Mirpur Section-11 told this correspondent he thought that there would be neck and neck fight between the BNP and AL candidates.

Supporters of both Kamal Majumder and Ekhlash Molla, sitting in two election camps, claimed that the situation was in their favour. Ekhlash Molla's father Md Harun Rashid Molla was elected on BNP ticket in the 1991 elections from the same

constituency. He had defeated AL candidate Dr Kamal Hossain (now chief, Gono Forum).

Later, in the by-election in the seat following Harun Molla's death, BNP candidate Sayed Md Mohsin defeated AL nominee Kamal Ahmed Majumder.

The by-election, however, sparked off controversy and opposition allegations of unfair polls.

Local people said the polls campaign has evoked much enthusiasm in the area and the situation was peaceful till now.

Rival candidates, however, pasted some posters on the walls highlighting weaknesses of opponents. One such poster depicted 'misrule' of the AL government after the independence and another showed repression on women during the last five years of BNP rule.

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