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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	3390.92
Market capital Tk	24159.79 cr
Transactions in volume	401437
Transactions in value Tk	26.03 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	1628.31
Market capital Tk	18454.91 cr
Transactions in volume	94650
Transactions in value Tk	5.22 cr

Thousands of people were stranded at Sadarghat terminal yesterday as launch owners went on a strike protesting the arrest of Tariqul Islam, a vice-president of the Launch Owners Association on alleged charges of terrorism. The 18-hour strike, which began at noon will be over at 6 am today. —Star photo

Civil court to try Bangabandhu's killers, JS told

By Staff Correspondent

Trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be held in civil court, State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru said in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

He also said that appointment of an ombudsman and annulment of the Special Powers Act (SPA) were under active consideration of the government.

Replying to a question from Awami League deputy Muhibur Rahman Manik whether a special tribunal would be formed for trial of the killers of Bangabandhu, Khasru said, "Law will take its own course. Trial will be held under existing law."

Then, raising a supplementary, Moslemuddin of AL said that the question of security was involved in the trial of the killers, because they are of 'daring' character.

Khasru said, "You raised a very pertinent question. It's a question of security. We will consider it after the killers are chargesheeted. If it is not possible to try them in normal courts on security consideration, the government can always declare any place a court as the law of the land permits."

Replying to a question from ruling party deputy Talukder Abdul Khaleq, the state minister said that the government was considering to make the Ombudsman Act effective.

Answering to a supplementary question raised by AL lawmaker Dhirenda Devnath Shambhu, he said that the Ombudsman Act was already there since 1980. The govern-

See Page 12 col 5

BUET stalemate: 25 teachers resign from admn posts

By Staff Correspondent

Twenty-five teachers of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) have resigned from their administrative posts saying "it has become impossible for them to discharge their respective academic and administrative duties under the present situation".

They include four deans, ten departmental heads, seven provosts of the residential halls and four directors of different offices, according to a press release issued by the BUET Teachers Association (BUETTA) yesterday.

In the resignation letter they also urged the Vice Chancellor Prof Shahjahan to resign from his post immediately for resolving the ongoing crisis in the university.

Meanwhile, the stalemate in BUET continued for the 22nd day yesterday due to the indefinite work abstention called by the Teachers' Association on October 28.

'Positive outcome' on water issue next month

Hasina to welcome President's initiative for dialogue

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said she will welcome any initiative by President Shahabuddin Ahmed for a dialogue between the ruling Awami League and the main opposition BNP to resolve the impasse arising out of BNP's abstention from attending the parliament session.

"We've no objection... such a move is always welcome. Let them come up with specific proposal as to where, when and how they're willing to meet", the Prime Minister told a questioner at a news conference at the Zia International Airport on her return from Rome yesterday after attending the World Food Summit.

A smiling Sheikh Hasina, however, hastened to add, "I doubt if they're clear about what they want...confusion is hovering over their minds."

BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia had met President Shahabuddin Monday night and submitted a memorandum which included some allegations regarding running of the Parliament session. The President told her that he would discuss the issues with the Prime Minister.

During the 38-minute press conference held at the VIP Lounge of the airport, the PM also spoke on the outcome of the World Food Summit, her meetings with the Indian Prime Minister and other world leaders, foreign investment in the country, Opposition's role in Parliament and other related matters.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Education Minister ASHK Sadique, State Minister for Information Abu Sayeed, Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah and Agriculture Minister Matia Choudhury, who accompanied the PM in the Rome summit, also attended the press conference.

Replying to another question on BNP's demand for release of its activists before sitting across the table, the Prime Minister categorically said that her government did not detain any body on political grounds and that criminals were detained with specific charges.

"It's not possible for us to order the release of any killer, terrorist, dacoit or thief. It's only law that will decide their fate", she said.

The people do not want the criminals to destroy peace in the society she said and posed the question, "Will it be proper to free them if the interests of the country is taken into consideration?"

Asked about BNP's allegation that its lawmakers were not given adequate opportunity to speak in the House, Hasina said, "They're given enough chances to speak which we were denied while in the Opposition...Even the Leader of the Opposition was allowed to speak after the Leader of the House spoke in the present Parliament. It has been a bad

See Page 12 Col 3

We didn't boycott JS, we're just abstaining, says Khaleda

Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday told editors that they were abstaining from attending the Parliament session on 10-point demand for protecting their parliamentary rights curbed by the ruling party, reports UNB.

"We didn't make any allegation to the President, we have apprised him of our demands," she said while exchanging views with the editors of national dailies and news agencies at her 29 Minto Road residence in the afternoon.

The BNP chief said her party wanted a favourable atmosphere for discussion so that BNP could return to the House. "We did not boycott the Parliament .... We are just abstaining from the House," she added.

Begum Zia said her party MPs were deprived of their parliamentary right to speak in the House. On the other hand, she alleged, the Treasury bench members were wasting time by speaking in unparliamentary language.

BNP always fought for democracy and wanted to give it a permanent and institutional shape, she said, adding "we'll

See Page 12 Col 3

Bills on bankruptcy, SEC placed in JS

A bill was placed in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday seeking legal provisions for dealing with default loans by declaring the defaulting individuals, companies, firms or statutory bodies bankrupt, reports UNB.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria introduced the Bankruptcy Act 1996 which will help the authorities bring discipline in the country's financial sector.

The bill was sent to a special committee to examine and scrutinise it. The committee will submit its report within one month.

The proposed law has been framed with an aim to take effective measures against bank loan defaulters, making uptodate two existing laws — the Insolvency (Dhaka) Act 1909 and the Insolvency Act 1920.

Provisions for declaring any individual, company firm or any statutory body bankrupt by a court have been proposed in the bill regarded necessary by banking-circle people.

The bill proposes to establish bankruptcy courts by the district courts and the district judge will dispose of the cases under the act. District judge under his judgeship can nominate an additional judge for the trial and disposal of the cases.

The bill articulates the bankrupt activities which include transfer of all and almost all property to a third person to foil or delay claims, leaving the country or normal workplace, or one's loan amount exceeds Tk 5 lakh and he or she fails to pay the amount within 90 days of issuance of a formal claim.

If any loanee becomes bankrupt, one or more eligible creditor or the said debtor, under the act, can file petition and the court can issue an order declaring the debtor bankrupt.

The bankruptcy court can set aside a petition filed by a creditor, and if a petition is set aside on the point that it was unfounded or futile, the court can order the creditor to pay not more than Taka one lakh.

Any debtor, creditor, recipient and person aggrieved by the verdict of the district or additional district judge can submit appeal to the High Court. The Supreme Court will form a bench which only dispose of such appeals.

The Finance Minister also placed two other bills seeking

See Page 12 Col 3

Police action on innocent people alleged

By Staff Correspondent

Twenty-three residents of the city's Sutrapur area in a joint statement yesterday alleged that over 100 people were injured in a 'sudden attack' by some policemen on Monday night.

They said some policemen of Gandaria outpost made the attack on innocent pedestrians and shopkeepers at Bahadurpur Lane, Faridabad Lane and Haricharan Roy Road under Sutrapur thana at around 9 pm on Monday. They demanded punishment of the policemen and urged the authorities concerned to ensure safety of the people

See Page 12 Col 3

Tremor rocks Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 19: A mild tremor rocked different areas of the Sylhet region early this morning. Starting at about 6-12 am, the tremor lasted about ten seconds. The panic-stricken people came out of their houses.

However, there was no report of any loss of life or damage to property from anywhere. The tremor was also felt in Moulvibazar, Barlekha and Jakiganj thanas, official sources said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Tangail DC's office *gheraoed*

From Our Correspondent

TANGAIL, Nov 19: Several hundred people held a demonstration and later *gheraoed* the office of the Deputy Commissioner here today protesting widespread gambling and vulgar *jatras* in the district.

The demonstrators dispersed after handing over a memorandum to the DC urging him to take immediate action against the organisers of such illegal activities.

One shot dead in Sunamganj

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 19: A young man was shot dead at village Budhrail under Jagannathpur thana of Sunamganj district early today.

Farukh Ali, 20, died on the spot. An unidentified man opened fire on Ali when he along with a companion was on his way to a house in the village at about 6 am.

Two arrested for taking 2 hostage

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 19: A Jubo League activist, Mafiar Rahman and a businessman Badsha Mia were arrested today allegedly for holding two persons hostage demanding a ransom of Tk two lakh.

Police rescued the victims — Alamgir and Mostafa — from the local Muktijoddha Sangsad office where they had been confined and tortured since November 11 for ransom. They were arrested under the Special Powers Act.

IU exams postponed

KUSHTIA Nov 19: All Examinations of the Islamic University (IU) scheduled to begin tomorrow have been postponed, according to the office of the Controller of Examinations.

The university opened on November 9 but student did not return to the campus apprehending further violence between BCL and Chhatra Shibir activists, sources said.

Exams to enlist advocates Dec 20

The written examination for enlistment of advocates will be held on December 20 instead of an earlier schedule for December 27, a press release of Bangladesh Bar Council said here yesterday. The examination will be held at 9 am. The authorities have changed the date as the holy Shab-e-Barat, an official holiday, falls on December 27, reports BSS.

US announces DV-98

The United States has announced the Diversity Immigrant Visa Programme (DV) for 1998 under which 55,000 people will be permitted permanent residence in America, reports UNB.

The DV-98 registration mail-in period will last 30 days and will be held from noon on February 3, 1997 through noon on March 5.

The visas will be apportioned among six geographic regions and a greater number of visas will go to those regions that have lower immigration rates.

Asia has been allocated a total of 7280 visas for the DV-98 programme. There is, however, a limit of seven per cent or 3,850 on the use of visas by native of any one foreign state.

According to a USIS press release, the applicants of the qualifying countries must have either a high school education or its equivalent, or within the past five years have two years of

See Page 12 Col 4

PCJSS gives 5-pt proposal, wants to hold talks Dec 10

KHAGRACHHARI, Nov 19: The scheduled November 23 dialogue on the Chittagong Hill Tracts problem has become uncertain following submission of a new five-point proposal by the Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), reports UNB.

The PCJSS, the political umbrella of the Shantibahini, in a letter to the government asked for shifting of the date of the proposed talks from November 23 to December 10.

The letter signed by Ushatan Talukder was handed over to the Special Affairs Division Sunday by Coordinator of the Contact Committee, Hangshadhajo Chakma.

The letter, which they said, was a replay to the government's November 9 letter, said the suggested date fell within the ceasefire period declared unilaterally by the Shantibahini but not reciprocated by the Government. The "practicability" of holding the meeting in this period should be seriously considered, the letter added.

Besides proposing the new date, the PCJSS in their five-point proposal said the Government should communicate its agreement to further extension of the current ceasefire upto December 31, 1996 and unconditionally release all the detained samity members.

They said the agenda of the first meeting should also be clearly stated and the date, venue and other matters relating to the security, administrative arrangements and publicity of the next meetings should be sent to the Samity prior to the first meeting.

The Samity urged the government to reply to their proposals before November 23.

The letter also contained the name of the representatives to be present at the first meeting. They are Chief of Janasanghati Samity Jotindra Bodhipraya, Pritom Kumar Chakma, Rupayan Dewan, Shudhasindhu Khisha and Raktatpal Tripura.

The letter recalled that thirteen meetings held with the nine-member committee of the previous Government failed to achieve any progress towards solution of the problem in the region.

Supreme Court returns Benazir's petition terming it 'scandalous'

ISLAMABAD Nov 19: Pakistan's Supreme Court today returned a petition made by Benazir Bhutto challenging her dismissal as prime minister because it contained 'scandalous' material, a court official said, reports AFP.

The petition has been sent back to Benazir's lawyers by Pakistani Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, the official said, without detailing the objections to the 42-page petition.

He would say only that 'some portions of the petition are scandalous.'

No comment was made immediately by lawyers representing the ousted prime minister.

The official said the Supreme Court had admitted another petition against the dissolution of the National Assembly filed by its Speaker, Yousaf Raza Gilani, last week.

The Chief Justice and another judge Munawar Ahmed Mirza will start hearing Gilani's petition tomorrow.

In an interview with AFP, Benazir on Monday said she had received information that her former Sindh province chief minister Abdullah Shah and others would be the target of killers.

"I know that a programme is being made to assassinate physically eliminate myself and Abdullah Shah and various party leaders. But we are not afraid because life and death is in God's hands," she said.

She did not say who was behind the conspiracy but added that supporters of her estranged murdered brother, Murtaza Bhutto could be used. Murtaza, who ran his own Pakistani Peoples Party (Shaheed Bhutto group) was slain in police shootout with seven followers.

"I have been told that they will try to use people from the Shaheed Bhutto group or place the blame on the (Mohajir Qaumi Movement) Altaf group or religious extremists," she said.

Benazir suggested her government's extradition of Ramzi Yousef to the United States and the repatriation of Islamic extremists to Egypt and Saudi Arabia could motivate religious groups against her.

"The Islamists have roots in all sensitive agencies. They were the ones responsible for last year's abortive *coup d'etat*." They have extensive links like an octopus, she added.

But she maintained that she had an excellent working relationship with the Pakistan army and found it to be neutral and professional.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's police today arrested Naheed Khan, personal secretary to Benazir, political sources said.

Naheed was picked up from Islamabad Airport as she arrived with the former premier from Karachi, a spokesman for Pakistan People's Party said.

She was taken into custody by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) under a provincial law allowing preventive detention of people considered a threat to public peace.

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Gross Profit to Sales	%	28.13	26.00	26.00	26.00	26.00	26.00
Operating Income to Sales	%	26.20	24.37	24.57	24.75	24.91	25.04
Net Income to Sales	%	10.72	13.07	16.14	18.73	13.49	14.32
Face Value Per Share	Tk.	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Earning Per Share	Tk.	26.67	21.78	32.29	44.95	38.86	49.49
Dividend Per Share	Tk.	—	10.00	15.00	18.00	20.00	25.00
Price Earning Ratio (Times)	—	3.75	4.59	3.10	2.22	2.57	2.02
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