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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: 430 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index: 1400.87
Market capital Tk: 1400.87
Transactions in volume: 7025
Transactions in value Tk: 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 Bangabhaban 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 hand-out said yesterday, reports UNB.

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 UNB.

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 JJ 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 UNB.

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 UNB.

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 UNB.

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 initiated 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.

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

In reply to a question, Jyoti

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 fag 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. — PFD 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

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told The Daily Star over telephone "To arrest somebody, police need some kind of charges and our activists are being held bringing false and unfounded criminal charges against them."

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.

Asked how many BNP activists were killed since the AL government came to power, he said the number was 54 until recently and the figure was being updated.

He also told this correspondent that the Legal Aid Committee of his party was assisting the 'repressed and harassed party workers across the country.'

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.

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 Chhatra Dal gathering at her Minto Road official residence in the city that 1200 of her party workers had been ar-

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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 large-mounted power plants, the first such initiative for power generation in the private sector, will be held on January 15.

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

The companies participated in the tenders for the large-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 large-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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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.

AFF quoting cyclone warning centre in Andhra Pradesh said coastal areas of the state had been alerted after a

deep depression in the Bay of Bengal intensified into a cyclone storm which was heading towards the state.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted the warning centre as saying that the cyclone was centred nearly 500 kilometers southeast of the state's port town of Visakhapatnam.

The centre warned that strong winds packing up to 80 kilometers an hour were expected to lash the state and that fishermen should not venture into the sea.

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

Indemnity (Repeal) Act HC issues rule nisi on govt, hearing Dec 5

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday issued a rule nisi upon the government to show cause as to why the Indemnity (Repeal) Act, 1996 should not be declared void, illegal, ultra vires of the Constitution and of no legal effect.

Acting on two writ petitions filed challenging the Act and its validity, a division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Mozammel Haque and Justice Md Abdul Matin also fixed December 5 for hearing of the rule nisi.

The court also asked Barrister Sayed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Khondkar Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq and Barrister Amir-ul-Islam for assistance as amicus curiae in hearing of the cases.

The Indemnity Ordinance was illegal as Khondkar Mustaque Ahmed being the self-declared President made the ordinance when there was no Martial Law nor any proclamation and as such, he had no authority to do that," Attorney General

Barrister KS Nabi, appearing on behalf of the government, submitted in the court.

"No ordinance can take its retrospective effect, as ordinance is made only when the circumstances render immediate necessity," he said.

The Attorney General also submitted that the languages used in the ordinance cannot ratify the killing which already, i.e. on August 15 '75, took place.

"No ordinance can be made which cannot be the acts of Parliament," he submitted.

"By Article 46 of the Constitution the killings in the Liberation War have only been indemnified," he argued.

KS Nabi further submitted that according to Article 142 of the Constitution two-third majority in the parliament only requires to amend the Constitution but not to repeal or amend any law.

"Any law can be repealed or amended by a simple majority according to Article 149 of the

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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 both success and failures of the last 25 years of the independence of Bangladesh.

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

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

With Jote chairman Salahuddin Badal in the chair, the inaugural function was also addressed by Mofazzal 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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PM sends bouquet, get-well message to Khaleda

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sent a bouquet and a message of good wishes to the Leader of the Opposition and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia who underwent a successful operation at King Faisal Hospital in Riyadh, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister's get-well message and the bouquet were sent to Begum Zia through Bangladesh Ambassador to 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 Sunday night arrested one Md Mosharraf Hossain from Faridabad area in connection with the recent murder of two brothers in Shyamur 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.

Salauddin and his brother Sohail Rana, residents of Demra

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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.

Biman started once a week flight (which was later increased to two) to New York via Amsterdam from 1993 with rights to carry passengers from Amsterdam to New York and vice versa under an agreement signed between the civil aviation authorities of Bangladesh and the Netherlands, the statement said.

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-Dhaka-Dubai-Amsterdam 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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12 killed in Kashmir train bomb blast

JAMMU, Dec 2. A bomb exploded on a train among sleeping passengers this morning, destroying two cars of the train and killing at least 12 people, police said, reports AP.

At least 39 people were also injured in the explosion that occurred as the train began pulling out of Ambala station after stopping there for 15 minutes, said Nirpal Singh, a police official in Ambala.

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 fatally 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.

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Funds for Zainul gallery yet to be released

Star Report

The Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala in Mymensingh, a gallery preserving the priceless works of the master painter, is facing a number of problems due to lack of funds.

Only one crore taka was needed for the long required maintenance and preservation work, sources concerned said.

Funds have been earmarked in the 1996-97 ADP but the Planning Commission is yet to approve the proposal, the

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Order to retract statement of Zobaida Rashid

By Staff Correspondent

The Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate has ordered for the retraction of the confessional statement made by Zobaida Rashid under Section 164 of the CrPC, through the jail authorities, following a prayer by her counsel, according to a press release issued last night.

The additional CMM, Habiur Rahman, through another

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CHT talks : Govt for shifting of date to Dec 21

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 2. The government has proposed the Chittagong Hill Tracts Jano Sanghati Samity to defer the proposed December 10 meeting to December 21 and extend the ongoing truce till February 28, reports UNB.

The proposal was made by the National Committee on CHT in a letter sent to Shantibhumi, the armed wing of the Jano Sanghati Samity.

Convener of the Liaison Committee on CHT Hanchadh Chakma carried the letter to

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