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DHAKA TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 1996

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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 2921.70
Market capital Tk 20816.69 cr
Transactions in volume 97768
Transactions in value Tk 4.30 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 1400.87
Market capital Tk 7025
Transactions in volume 37.94 lakh

Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains one page supplement on Bangla Academy
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NEWS BRIEFS

President hosts tea party for cabinet

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed hosted a tea party for the prime minister and the ministers at Bangabandhu yesterday afternoon. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, ministers, state ministers in charge of different ministries attended the party, reports BSS.

Dec 15 declared general holiday

December 15 has been declared general holiday on the occasion of the silver jubilee of Victory Day, an official handout said yesterday, reports BSS.

10-taka note on silver jubilee

Bangladesh Bank will issue a commemorative 10-taka note, with the inscription 'Victory Day Silver Jubilee 96' on it. A decision to this effect was taken in a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the bank, said a release from the central bank yesterday, reports BSS.

US military team arrives in city

A four-member military delegation of the USA, led by the Commander-in-Chief of the US Atlantic Command, General J.J. Sheehan, arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh. Chief of the Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman and other senior army officials received the delegation members at the Zia International Airport. US Ambassador in Bangladesh David N. Merrill was present at the airport, reports BSS.

Drugs recovered, nine held

A special squad of the Department of Narcotics Control in sudden drives recovered some drugs and arrested nine people in this connection. During the drives in Sutrapur, Ramna and Motijheel areas in the city, the squad recovered 15 grams heroin, 30 grams ganja and 2,824 pieces of ganja-mixed cigarette, reports BSS.

Digital exchange in Barisal

The 5000-lines digital exchange at Barisal headquarters will start operating from December 5 midnight, said an announcement of T&T in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Basu discloses before leaving for home

Draft water accord ready, may take effect in Jan

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina likely to visit New Delhi on December 9 or 10 to sign with India a Ganges water-sharing treaty already drafted during the Dhaka talks, reports UNB.

The disclosure was made by West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu before flying back home yesterday after working out a formula for resolving the longstanding problem during his six-day visit to Bangladesh.

"Sheikh Hasina has expressed her desire to visit India on December 9 or 10. The date will be finalised by the Indian government," he told the newsmen at the airport.

"We have prepared a draft which will be submitted to the

central government of India," Basu said.

He hoped that the Indian government would accept the draft, giving effect from January, the advent of lean period when Bangladesh faces severe water crisis for lack of apportioning the Ganges flow between the two neighbouring countries at Farakka barrage.

Jyoti Basu, however, did not divulge the content of the draft accord, specially its term and the quantum of water being shared by India and Bangladesh.

He categorically stated that he would travel to New Delhi two days after his return to Calcutta to apprise the centre of his discussions and under-

standings with the Bangladesh leaders.

He, once again, made it clear that the agreement would be finalised between Bangladesh and India, the two sovereign states, although he made the breakthrough.

When his attention was drawn to his earlier statement in Calcutta indicating a short-term solution of the longstanding problem, the West Bengal Chief Minister said the proposals for both long and short-term accords were being discussed, reports UNB.

"We're to look at both the long-term as well as short-term solution," he told reporters.

In reply to a question, Jyoti

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President expects Basu's sincere support in finalising accord

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed hoped that the visiting Chief Minister of West Bengal would extend his wholehearted support in the finalisation of a water-sharing agreement which the two governments have already indicated, reports UNB.

The President was talking to Jyoti Basu when he made a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban yesterday before

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Rayerbazar memorial PM's directive to give work order in 3 months

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the Works Department to give work order within three months for starting the construction of memorial to the independence martyrs who were slaughtered at Rayerbazar, report agencies.

She suggested minor modification in the model of the Rayerbazar Martyred Intellectuals Memorial.

Designed by Fariduddin Ahmed and Jami Al Shafi, architects of Design Centre, the model came past a jury board headed by the Cabinet Secretary in a national competition.

The Works Ministry is implementing the project at a cost of Taka 695.78 lakh to commemorate the country's renowned intellectuals brutally annihilated by the Pakistan occupation forces at the end of 1971 War of Liberation.

The memorial, to be constructed on 3.51 acres, will have

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An architect explaining the proposed model of Rayerbazar Shaheed Intellectuals Memorial to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday. — PIF photo

Proposed Institute for Parliamentary Studies to be set up near JS

Star Report

The Institute for Parliamentary Studies, proposed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for infrastructural development of the Jatiya Sangsad is likely to be set up near the Sangsad Bhaban, according to official sources.

Establishment of the institute is the top-most priority in the second phase of the project, aimed at modernising the Sangsad infrastructure, and other facilities, the sources added.

In the first phase of the project, some parliamentarians were sent abroad on a study tour. The first phase of the project began in September and is scheduled to end in December.

The second phase, scheduled to begin next month, would continue for the whole of next year.

According to the plan, the proposed institute would be an academic and research centre, belonging to the parliament, independent of the government and of any political party in particular, the sources noted.

The institute is designed to become a focal point for all in-

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Mannan Bhuiyan on Hasina's challenge BNP activists are being held on false criminal charges

By Nazmul Ashraf

Both the ruling Awami League and the main Opposition BNP have challenged "each other as regards alleged political persecution" under the present government.

BNP is persistently alleging large-scale repression on its workers throughout the country while the AL is flatly denying allegations of victimising its political opponents.

Prime Minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina on Sunday challenged a major opposition party without naming it, to cite a single case of arrest without specific charge and said he would be freed.

The PM had recently requested the President to make an independent probe into charges of repression on political opponents.

Earlier, BNP refused to join parliament session unless, what it said, repression on its workers stopped and the detainees were freed. Asked about Sheikh Hasina's challenge on Sunday, BNP Secretary General

Meanwhile, top BNP leaders have mentioned different fig-

ures of the partymen allegedly killed or arrested under the AL government.

BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Begum Khaleda Zia told a public meeting at Savar on November 11 that 200 of her party workers were killed and another 30 died in police custody since AL came to power.

In reply to a question on the number of his party workers detained under the present government, Mannan Bhuiyan said the list was under preparation and it would be made public soon. He, however, mentioned an approximate number of 1500.

At the same meeting, Mannan Bhuiyan alleged that over 150 partymen were killed during the AL rule.

BNP Vice-President and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in parliament Prof Badruddoza Choudhury mentioned the number of arrested BNP workers as 500 while demanding release of the partymen during a negotiation bid with AL leader Suranjit Sengupta on November 14.

On November 15, Begum Zia told a Chhatri Dal gathering at her Minto Road official residence in the city that 1200 of her party workers had been arrested.

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12 killed in Kashmir train bomb blast

There was no claim of responsibility, but the train was bound for the troubled northern state of Jammu-Kashmir, where Kashmiri separatists have tried to blow up trains in the past by planting bombs on tracks.

Ambala is 400 kilometres south of Jammu, Jammu-Kashmir's winter capital, and 200 kilometers north of the federal capital New Delhi.

Many of the injured were porters and vendors who were standing on the platform.

Two cars of the Jhelum Express train were completely destroyed by the explosion, and many others were damaged, United News of India news agency said.

The blast blew away part of the roof of a sleeper car towards the end of the train and mangled the adjacent car, witnesses said. Many passengers were largely burnt as the entire car was engulfed in flames.

"I thought I was going to die," said Chanchala Devi. She said she heard a deafening noise and saw a huge ball of fire. The car was engulfed in smoke, she said.

"I yelled, 'Help me. Help me.' Everyone was screaming," she said.

KLM allegations baseless, says Biman management

The management of Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday described as baseless and misleading certain statements made by the KLM general manager in Dhaka at a press conference in the city Sunday, reports BSS.

In a statement yesterday, the Biman management said it had no intention to join issue with KLM and added that the reason for their stopping operation in Bangladesh was best known to them.

From 29th October, 1995 the Netherlands Civil Aviation Authority denied approval to Biman's flight from Amsterdam to New York via C T Dan Braven, head, air transport policy division letter dated 27 September, 1995. This was a violation of the Air Services Agreement (ASA), it added.

In spite of this, KLM since the last one year continued to enjoy all its rights and privileges on its Amsterdam-Dubai route.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has approved KLM's winter schedule on Amsterdam-Dhaka route up to 29 March, 1997 excluding only the Dubai-Dhaka-Dubai traffic right. This is in line with the Netherlands authority's denial of Biman flights to New York from Amsterdam where

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Bidding for setting up three power plants in private sector Jan 15

By Staff Correspondent

Bidding for the installation of three barge-mounted power plants, the first such initiative for power generation in the private sector, will be held on January 15.

Forty-one power companies from 16 countries yesterday participated in a pre-bid meeting on "request for proposal for purchase of power from barge-mounted plants," organised by the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) in the city.

The companies participated in the tenders for the barge-mounted plants which were opened on November 15 and,

will be closed on January 14.

This particular innovative Request for Proposal (RFP) for purchase of 300 MW power from barge-mounted power plants (BMPP) is the first step towards implementation of the government's recent policy on generation of private power," Chairman of BPDB Nuruddin M Kamal told representatives of the companies at the inaugural session of the meeting.

"BPDB intends to allow the prospective bidders to install, supply and operate 100 MW capacity floating-type BMPP in each of the three locations in

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**'Truth being understood anew'**

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Rasheed Choudhury yesterday said the people have started understanding the truth anew and also evaluating the both success and failures of the last 25 years of the independence of Bangladesh.

He was inaugurating the fortnight-long cultural programmes titled 'Mujiber Ujjal Roudhro' at Ramna Green in the city.

Joy Bangla Sangskritik Olkya Jote is organising the programmes in celebration of the silver jubilee of the victory in the War of Liberation.

With Jote chairman Salauddin Badal in the chair, the inaugural function was also addressed by Mozaffar Hussain Choudhury, Maya, MP (Bir Bikram) and the Jote leader Sheikh Abdul Kader.

The programmes include book fair, photo exhibition, blood donation, screening of films based on the liberation

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Low over Bay, cyclone heads for Andhra

By Staff Correspondent

A deadly spin-off from the cyclonic storm that kept people in south-eastern coastal areas of the country on the run towards storm shelters turned into a cyclonic storm and began rushing towards the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh yesterday.

People in the coastal districts heaved a sigh of relief yesterday as the cyclonic storm dissipated into a well-marked low over an extended area of the east central Bay.

Earlier, the cyclonic storm had been moving towards Andhra but changed its course and was poised to hit Bangladesh's south-eastern coast where authorities began evacuating people, sounding a red alert with Danger Signal Number Seven.

A devastating cyclone on November 6 killed some 800 people in coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, caused widespread destruction and left thousands homeless.

The November cyclone was backed by winds of up to 200 kilometers an hour. It was the worst natural disaster to hit the state in almost two decades.

The Prime Minister's get-well message and the bouquet were sent to Begum Zia through Bangladeshi Ambassador in Saudi Arabia.

Besides communications were made from Prime Minister's office here with the family members of Begum Zia inquiring about her condition. The Prime Minister's best wishes were also conveyed to the anxious family members of Begum Zia and her early recovery was solicited.

Mrs Tareque Rahman, daughter-in-law of Begum Khaleda Zia, thanked the Prime Minister. She assured that the good-wishes of the Prime Minister would be conveyed to her

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Killing of 2 brothers One held, taken on 3-day remand

Demra police Saturday night arrested one Md. Mosharraf Hossain from Faridabad area in connection with the recent murder of two brothers in Shyampur area in the city, reports BSS.

Police said, they raided Faridabad area and arrested Mosharraf for his alleged involvement in the killing.

He was produced before the court of a metropolitan magistrate, Dhaka yesterday. Police sought seven days remand of Mosharraf for interrogation, but the magistrate granted three days.

"Any law can be repealed or amended by a