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DSE MARKET
DSE price index 934.94 (+0.48%)
Market capital Tk 6348.28 cr
Transactions in volume 231572
Transactions in value Tk 5.68 cr

CSE MARKET
CSE price index 4923.7 (+1.14%)
Market capital Tk 3374.49 cr
Transactions in volume 6580
Transactions in value Tk 26.50 lakh

Metropolitan
Dhaka Day by Day

NEWS BRIEFS
First ALPP meet
June 21
By Staff Correspondent
The first meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held at 7 pm on June 21 at the meeting room of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan.

CEC to watch repolling
Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena will watch repolling in four thanas of Chittagong and Comilla districts today. According to the Election Commission sources, the places where the CEC will be flown in by helicopter are Hlotganj and Lakhsam in Comilla and Patia and Raonian in Chittagong, reports UNB.

Repolling results to be broadcast
Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh will broadcast today's repolling results instantly on receipt from the Election Commission. Television will continue the telecast of results till its normal programme that ends at 11.30 at night. BTV sources said. Radio will make a special arrangement to broadcast the results countrywide until its 'Nishuti' programmes end at 3 am Thursday, reports UNB.

Villager killed
From Our Correspondent
SERAJGANJ, June 18: A villager was killed in Sadar thana today during a quarrel over the damage to a sugarcane field. Abdus Satter, 40, died when hit by a sharp weapon.

Repolling today

By Staff Correspondent

Security at each centre has been beefed up further compared to the polling on June 12.

Results of 273 constituencies have already been officially announced by the EC out of which Awami League (AL) secured 134 seats, BNP 104.

The EC sources also added that a five-member BDR team, a 20-member police and a 12-member Ansar team including five female Ansars would be posted at each polling centre.

The authorities ordered a ban on movement of people with licensed arms until June 21 in the areas where repolling would take place. Moreover, movement of vehicles like motorcycle, autorickshaws, minibuses and pickup vans have also been prohibited in those areas from 6 am yesterday till 6 am Thursday.

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Govt borrowing from banks this fiscal may cross Tk 1000 cr

By Inam Ahmed

Mahbubur Rahman Khan, Deputy Governor of the Bangladesh Bank, told The Daily Star.

The manufacturing sector was also less active, and whatever it produced, could not be sold because of low demand in the economy. As a result, both collection of VAT and profit tax from the manufacturing units dropped," he added.

In the same way, non-tax revenue collection also dropped as the state owned enterprises (SOEs), like the private sector, functioned at a low gear.

It is expected that there would be a big gap of about Tk 300 crore between the estimated and actual figures of revenue collection, Khan noted.

Similarly, foreign aid disbursement stood at about 1400 million US dollars till May against the expected 1700 million dollars, according to the ERD.

But I think it would be lesser than this," observed Khan adding that this gap in resources had to be filled up by borrowing.

"Moreover, we faced a big expenditure of repaying the three years' investment bonds. Although Tk 1,000 crore was due in principal amount and interests on the bonds, the government's original budget did not keep any provision for this because it was thought that the bonds could be entirely renewed," he pointed out.

But only Tk 550 crore bonds were renewed and the government had to pay about Tk 600 crore in principal and interests which was an unexpected expenditure which had to be met by borrowing from the banking system.

He said the bank's deposit is also stuck at around Tk 4,000 crore because of the electioneering. People had withdrawn money from the banks for meeting election expenses, but these did not come back, he observed. "But we expect that deposits will go up in the next two weeks."

He expects that GDP growth will be hovering around five per cent during this fiscal year ending June 30 mainly because of a good crop which accounts for about 34 per cent of the GDP. The service sector was also very active, only activities in the manufacturing sector was subdued, Khan added.

He said the central bank is now cautiously observing the activities of the banking system, but there is no reason to be concerned. He added that the loan recovery will continue to be the top agenda of the central bank.

Oath taking of MPs-elect from June 22 likely

Star Report

The oath-taking of the MPs-elect to the seventh Jatiya Sangsad (JS) is likely to start from June 22, according to sources in the Parliament Secretariat.

Speaker of the Sixth JS Sheikh Razzak Ali will administer the oaths of office to the newly elected parliament members. The oath-taking is expected to be completed within three days.

But final decision about the timing could not be taken till 10 pm last night as "convenience of all the concerned parties could not be ascertained," the sources said. The timing will be finalised today, the sources added.

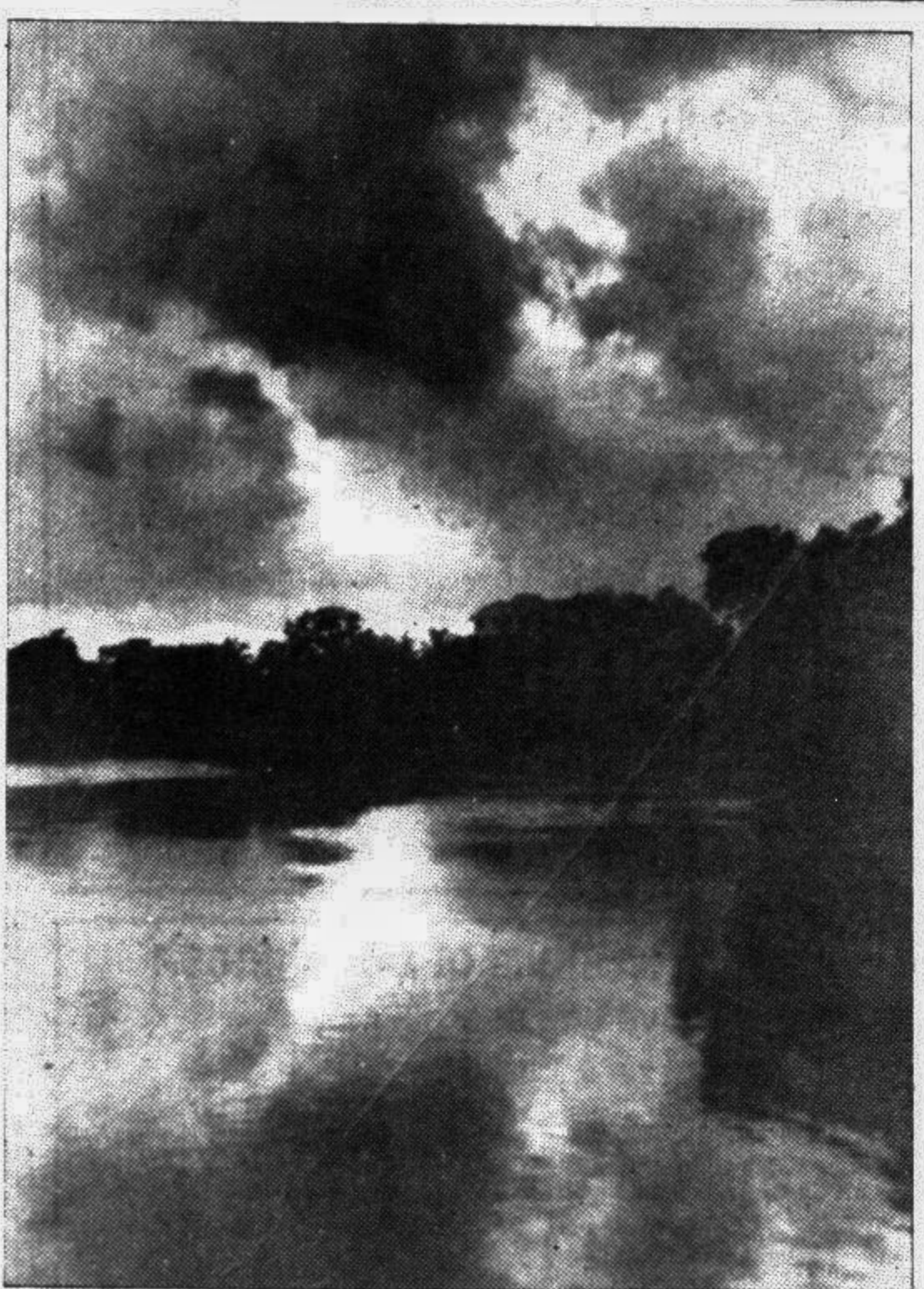
The gazette notifying the names of 273 MPs-elect reached the Parliament Secretariat from the Election Commission earlier yesterday.

The political parties concerned are consulted prior to finalising the date for administering the oath although there is no compulsion for that, the sources said.

Oath-taking of MPs-elect is normally fixed within four to five days after the receipt of the gazette, added another official.

UNB adds: The Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat and some other officials yesterday

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The sky was cloudy late yesterday afternoon, bringing light rains in city. — Star photo

No decision yet on Ershad's release on parole

Star Report

Begum Roushan Ershad wife of former President and jailed Jatiya Party (JP) chief H M Ershad Sunday applied for release of her husband on parole for 15 days. Till Tuesday late night, no action was taken, according to official sources.

When contacted, Adviser for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Barrister Ishiaque Ahmed declined to make any comment on the issue.

The sources said that the application for Ershad's release on parole was placed before the President who sent it to the Chief Adviser for a decision. The Chief Adviser, according to the sources, declined to give his decision on this issue as he thought the decision should be made by a political government, which was to be constituted within a short time.

Highly placed officials also hinted that hectic lobbying was continuing to secure the release of Ershad.

Roushan Ershad, talking to The Daily Star yesterday said that she made a fresh application to President Abdur Rahman Biswas for release of her husband on parole for medical check-up. Roushan met President Biswas at Bangabhaban Sunday morning, she said. Official sources also confirmed the meeting.

According to her, she had applied for the parole with the approval of her husband. When her attention was drawn to a news item that Ershad refused to accept such an offer, she

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Govt control on fare of premium bus service in city withdrawn

The Council of Advisers has approved a proposal for withdrawing the government control on the fare of 'premium bus service' of Dhaka metropolitan areas, reports UNB.

The proposal, which aims at introducing a better public transport system in the capital city, was approved at a meeting of the Council of Advisers yesterday.

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman chaired the meeting at his office, said an official handout.

The meeting approved the proposal for extending the time-limit of supplying gawa wood to Khulna Newsprint and top-dried Sundari wood to Khulna Hardboard Mills.

It also approved the agreement with the fisheries department regarding the lease of 7,000 acres of land for shrimp culture.

The Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Chief Adviser and secretaries concerned were present in the meeting.

3 more senior army officers retired: BBC

Star Monitoring

Three more senior army officers have been retired from service, said a BBC news report, broadcast yesterday on the 7-30 pm news bulletin in Bangla on the BBC World Service.

The retired officers are: Major General Ejaz Ahmed Chowdhury, Director General, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Brigadier Abidur Reza Khan, Director, Engineers and Major General Golam Kader, Engineer-in-chief.

There was no official announcement of the retirements.

When contacted at their residences, Maj Gen Ejaz Ahmed Chowdhury and Brig AR Khan confirmed their retirements, the BBC reported. Maj Gen Golam Kader could not be reached for confirmation, it added.

BNP alleges unlawful voter enlistment in Faridpur-2

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has alleged unlawful enlistment of voters yesterday at an area under Faridpur-2 constituency ahead of today's repolling there.

A total of 129 fresh voters have been added to the voters' list of Algaida centre of Nagarkanda area under the constituency. BNP spokesman Haris Choudhury told journalists at the party's Kakrali election office yesterday evening.

"Enlisting fresh voters just a day before the repolling is a clear violation of the provision in the Representation of the People's Order, 1972," he said adding this task had been done with an ill motive "to help the Awami League candidate from

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AI on Bangladesh Torture in jails, police custody widespread

By Staff Correspondent

Dozens of prisoners of conscience were held without charge or trial under special legislation in 1995 in the country, according to Amnesty International (AI) report, 1996.

Torture was widespread and led to at least seven deaths in custody. At least nine people were extra-judicially executed. The scope of the death penalty was extended. At least three people were sentenced to death, but no executions were reported, the report said.

Unlawful trials of women

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AL has organised 'terrorists' to rig polls: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her apprehension that today's repolling at 122 polling centres under 27 constituencies would be marked by large-scale rigging and violence.

In a press statement, Begum Zia said they had the information that the Awami League had organised 'terrorists' from across the country to snatch ballot papers and cast false votes at those 122 centres.

"I am afraid that a blueprint to rig tomorrow's (Wednesday) repolling will be implemented through large-scale violence to snatch our victory as it was done during the June 12 elections," the former prime minister said in her statement issued last night.

The painful incident involving BNP candidate K M Obaidur Rahman at Nagarkanda in Faridpur district and sabotaging of the election rally of Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury by means of heavy bombardments corroborate her apprehension, she said.

Begum Zia said the BNP is leading in 13 out of the total 27 seats and if repolling is conducted in a free and fair way, there should be no iota of doubt in anybody's mind about the bright prospect of BNP's victory in all the 27 seats.

Referring to terrorism and massive vote rigging in June 12 polls, she said her party produced documentary evidences before the EC to show how vote rigging was conducted in a systematic and planned way in 111 constituencies.

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NDI team leader Stephen Solarz coming out of Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi residence after holding talks with the AL chief yesterday. — Star photo

Russian troops set to begin pullout from Chechnya

MOSCOW, June 18: President Boris Yeltsin today approved a plan aimed at ending the 18-month war in Chechnya, while Russian troops were set to begin the pullout from the breakaway republic, a news report said.

The measure includes withdrawing some of the federal troops from Chechnya and steps to encourage separatist fighters to lay down their arms. Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Kadamnikov told the Interfax news agency, says AP.

In Chechnya, Russian troops were preparing to withdraw from the southern mountain village of Vedeno, a separatist stronghold, a spokesman for the Russian military command said.

Several units of 245th motorized infantry regiment will leave the area today or tomorrow, the spokesman told Interfax.

But Russian commanders were worried that the separatists were taking advantage of a lull in fighting which followed the signing of a peace accord with Moscow earlier this month to reorganize and acquire more weapons.

The separatists plan to gain power without an open military conflict with federal troops, Lt-Gen Andrei Ivanov, an officer with the Russian armed forces General Staff, said Tuesday at a Kremlin briefing.

Six Russian servicemen were wounded when Chechens fired at federal positions 12 times Monday, he said.

Unknown attackers today killed the wife of Magomed Labazanov, a local administration head in the village of Samashki in western Chechnya, Interfax reported.

Khamid Inalov, interior minister of Chechnya's Kremlin-installed government, said the killing was part of the intimidation campaign against all officials who work in the republic's government organs.

Local officials said they thought the killing was an act of revenge for Labazanov's role in organizing Sunday's election to Chechnya's parliament.

The highly controversial election was set by the Moscow-backed government in order to consolidate its shaky grip on power. Its head, Doku Zavgayev, has announced the polling was valid, saying the turnout was more than 60 per cent.

But most rebels boycotted the vote, and unofficial turnout estimates were as low as 16 per cent. They saw it as a violation of the peace pact, which called for elections to be held only after full Russian withdrawal and rebel disarmament.

Observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said the vote was not valid.

3 JCD leaders arrested from CMC hostel

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 18: The arrest of three pro-BNP Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders from the Chittagong Medical College hostel has sparked off agitation and a tense situation was prevailing on the campus today, campus sources said.

Police said the three leaders of the Chittagong Medical College JCD unit were arrested during a pre-dawn raid made in connection with some specific cases.

The arrested were Azmir Hossain, senior vice president and 5th year student, Md. Isa Chowdhury, assistant sports secretary and 1st year student and Srikantha Chakraborty, publicity secretary and 4th year student.

JCD supporters later staged a demonstration inside the campus and enforced a strike.

When contacted the principal of the college, Dr. Nurjahan Bhuiyan said classes were not held due to the strike.

Discussion meet on June 12 election 'Most free, fair polls'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting in the city yesterday observed that the June 12 general election was the most free and fair ever held in Bangladesh and urged the political parties to honour the verdict of the people.

Former Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Chairperson of the Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) Fakhruddin Ahmed and Supreme Court Advocate Sigma Huda were speaking on the June 12 parliamentary polls at the monthly meeting of the American-Bangladesh Economic Forum (ABEF). The Forum's President, Forrest Cookson was in the chair.

Termining the election as fair, free and well participated, Muhith said he was optimistic that the new government would be a "good government" and there would be an attempt of "establishing civilian supremacy over the state affairs."

"Secular orientation and closeness with voters are the strength of the next government. I think the political process will work better," he added.

Stressing the need for national consensus in policy making, Muhith said, "a kind of consensus is needed consensus within the government, among political parties and civil society."

Muhith outlining the next government's priority, said, "there should be a rapid privatization drive, increased support to the agriculture, liberalisation of telecommunication sector, establishment of strong local government and expenditure control. On these issues, he said, all the political parties should reach consensus.

Fakhruddin Ahmad said, "Looking at the fairness of the electoral and to the extent to which the vote represents a genuine expression of the will

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BNP press release untrue: IOJ

The Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) yesterday strongly denied a news item published in newspapers that IOJ MP-elect from Barguna-2 seat Golam Sarwar Hiru has extended support to the BNP, reports BSS.

IOJ Secretary General Maulana Abdul Latif in a statement said, "The news item which was published in reference to an IOJ press release is totally untrue, misleading and motivated."

Maulana Latif said his party was yet to decide on extending support to any party.

In view of the situation as well as the party regulation there is no scope for any body to unilaterally support any party beyond the party decision, he said.

Maulana Latif urged the IOJ workers as well as the people not to be misled by "such motivated news".