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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	2667.16
Market capital Tk	19003.14 cr
Transactions in volume	22487
Transactions in value Tk	1.5 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	1359.85
Market capital Tk	15859.36
Transactions in volume	1305
Transactions in value Tk	5.44 laka

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NEWS BRIEFS

Newspaper holiday Dec 15 & 16

The newspaper offices will remain closed on December 15 and 16 on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Victory Day, Bangladesh Sammilita Sangbadpatri Parishad said in a press release yesterday. The release, no newspaper will come out on December 16 and 17, reports BSS.

BNP rally today

Dhaka city unit of BNP, in observance of the Democracy Day, will hold a rally in front of the party's central office today. Party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and some other central and city unit leaders will address the rally to be held at 3 pm, said a press release, reports UNB.

Thai envoy hosts reception

The Ambassador of Thailand in Bangladesh Sunthorn Vidhyameth held a reception in the city yesterday in celebration of the 69th birthday of King Bhumibol Adulyadej and the National Day of Thailand. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, political leaders, diplomats, high officials, journalists and elite of the city attended the reception, reports BSS.

Digital phone exchange in Barisal

BARISAL, Dec 5: A 5000-line digital telephone exchange was commissioned here today at the old Telephone and Telegraph building at Sher-e-Bangla Avenue of the city. According to an official source, Bangladeshi engineers in collaboration with Italian technologists converted the old analog telephone system to digital one in about eight months, reports BSS.

Tea garden labourer commits suicide

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Dec 5: A labourer allegedly committed suicide at the Luckatara Tea Garden here yesterday. Kotwali police sent the body of Kamal Mia, 26 to the hospital morgue for autopsy. The cause of the suicide could not be known immediately, police said.



Jubilant people parading a city street after the fall of autocratic regime. —Star file photo

Democracy Day today

By Staff Correspondent
The nation celebrates the fall of the autocratic regime of former President Hussain Mohammad Ershad today, marking the end of his nearly nine-year rule on this day in a mass upsurge six years ago.
The dictator, who seized power in a bloodless coup on March 24, 1982, was humbled before the bursting waves of peoples anger.
He was forced to resign in the afternoon of December 6, 1990. Democracy was restored with the taking over of the then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as president, who supervised the nation's fairest polls under a non-partisan caretaker government.
UNB adds: General Ershad was forced to step down in a mass movement that took on a new dimension on October 10 in the year when all political parties gheraoed the Bangladesh Secretariat.
During the agitation, a leader of BNP-backed Jatya-atabadi Chhatra Dal, Jihad, was gunned down which brought all student bodies under a banner styled 'All Party Student Unity (APSU)'.
The APSU launched a non-stop agitational movement and

at one stage emergency was declared on November 27 after the killing of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon allegedly by gunmen pitted by the Ershad regime.
But the emergency and curfew in Dhaka could not stop the movement, and after many deaths, Ershad handed over power to the then Chief Justice, Shahabuddin Ahmed.
To observe the day, different political parties, socio-cultural organisations and student bodies have chalked out elaborate programmes. The programmes include discussion, public meeting, rally and cultural function.
On the occasion, President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan issued separate messages calling for efforts to institutionalise the democracy.
The President in his message called for concerted efforts of all to establish the rule of law and democratic values in the country.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her message called upon all to work unitedly to take forward the ongoing trends of democratic politics in the country.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in his message on the eve of the day alleged that Awami League betrayed with the nation by entering into a league with the Jatiya Party.
In observance of the day, the ruling Awami League will hold a public meeting at Bangladesh Avenue at 3 pm. Party central leaders will speak.
Main opposition BNP will observe it as Fall of Autocracy and Democracy Day in a befitting manner to take fresh vow to protect the hard-earned democracy at any cost.
As part of the central programme, the city unit of BNP will hold a public meeting in front of the Jatiya Press Club at 3 pm. BNP has instructed its thana and district units to observe the day through holding meeting and rally.
Left Democratic Front, an alliance of eight communist and social democratic parties, held a discussion meeting in the city today (Thursday) with a call for realising the objectives of the democracy movement.
Jamaat-e-Islami will hold a discussion on 'Democracy and Independence' tomorrow (Friday) in the city.
See Page 12 Col 1

Kerb market traders plan sit-in

By Staff Correspondent
Kerb market traders have threatened to stage a sit-in outside the Dhaka Stock Exchange building tomorrow demanding resumption of bank loans and buying of shares by the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) to bring what they said life to the country's stock markets.
They demonstrated in front of the DSE building and held a rally yesterday protesting the statement made by Finance Minister SAMS Kibria at a press conference on Wednesday.
The sit-in programme was announced at the rally.
Speakers at the rally differed with the finance minister.
See Page 12 col 5

'No Bangladesh mission official visited Khaleda'

The Bangladesh mission in Saudi Arabia is reportedly indifferent to the treatment of Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia in King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh.
BNP's Information and Research Secretary Ehsanul Kabir told UNB that no official from the Bangladesh embassy enquired about the condition of the BNP Chairperson in the hospital, not to speak of visiting the ailing leader.
'Even they (officials) have not paid a single visit to her although she has been in Riyadh since November 27,' he said.
'Are the diplomats unaware of...'
See Page 12 Col 3

Workers' strike Cargo handling disrupted at Ctg port

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Dec 5: All kinds of operational activities including cargo handling at Chittagong Port were disrupted for 24 hours till 8 pm today due to agitation and strike enforced by dock workers, port officials said.
Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) captain Zahiruddin Mahmud, talking to The Daily Star, said that activities however, resumed after 8 pm as leaders of dock workers agreed to this at a meeting with the port authority this noon.
The agreement came as the port authority assured that dock workers' CBA election...
See Page 12 Col 4

Water agreement being finalised

By M Anwarul Haq
Bangladesh and Indian officials are now giving a final touch to a water-sharing accord which is expected to break new grounds for bilateral cooperation between the two countries.
The accord is due to be signed on December 11 in New Delhi.
Talking to The Daily Star yesterday officials concerned said that details were 'still being hammered out'. The process should be completed by the time Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves for the Indian capital, they added.
In a revised programme, Sheikh Hasina's visit to Delhi has been deferred by a day. She now leaves on December 10 on a three-day official visit. The summit between Hasina and her Indian counterpart Deve Gowda, will, however, be held on December 11 and 12, as scheduled earlier.
Deve Gowda, who was due to be in Calcutta yesterday to see ailing Mother Teresa, is learnt to have cancelled the trip. He was also supposed to have talks with West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu.
Basu is now learnt to be going to Delhi on Dec 8.
Meanwhile, an advance team from Bangladesh by Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir reached the Indian capital yesterday after having consultations in Calcutta.
Bangladesh side is optimistic about concluding a water-sharing accord which will give the country a minimum of 35,000 cusec water during the lean period, with a guarantee clause. It is also negotiating for a permanent agreement which will enable it to take up a permanent water resources management policy.
Indian side, on the other hand, might prefer a two or three-year accord on a trial basis, before signing a permanent agreement, sources indicated.
The issue of water-sharing received highest priority ever since Sheikh Hasina's Awami League came to power in June last.
The ball was set rolling following the three-day visit of...
See Page 12 Col 1

Silver Jubilee of V-Day 'Questioning Joy Bangla is denying Bangladesh'

By Staff Correspondent
LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman has said those who want to make the Joy Bangla slogan questionable do not believe in the existence of Bangladesh because it was the slogan of the Liberation War.
The minister was addressing a discussion meeting organised by the Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote at the Ramna Batakul yesterday as part of its fortnight-long programmes to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Independence.
The meeting was also addressed by among others, Rafiquzzaman, Syed Anwar Hossain, Monayem Sarkar, Laisuzzaman and Omar Ali.
Addressing a reminiscence meeting on Guerrilla War organised by the Muktiyoddher Chetona Manch at the TSC crossing, state minister for information Abu Sayeed said that the historic speech of Bangabandhu on March 7 in 1971 was actually the declaration of independence. Each and every word of the speech was a guideline for war, he said.
Independence could not be achieved within only nine months without guerrilla war, he said.
The meeting was also addressed by Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Principal Ahad Chowdhury, Habibul Alam Bir Pratik and Abdur Razzak.
Speaking about the guerrilla fighters, Abu Sayeed recalled that General Niazi while surrendering had said 'they (guerrillas) made me blind and deaf'.
A puppet show produced by Dhanmia and a session of folk songs were held at the Muktiyoddha Museum as part of its three-day programme to celebrate the Silver Jubilee.
Folk singer couple Abdur Rashid and Mantaz Begum rendered songs at the function.
On the fourth day yesterday of the five day drama festival on Liberation War, organised by the Shilpakala Academy, Nagarik Natya Samprodaya staged a drama, 'Mukhosh', at the premises of the Academy. Dramas were also staged yesterday at the Central Shaheed Minar by three cultural bodies, 'Shomyo', 'Utcharan' (Chitta...
See Page 12 Col 2

Farooq Abdullah escapes attempt on his life

NEW DELHI, Dec 5: The new Chief Minister of India's troubled Jammu and Kashmir state, Farooq Abdullah, narrowly escaped a bomb attack today, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports Reuter.
The news agency said the bomb exploded minutes before Abdullah reached his father's grave in the state's summer capital Srinagar to pay homage on his 91st birthday anniversary.
The news agency did not say if anyone was hurt by the explosion.

Jubo Dal activist shot dead in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Dec 5: An activist of the city unit of Jubo Dal Kabir Ahmed (23) was shot dead here tonight.
Police said, at least ten unidentified gunmen hit him with iron bars and then shot him at close range near Baishakhi Club at Sadar Hospital road, under Kotwali thana at 10.15 pm. He breathed his last soon after admission to hospital.

Shibir activists attack Sena

CHITTAGONG, Dec 5: Traffic in the port city's busy Andarikkila area came to a halt today after Islami Chhatra Sena put up road barricade to protest the attack by Islami Chhatra Shibir activists, reports UNB.
Sena, an independent student organisation is opposed to the activities of Chhatra Shibir, 'the student front of Jamaat-e-Islami'.
Witnesses said a group of Shibir activists stormed Al Falah publication agency at Nazir Ahmed Road in Andarikkila area at about 10 am today and took away 2,000 copies of books.
The book titled 'Delwar Hossain Saideer Bhranta Tafsir Swarup' was written by Maulana Abdul Mannan and printed at the agency owned by a Sena leader.
See Page 12 Col 6

Ring me up, if needed: PM DCs directed to take steps against mastans

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the Deputy Commissioners to help gear up economic activities across the country to achieve seven per cent GDP growth for poverty alleviation, reports UNB.
'We will have to build up the country. We don't want to be identified anymore as a nation of beggars. We want to change that image and establish Bangladesh as a dignified nation in the international arena,' she said.
Inaugurating a three day conference of the Deputy Commissioners at her Tejgaon office, the Prime Minister sought cooperation of the field level administrative officials for implementing her government's programmes.
The Prime Minister said her government has announced its aim to build a hunger and poverty-free Bangladesh and to achieve that the society should

be freed from the vices of terror, immorality and illiteracy.
The government has put all its efforts to wipe out terrorism from the society, Hasina said and directed the DCs to take all measures against the terrorists and mastans irrespective of their party affiliation.
'I can assure you that my government will not interfere into it. Killers, terrorists and mastans have no party of ideology.'
She said public servants are the officials and employees of the Republic, not of the government. 'Government will come and government will go, but you will stay. Our job is to give policy and guidelines and your duty is to implement it.'
Hasina called upon the Deputy Commissioners to discharge their responsibilities neutrally and help the government in implementing its policies.
See Page 12 Col 3

'Indemnity Ordinance was made without lawful authority'

By SC Correspondent
The Indemnity Ordinance 1975 is void as it was issued by the self proclaimed president Khandaker Mustaqeem Ahmed, who had no legal authority to issue it, said Dr Kamal Hossain as an amicus curiae in the High Court yesterday.
In the first day of hearing on the writ petitions filed by Col (rt) Shahriar Rashid Khan and Mahmuda Rahman, mother of Col (rt) Faruk Rahman challenging the Indemnity (Repeal) Act 1996 and its validity, Dr Kamal Hossain submitted 'Article 46 of the Constitution does not allow such unconstitutional indemnity'.
'Khandakar Mustaqeem Ahmed was not the president at all and the Ordinance made by the so-called President is contradictory to the provisions of Article 7 as well as the basic structure of the Constitution,' he observed.
'The Constitution cannot authorise its own destruction,' he submitted terming the In-...
See Page 12 Col 4



Mounted police returning to the Razabagh Police Line in the city yesterday after rehearsal for the Victory Day parade. —Star photo

Workshop on World Bank report concludes Nat'l commission for 'rightsizing' govt thru' reforms suggested

A two-day workshop on a World Bank report ended here yesterday suggesting establishment of a national commission with strong political commitment to push through an immediate plan for 'rightsizing' the government through comprehensive reforms, reports UNB.
The workshop also called for announcing a policy statement in Parliament on vision of government in the 21st century, the key elements of the civil service reforms and specific measures to make government work better.
Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, who was the chief guest, at the workshop on the World Bank report titled 'Government That Works', said the crucial recommendations for civil service reform would be put before the prime minister without delay.
'It's a good beginning... I hope we'll get signals for immediate implementation of these recommendations,' he told the

high-profile workshop. 'We are very serious about reforms... and we have already started the process.'
Inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the workshop at a local hotel was participated by members of parliament, senior government officials, economists, academics and representatives of private sector, NGOs and donors.
Issues of 'rightsizing' the role of the state, decentralisation and local government reform, enhancing transparency and reducing corruption, deregulation and reducing restrictive practices, and reforming the civil service were discussed in five working sessions.
Dr AKM Masihur Rahman, Secretary of Economic Relations Division, which organised the workshop, presented the proposed reform agenda matrix in the concluding session for adopting a series of recommendations to make the government effective and efficient.
See Page 12 Col 7

The workshop suggested that the pending recommendations of the Nuruunabi Reorganisation Committee and the Four Secretaries Report be implemented and a steering committee established to monitor implementation of the reforms.
Initiation of measures to establish fully funded safety-net programme for redundant workers and identification of bureaus/bodies to be set up as efficient service agencies are other two short-term actions for rightsizing the government.
For enhancing accountability and responsiveness, the workshop called for establishing multi-party task force and initiating actions for formulating an action plan to strengthen parliamentary institutions.
Appointment of Ombudsmen and establishment of related offices, initiation of programme for establishing public complaint offices and strengthening the Public Accounts Committee, and introduction of...
See Page 12 Col 7

Ctg fire brigade employee killed as JCD activists go on rampage

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Dec 5: A tense situation is prevailing in Pahartoli area of the port city where a Fire Brigade employee was killed allegedly by the activists of pro-BNP Chhatra Dal last night.
The deceased was identified as Aniruddha Barua (25).
Police said the JCD activists went on the rampage at around 10 pm immediately after the arrest of their leader Sharif Ullah.
During the violence the activists put up a barricade on the road, pelted stones at the passing vehicles set fire to some vehicles and exploded crackers.
At one stage they attacked the Fire Brigade men who had gone there to fight a blaze, police said. Aniruddha who received serious injuries died soon after admission to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.
Police said, Chhatra Dal leader Sharif Ullah was arrested in connection with a...
See Page 12 Col 2

Seven killed as cyclone nears Andhra coast

The severe cyclonic storm over West Central Bay was re-centred at 06 pm yesterday about 1160 kms southwest of Khulna town and 1325 kms southeast of Chittagong port, reports BSS.
It is likely to move in a northwesterly direction and may cross Andhra coast of India near Masulipatnam by this noon. Meteorological department said.
Meanwhile, rain and gale lashing the coast of South India killed at least seven people as an erratic cyclone approached the area yesterday. AP quoting officials in Hyderabad said.
'The cyclone has come very close to the coast and there is no chance of its changing the course or weakening,' said J V M Naidu, director of the Andhra Pradesh state Cyclone Warning Centre.
The storm was located in the Bay of Bengal 80 kilometers southeast of Machilipatnam yesterday morning and was moving slowly, at times remaining at one spot for hours. Machilipatnam is 350 kilometers southeast of the Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh.
The cyclone was expected to hit the coast yesterday afternoon. The coastal areas were lashed by three centimeters of rain overnight and winds clocking a speed of up to 70 kilometers per hour. Naidu said.
Seven people died when the mud walls of their huts collapsed because of rains on Wednesday and early yesterday, the officials said.
Using trucks and public buses, the authorities evacuated nearly 400,000 people from 500 villages. They included all residents living in a 15-kilometer stretch covering three districts of West Godavari, Krishna and Gunur which are expected to bear the brunt of the cyclone when it hits, the officials said.
The storm first appeared in the Bay of Bengal off Andhra Pradesh last week, headed northeast toward Bangladesh, then swooped back toward Andhra Pradesh on Sunday.
Driven by winds of up to 200 kilometers an hour and accompanied by a three-meter-high tidal wave, the cyclone was stronger than the one that battered the same area on Nov. 6, killing more than 1,000 people, the weather office said.

1 killed, 3 hurt in Feni bomb blast

FENI, Dec 5: A bomb explosion on a bridge at Temuhani in Sonagazi thana on Wednesday night left a young man dead and three others injured, reports UNB.
Hospital sources said four youths chatting on the bridge received splinter injuries as the bomb went off suddenly.
Of them, Nurul Alam, 25, succumbed to his wounds at Feni Sadar Hospital while the rest three — Swapn, Helal and Zafar — were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.
The victims were said to be the workers of local Jubo League, the youth front of ruling Awami League.
A case was filed with Sonagazi thana in this connection.

Young man shot dead in Raojan

CHITTAGONG, Dec 5: A young man was shot dead by unknown assailants at Kadalpur village in Raojan thana early today, reports UNB.
The dead was identified as Mohammad Jasim, 23, son of late Abaidul Haq of the village.
Quoting family sources police said one Muraddul Alam Montu called Jasim out of his residence at about 1 pm on Wednesday, but he did not return.
Police recovered the bullet-ridden body of Jasim from near a bridge over Tabalchhari canal at about 10.30 am today.

Albright named US Secy of State

WASHINGTON, Dec 5: US President Bill Clinton has named Madeleine Albright, currently ambassador to the United Nations, to serve as Secretary of State, US television networks reported today, says AFP.
Clinton has also selected a retiring Republican Party senator, William Cohen, to serve as Defense Secretary while Anthony Lake, the current National Security Advisor, will take over as head of the Central Intelligence Agency, the reports said.
Lake's deputy, Samuel Berger, will fill Lake's job as Clinton's National Security Advisor, the networks said.
Official announcements are expected later today.