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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 7167.71 cr  
Transactions in volume 15275  
Transactions in value Tk 65.34 lakh

### Supplement

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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: Jubo League president of the town unit, Belaluddin, has been expelled from the party reportedly for assaulting 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 solve 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-

sue at tomorrow's public rally in the city, the Prime Minister replied in the negative and said, "The rally is in connection with the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Independence."

Sources in the Prime Minister's office and the Foreign Ministry were tight-lipped about the outcome of the discussions. A senior official involved in the negotiations said there were positive indications from both sides that the issue would be amicably resolved. The matter seemed to be addressed with highest priority by leaders of both the countries, he added.

During the talks, Hasina was assisted by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Principal



West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her secretariat office yesterday. —PID photo

## ADB links improvement of BR performance to JMB railtrack loan

The Asian Development Bank asked for "satisfactory and vigorous efforts" to improve financial performance of Bangladesh Railway to get ADB loan for railtrack over the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, reports UNB.

In a recent letter to the government, ADB's Infrastructure, Engineering and Financial Services Department (West) Direc-

### Sonargaon Hotel management agreement renewed

Pan Pacific Hotels and Resorts have been awarded the management contract for the government-owned Sonargaon Hotel for another five-year term, reports UNB.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary and Chairman of the owning company Hotels International Limited (HIL) M Ismail Hossain and Pan Pacific Hotels and Resorts President Ichigo Umehara signed the contract yesterday.

The new contract for the fourth five-year term will remain in force until the end of

tor, John Taylor, has said immediate actions from the authorities are needed to get the loan for the important project.

ADB, one of the major multilateral donors to Bangladesh, has promised a loan of 90 million US dollars for the Jamuna Bridge Railway Link project in 1997.

In the letter to Finance Minister SAMS Kibria on November 21, the ADB said improvement of financial performance of Bangladesh Railway depends on a series of necessary actions to achieve a working ratio of less than one.

These actions include further operational improvements, strengthening of marketing function, tariff restructuring and staff and asset rationalisation of the state-owned Bangladesh Railway.

The staff rationalisation programme for Bangladesh Railway would be critical in sustaining railway's financial performance in the context of JMB Railway Link project, the letter pointed out.

In an earlier Aide Memoire to the government, the Bank has indicated that the loan would be made under a "reform-investment" linkage concept whereby up-front compliance with critical policy condition-

alities will be required at various stages of the project's processing.

The ultimate objective of the conditions is that Bangladesh Railway should become an autonomous, commercially-oriented enterprise able to compete with other modes of transport.

The ADB reiterated its commitment to the project, but said it will be required that all

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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), 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

See Page 12 Col 8

### 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 set 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 Shilpakala 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

See Page 12 Col 4

### 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 doc from the countrymen for successful operation and her early recovery.

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

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### Procurement of rice, paddy begins today

The government has fixed the target to procure 1.50 lakh metric tons of rice and equal quantity 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, reports BSS.

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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### Teenage boy murdered in city

By DMC Correspondent

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

Sabuj, 15 son of one Bazu 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 *gheerado* 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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## 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 30, 1996.

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

Family sources said his only daughter, Faraha Deeba, who lives with her husband in United States, is expected to arrive in the city today. Till then the body will be kept in the CMH.

He would be buried at Banani graveyard. His *namaj-e-janaza* will be held at the Baitul Ahsan, reports UNB.

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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 kms 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

From Staff Correspondent

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

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

Shantibahini abducted 10 passengers of a country boat from Shangu 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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