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32-point rise in DSE index
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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 3064.99
Market capital Tk. 21837.58 cr
Transactions in volume 181583
Transactions in value Tk. 10.14 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 1472.68
Market capital Tk. 17671.71 cr
Transactions in volume 15275
Transactions in value Tk. 65.34 lakh

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NEWS BRIEFS

AL grand rally today

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address a grand rally of the Awami League at 2pm today at the Manik Mia Avenue on the occasion of the silver jubilee of the independence and the National Victory Day, says a party press release.

BNP to observe Fall of Autocracy Day

BNP will observe the Fall of Autocracy on December 6 in a befitting manner to take a fresh vow to protect the hard-earned democracy at any cost. As part of the central programme, the City BNP will hold a public meeting in front of the Jatiya Press Club at 3 pm the same day, reports UNB.

RMCH interne docs call off strike

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 30: The interne doctors council of the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) has called off the strike. The interne doctors went on strike on November 12 after their clash with employees of the hospital.

Jubo League leader expelled

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 30: The League president of the town unit, Belaluddin, has been expelled from the party reportedly for assaulting the newly-elected district Awami League President Mustafa Kamal. The decision was taken at a meeting of the district Awami League held at the residence of local AL MP Abdul Latif Mirza on Friday night. Belaluddin was a candidate for the post of the district Awami League President, reports UNB.

300 shops, houses gutted in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Nov 30: At least 300 shops and houses were gutted today in a fire at Reserve Bazar of the town, police said. The fire broke out at 4:20 pm and lasted three hours till it was brought under control by local fire brigade with the help of fire fighters from Kaptai, reports UNB.

Int'l Islamic Grand Rally

The two-day International Islamic Grand Rally begins today at Noakhali district High School ground. Various Islamic thinkers from home and abroad will address the international conference, organised by Ulama Movement of Bangladesh (UMB), reports UNB.

Hasina, Basu hold 90-minute meeting

Fruitful talks on water sharing, other issues

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Chief Minister of the Indian state of West Bengal yesterday held very positive and fruitful discussions on water-sharing and various other bilateral issues.

The two leaders assisted by ministers and officials of their respective sides had talks for nearly 90-minutes. They met exclusively for nearly an hour without any aides. Later, they were joined by Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and the Chief Secretary of West Bengal A K Majumdar.

The talks were held at the Prime Minister's office and began shortly after 11 am.

Emerging from the discussions Sheikh Hasina, flanked by Jyoti Basu, told waiting

newsmen that they had "very positive and meaningful discussions."

She added "We held positive and fruitful discussions. Talks would continue."

The Prime Minister said "We hope to resolve all issues with our neighbours. And we hope to settle those through discussions."

Jyoti Basu said "We are hopeful about the solution of the Ganges issue" and added "I am the Chief Minister of West Bengal. The talks would continue in New Delhi. Everything would be settled there."

Asked when is she going to Delhi, Sheikh Hasina said "It has not yet been decided."

Responding to a question if she would make any important announcement of the water is-

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Short-term accord possible, says Jyoti Basu

By Staff Correspondent

Chief Minister of the Indian state of West Bengal Jyoti Basu said yesterday that a short-term solution to the Ganges water sharing problem could be reached but it has to be sorted out by the governments of Bangladesh and India.

The matter of long-term solution will come next. I came here to help you in resolving your problem. But you have to sort it out with the Indian government in Delhi," Jyoti Basu said. He said that he did not have any authority to sign any agreement as he was not in the central government of India.

He was speaking at a reception

accorded to him and the two other West Bengal ministers accompanying him — Buddha Deb Bhattacharya and Asim Dasgupta — by the Workers Party of Bangladesh at the Shilpkala Academy. Jyoti Basu also spoke about his talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina earlier in the day.

He said, "Your Prime Minister expressed her strong

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Khaleda undergoes operation today

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia is due to undergo a surgical operation in her leg at the King Faisal Hospital of Saudi Arabia this morning, according to a party press release.

Begum Zia has been suffering from arthritis for a long time.

The former Prime Minister has sought help from the countrymen for successful operation and her early recovery.

The Bangladeshi Nationalist Party (BNP) will hold a *milad mahfil* at its central office in the city at 11 pm today to pray for successful operation.

Procurement of rice, paddy begins today

By Staff Correspondent

The government has fixed the target to procure 1.50 lakh metric tonnes of rice and equal quantities of paddy during the current season to keep the market price of foodgrains stable and ensure fair price to the growers, an official handout said yesterday.

The procurement price of each quintal of rice is Taka 1050 and that of paddy Tk 670.

The procurement drive will begin today and will continue till January 31, 1997.

A farmer will be able to sell minimum of 70 kg and a maximum of one ton paddy at the procurement centre.

As per the regional break-up one lakh ton of paddy and equal quantity of rice will be procured from the Rajshahi division.

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Two stabbed in city

By DMC Correspondent

Two persons, including a school boy, were stabbed in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Apu, 16, son of Osman Ghani of Shantinagar, was stabbed allegedly by some of his classmates when he was returning home from the school in Sidheswari at about 2pm. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead, hospital sources said.

A student of class ten of Sidheswari High School, Apu, was attacked reportedly following his refusal to show answer scripts to some of his classmates during examination.

In another incident, an

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Teenage boy murdered in city

By DMC Correspondent

A teenage boy was stabbed to death allegedly by some of his friends at South Piterbagh in the city yesterday.

Sabuj, 15, son of one Bazlu Miah, sustained fatal injuries in his left chest when a group of about five young men stabbed him at around 4:30 pm. He was immediately taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead, hospital sources said.

A student of class seven in a technical school in Mirpur, Sabuj was gheraoed by the gang in front of a rickshaw garage when he was passing the area. All of a sudden, they stabbed

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Burning of tyres in brickfields: DOE unable to stop pollution

By Morshed Ali Khan

Brickfields around the city, which operate during the dry season, indiscriminately use worn out tyres as fuel causing serious environmental hazards, an on-the-spot visit reveals.

Most of the brickfields which remained inoperative during rainy season due to their location in low lying areas, have now lit up their furnaces with the onset of the dry season. There are about two hundred brickfields around the city.

Officials at the Department of Environment (DOE) said that several types of toxic gases were being released in the air due to burning of tyres. "Whenever tyres are burnt, toxic gases such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, dioxine and oxides of nitrogen are emitted in the air along with carbon soot and other suspended particles," said an environmentalist in the DOB. "This pollutes the air and causes health hazard."

DOE officials said they cannot do anything other than issuing a letter to the polluters. The Environment Conserva-



Former FM Mostafizur Rahman dead

By Staff Correspondent

Former foreign minister Abu Saleh Muhammad Mostafizur Rahman breathed his last at the Combined Military Hospital in the city last night after a protracted battle against cancer. He was 64.

The end came at 10:05 pm. He was in coma since the early hours of yesterday. His wife Sufia Rahman and only son Reazur Rahman Chanchal, close relatives, friends and well-wishers were at his bed side.

Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen Mahbubur Rahman, who went to have a last glimpse of the former army officer, was also present when he expired.

Mostafizur Rahman, who retired from the Army as a Lt. Colonel in 1973, had been foreign minister since March 19, 1991 till March 10, 1996.

Earlier, he was home minister in Ziaur Rahman's government and commerce minister in Sattar's government.

He was a member of the BNP standing committee. He had joined the party when it was founded in 1978.

The former minister was admitted to the CMH on November 22 when his lung cancer began to go out of control. It was detected in October last year when he was visiting Japan. He underwent a surgery in New York.

Security forces began a man hunt and raided several places to rescue the victims today. Officials said the search operation into the jungle-packed areas was on.

Shantibahinmen abducted 10 passengers of a country boat from Shanghri river when it was going to Thanchi from Ruma under Banderban hill district on Friday afternoon. Six of the passengers, including TNO of Thanchi thana Azimuddin Ahmed Chowdhury and thana health inspector

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From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 30: The fate of the Thana Nirbahi Office of Thanchi Thana under Banderban hill district and five others, who were abducted by Shantibahinmen on Friday, is still unknown, official sources said.

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Depression may intensify into cyclonic storm

Deep depression over west central Bay and adjoining east central Bay moved slightly eastwards and was centred at 9 pm last night about 800 kms southwest of Chittagong port and 730 km south-southwest of Khulna town, reports BSS.

It is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm and move in a north-northeasterly direction, according to a special weather bulletin.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to lower distant warning signal number two but instead hoist local cautionary signal number three.

Maximum sustained wind within 48 kms of the depression centre is about 60 KPH rising to 80 KPH in gusts/squalls. Sea will remain rough.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay have been advised to remain close to the coast so as to take shelter at short notice.

Reuter from Hyderabad re-

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TNO, five others abducted by Shantibahini remain untraced

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Jamuna-Mobil jt venture to set up Tk 120 cr LPG plant in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 30: A Tk 120 crore LPG bottling and lubricating oil blending plant will be set up in the port city under a joint venture project between Jamuna Oil Company Ltd and the US-based Mobil Asia Pacific Ltd.

The announcement of the joint venture plant was made at a simple ceremony organised at the project site at Guptakhal