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CSE MARKET

CSE price index	1346.26
Market capital Tk	1659.32 cr
Transactions in volume	1800
Transactions in value Tk	573000

NEWS BRIEFS

AL executive body meets today

An emergency meeting of the executive committee of Bangladesh Awami League will be held today at 6 pm at Gono Bhaban. Party chief Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will preside, reports BSS.

AL activist killed in Pabna

PABNA, Dec 8: An Awami League worker was killed in Bera thana of the district early today, reports UNB.

The worker was identified as Saded Ali Biswas 50, of Chardurgapur village in the thana. His body was found at a paddy field near his village.

Police suspected that the killing was a sequel to land dispute.

Family sources said Biswas had been missing since Friday evening, when he went out of his house.

2 injured in Khulna clash

KHULNA, Dec 8: Two rival groups of young men fought a battle in the city's New Market area today, exploding dozens of bombs that left two people critically injured, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash erupted at about 1:30 pm following a dispute to establish supremacy in the market area.

PM leaves for Delhi tomorrow, summit on Wednesday

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves for Delhi tomorrow on a 3-day official visit to India at the invitation of her Indian counterpart. H D Deve Gowda, said an official announcement yesterday, reports UNB.

She will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Secretary of the Water Resources Ministry Dr A T M Shamsul Huda and

other concerned senior government officials.

Formal talks between the prime ministers of Bangladesh and India are scheduled for Dec 11. The talks will cover the entire gamut of Bangladesh-India relations.

On top of the agenda is the issue of sharing the Ganges water, on which the two governments have held talks at various levels during the last six months.

The process was initiated soon after the assumption of office at about the same time by

the elected governments of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Prime Minister Deve Gowda in their respective countries.

During the visit, the Bangladesh Prime Minister will also call on Indian President Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma and Vice-President K R Narayanan.

She will also visit the shrines of Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chisty in Azmeer and of Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia in Delhi.

Other programmes in her itinerary in Delhi include plac-

ing of wreath at the monuments of the Indian national leaders in Rajghat and meeting with senior editors and business leaders.

Hasina will attend a banquet which will be hosted in her honour by Prime Minister Deve Gowda on Dec 11.

The Prime Minister will also have meetings with senior political leaders including Atal Behari Vajpayee and Congress President Sitaram Kesri, and with Sonia Gandhi.

She will return home on Dec 12.

ICB asked to play 'positive role'

DSE trading stopped in a planned way: Kibria

The Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) has been asked to operate vigorously in the stock market, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria announced, urging the brokers to resume floor trading immediately to restore normalcy in the market, reports UNB.

The finance minister told newsmen at his office yesterday that he advised the state-run ICB to play a 'positive role' in the stock market to stabilise it and protect the interests of the investors, mainly of the small

ones. The banking system, he said, is expected to extend support to the efforts for stabilising the market and the Bangladesh Bank governor has been consulted on the government steps for necessary cooperation so that ICB can perform its role.

The minister, flanked by a state minister, the central bank governor, the SEC chief and the banking secretary during the briefing in the wake of a crisis in the capital market, didn't elaborate on the 'positive role

of ICB. His announcement came at a critical moment for the capital market as transactions on the floor of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), the country's premier bourse, remained closed yesterday, owing to wild protests by share investors.

The minister said the government had taken some measures, such as imposing circuit-breaker, through the SEC to stabilise the market and protect the interests of the investors. See Page 12 Col 6

Parleys on to finalise draft accord

From M Anwarul Haq
NEW DELHI, Dec 8: Intense parleys between high officials of Bangladesh and India continued for the third day today in the Indian capital for settling intricate details of the proposed Ganges water-sharing accord between the two countries, expected to be signed on December 12.

Although Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India is due to begin within the next 48 hours, contents of the proposed accord are still a guarded secret. Negotiations are likely to enter a final stage after Chief Minister of the Indian state of West Bengal Jyoti Basu holds talks with Prime Minister Deve Gowda tomorrow.

See Page 12 Col 7

Demonstrators continue sit-in No trading at DSE

By Staff Correspondent

A day-long siege of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) building by the agitating kerb market traders forced closure of trading on the floor yesterday.

The slogan-chanting kerb market traders staged a sit-in in front of the DSE building from about 9 am, preventing all brokers and market operators from entering the building, according to witnesses. The indefinite sit-in entered its second day yesterday.

This is the second time that trading has been suspended in the DSE in recent weeks because of the volatile situation in the share market.

Earlier, the trading on the bourse was disrupted last month after the kerb market operators laid siege to the DSE

building protesting a sharp fall in share prices.

The DSE building remained locked the whole day yesterday and a group of police personnel were deployed at the gate. The kerb market traders demanded punishment of what they said the 'corrupt' DSE members and resignation of the finance minister.

During the 9 am to 2 pm sit-in, a rally was held, presided over by Moniruzzaman Monir, convener of newly-formed Bangladesh Small Investors Federation (BSIF). It was addressed by some 50 small investors who suffered losses due to the sudden fall in share prices.

Demanding immediate steps See Page 12 col 5

3 burnt alive in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Dec 8: Three persons were burnt alive in a fire in a packaging industry at Shashangao in Fatullah early morning yesterday, according to police and fire service officials.

They were identified as Biswa Babu 40, Abdul Salam 35 and Abdul Awal, all employees of the industry. They were asleep inside a room when the fire originating from an electric short circuit, engulfed the room at around 5:30 am, police and fire service officials said.

Fire fighters from Hajiganj and Mandalpara went to the spot at around 6:15 am and brought the fire under control in an hour. Six fire fighters were also injured in the operation, said fire service sources. The extent of damage is yet to be ascertained.

Cabinet approves Hajj Policy

The Cabinet approved the Hajj Policy 1997 yesterday, reports UNB.

The approval was given at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office.

According to the Hajj Policy 1997, a total of Tk 78.815 will be spent for each hajj pilgrim, including house rent, plane fare and other expenditure. The same amount was spent last year.

Each Hajj pilgrim will be allowed to carry up to US dollar 550 for personal expenses, said an official handout.

The pilgrims, who will perform Hajj under the government management, were advised to deposit Tk 16,000 in advance for house rent at Makkah by November 16 last. But for the convenience of See Page 12 Col 4

Production in CUFL suspended

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Dec 8: The Authorities of the Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Limited (CUFL) have decided to suspend its production following the reduction of gas supply to the CUFL, officials sources said.

They said the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) had issued a letter this afternoon to the authorities of CUFL asking for suspending the production with immediate effect.

The BCIC's order came as the Bakhrabad Gas System Limited (BGSLS) issued an ultimatum today for reduction of the gas supply to CUFL by another 10 million cubic feet.

The CUFL requires 51 million cubic feet gas daily for

normal production of 1700 metric tons of fertilizer.

A senior official of CUFL told The Daily Star today that if the gas supply is reduced by 10 million cubic feet further, it would be difficult to run the factory for production.

CUFL, a major fertilizer producing factory of the country under BCIC built at a cost of Tk 1700 crore about 10 years ago, meets 26 per cent of country's fertilizer requirements, officials said.

Meanwhile, the decision for suspension of production in CUFL sparked off agitation among the workers who staged demonstration at the factory premises today protesting the reduction of gas supply.

WTO meeting begins in S'pore today

The first World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial conference begins in Singapore today, reports UNB.

A 19 member Bangladesh delegation, led by Commerce and Industry Minister Tofael Ahmed, left for Singapore yesterday to attend the 5-day conference.

Commerce ministers from 125 member countries of the WTO including Bangladesh, will take part in the conference. Representative from 30 non-member countries may also join the conference.

Various new issues like labour, environment, investment, competition policies and information technology agreement are likely to be raised in the conference for inclusion in the WTO agenda. The meeting is expected to

critically review the implementation of Uruguay Round (RU).

In the conference, Bangladesh Commerce Minister will deliver his speech at the opening session on behalf of LDCs.

Other members of the delegation are Mosharaf Hossain, MF, Commerce Secretary Syed Alamgir Farouk Chowdhury, DCCI President Ali Hossain, MCCI President Samson H Chowdhury, ICCI President Mahbubur Rahman, FICCI President Mahbub Jamil, Bangladesh Employers' Association President Abdul Awal Minto, BGMEA President Anisur Rahman Sinha, Jatiya Sramik Federation President Abul Basher and Jatiya Sramik League President Abdus Salam Khan.

See also Page 6

'Preserve No 8 Theatre Rd house'

By Staff Correspondent



The National Memorial at Savar is being spruced up for the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Victory Day. — Star photo

25th V-Day

Speakers at a remembrance meeting in the city yesterday urged the government to request the Indian government to hand over the No. 8 Theatre Road house in Calcutta to Bangladesh for preserving it as one of the great memorials of the Liberation War.

The house was the temporary headquarters of the government of People's Republic of Bangladesh in-exile during the Liberation War.

The remembrance meeting organised by the National Museum at its Children's auditorium was addressed by, among others, Faysal Ahmed, Sayed Hasan Imam, Kamal Lohani, ABM Musa, Ali Zaker and artist Swapan Chowdhury.

The speakers said that a certain group was trying to put Moulana Bhasani against Bangabandhu, regarding the Bangalee culture. In fact, it was Moulana who first united the cultural activists of the two Bengals at the Kagmari conference, they said.

In spite of political differences with Bangabandhu, Bhasani had acted as an adviser to the Mujib Nagar government, they pointed out.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday urged all pro-liberation forces to unite to reach the fruits of independence among the common people.

We are divided for a long time, but on the eve of the Silver Jubilee of the Victory Day we have to take pledge to build a sonar Bangla as dream by the father of the nation Bangabandhu. See Page 12 Col 1

Mujib rehabilitated Razakars: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP vice-chairman and deputy leader of the opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Prof AQM Badruddoza Choudhury has said the people will not accept any temporary accord on sharing of the Ganges waters and a quantum less than 40,000 cusec.

The water-sharing treaty must be a permanent one and ensure 40,000 to 45,000 cusec of water during the dry season, he told a public rally in front of the party central office at Naya Palton in the city yesterday.

The rally was organised as part of BNP's on-going 16-day programme marking the Silver Jubilee of independence. Badruddoza Choudhury also

said that the people were "uncompromising" on giving transit facility to India in return for the country's due share of Ganges waters.

In this regard, the BNP leader also alleged that while negotiating on the water issue, the government was "creating fresh problems" in the name of deficit of power and pleading for transit on the plea of connecting Bangladesh with the proposed Asian Highway.

Addressing the rally as chief guest, Badruddoza also accused Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of "speaking lies frequently, distorting the national history and allowing Indian domina-

See Page 12 Col 2

Work on new sectt bldg to start soon

The construction work of the Bangladesh Jatiya Shachibai-aya (Bangladesh National Secretariat) project will start soon on 47 acres of land at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, earmarked for the purpose, reports BSS.

This was disclosed yesterday at a meeting on the implementation of the project, held in the conference room of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works with the State Minister for Housing and Public Works Afzaruddin Ahmed Khan in the chair.

The meeting was told that on the basis of the plan and design made by the American architect, Louis Kahn, in 1974, the Department of Architecture has taken the initiative to implement the project within two years time.

The meeting was also informed that all sorts of service facilities including mosque, library, auditorium, post offices, bank, telephone exchanges, cafeteria and security arrangements would be available in the new secretariat.

Killing of Chinese engr: Main accused held

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 8: Police arrested the main accused in the Chinese engineer murder case after a shoot-out at Barakundu under Sitakundu this evening.

Md. Ali alias Ailla was caught red-handed with bullet injuries. Three other policemen were also injured during the exchange of fire, police said. The exchange of fire began when police raided their hide-out this evening. See Page 12 Col 8

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102 MPs for no-confidence Seven Nepali cabinet ministers resign

KATHMANDU, Dec 8: Seven Nepal Cabinet members today submitted their resignation to Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, showing their support for a proposed no-confidence motion against the coalition government led by the Nepali Congress (NC) Party, reports Xinhua.

The ministers, all from the ruling partner, the National Democratic Party (NDP), handed over their resignations to the prime minister earlier today, sources here said.

Meanwhile, NDP parliamentary leader Lokendra Bahadur Chand today submitted a memorandum signed by 102 MPs to King Birendra, asking him to

call a special session of the Lower House to discuss the no-confidence motion against the government.

Under the constitution of Nepal, a special house session could be called by the King if demanded by a two-third majority of the 205-seat Lower House. A motion of no-confidence would require 103 votes in the Lower House.

Rumours here said earlier Chand would be the prime minister if a new coalition government is formed between NDP and the main opposition Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist and Leninist (CPN-UML).

IEB convention begins today

By Staff Correspondent

The 41st annual convention of the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) begins in the city today.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the 3-day convention which will be See Page 12 Col 4

Clash at DU

A clash between two left-leaning student organisations on the Dhaka University campus yesterday left eight activists injured from both sides, reports UNB.

The clash between Biplobi Chhatra Maitri and Bangladesh Chhatra Maitri took place in Modhu's canteen at about 1:30 am following a squabble over taking down of posters on the campus.

POPULATION INFORMATION DIRECTORIES

The National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT) is going to prepare directories for population experts, population institutes/organisations and current population researchers for the year 1995-1996.

The experts, i.e., researchers, trainers, information specialists, policymakers and the top level programme managers and institutes/organisations in GOB, NGOs, and private sectors involved in population, family planning and maternal and child health (FP-MCH) related activities, and the researchers who are currently conducting studies on population and FP-MCH are requested to contact the undersigned through letters, telephone, fax or e-mail to be listed in the directories on or before January 15, 1996.

A set of questionnaires will be mailed to the short-listed experts, institutes/organisations and the researchers for providing necessary information. NIPORT deserves the right of inclusion or exclusion of the name of any experts, institutes/organisations, and researchers in the directories.

MD ZAHIDUR RAHMAN BHUIYAN

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