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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	2661.61
Market capital Tk	19009.56 cr
Transactions in volume	2.49 lakh
Transactions in value Tk	10.09 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	1264.45
Market capital Tk	14836.42 cr
Transactions in volume	34368
Transactions in value Tk	9123395 cr

NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina greets Kofi Annan
 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has greeted Kofi Annan on his appointment as Secretary General of the United Nations, reports UNB.



Students of Viqarunnissa Noon School performing at the opening ceremony of the Sixth Bangladesh Games at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

SAARC FMs' meet begins in Delhi today Dhaka to place proposal for sub-regional cooperation

Dhaka will moot proposal for a sub-regional cooperation, grouping Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan, at the SAARC foreign ministers' meeting beginning in New Delhi today.

"SAARC charter permits a faster track of sub-regional cooperation among the member countries having geographical contiguity," a senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told UNB yesterday justifying the move.

Dhaka, he said, will also call for eventually doing away with visas and other travel restrictions among the member nations.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, now in New Delhi, will lead the Bangladesh delegation to the two-day meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers, the second highest policy-making body of the seven-nation forum.

Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, the current chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation,

will inaugurate the conference of the foreign ministers.

Bangladesh, which mooted the SAARC, that also groups Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, will place some other proposals at the meeting with a view to moving the 12-year-old association towards a "South Asian Community," the official said.

The proposals include expansion of inter-regional trade, full implementation of the SAPTA agreement and removal of tariff and paratariff barriers on reciprocal basis.

Bangladesh will also suggest an efficient transport and telecommunications network as well as more investment flows among the member states, he added.

The meeting will fix date for the forum's next summit, due next March in Male, the capital of the Maldives. Besides, it will review the progress of the association's activities in its 13 areas of cooperation, identified so far.

On top of the agenda is expe-

ditioning the association's trade liberalisation process.

BSS from New Delhi adds: Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, who arrived here late last night to attend the conference, yesterday called on his Indian counterpart I K Gujral.

The two ministers discussed bilateral matters and issues relating to promotion of regional cooperation.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shahbazda Yaqub Khan arrived yesterday to participate in the meeting. Both New Delhi and Islamabad have maintained that there are no plans to have formal talks between Gujral and Yaqub Khan.

AFP adds: Trade issues including a proposed free trade bloc and leftover items from the recent WTO conference, are expected to dominate the meeting of SAARC foreign ministers.

Officials said SAARC foreign secretaries met here Tuesday to cobble together an agenda for the ministerial meeting.

PM opens Sixth Bangladesh Games

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated Sixth Bangladesh Games, the biggest sports extravaganza of the country, reports UNB.

The sports meet, which takes place every four years, has been organised by Bangladesh Olympic Association in cooperation with 22 sports federations.

The Prime Minister witnessed the colourful inaugural function of the eight-day Bangladesh Games-1996 at the Dhaka National Stadium for nearly two and a half hours in the afternoon.

The programme began with an spectacular parachuting by six army personnel, who landed in the stadium ground carrying National Olympic and 6th Bangladesh Games Flags. The parachutists jumped from two helicopters 8,000 feet above the ground.

The Prime Minister released two white pigeons and balloons carrying a banner inscribed with "Sixth Bangladesh Games".

Some 4,000 sportsmen and women from sports associations of six divisions and 64 districts and different organisations participated.

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Peruvian rebels hold 200 hostage at Japanese envoy's residence

LIMA(Peru), Dec 18: Armed guerrillas who sneaked into a glittering reception at the Japanese ambassador's residence held at least 200 diplomats and officials hostage today. One rebel threatened to start killing them unless the government freed jailed guerrillas, reports AP.

The rebels demanded to meet with President Alberto Fujimori, the government's ombudsman and a priest familiar with Peru's prison conditions. They did not announce a deadline for their demands.

"What we are asking is the liberation of all of our comrades, who are being mistreated and tortured in the dungeons of the various prisons," said a guerrilla who identified himself as Comandante Mejia Huerta.

The rebels, of the Tupac Amaru movement, took over the ambassador's house as the party began Tuesday night, setting off explosions and exchanging gunfire with police for almost an hour.

Two hostages and a rebel were wounded.

In the hours after the assault, the rebels released about 170 hostages, mostly women

and the elderly. Reports differed on how many were left, but at least 200 people remained inside.

Among the hostages were the ambassadors of Brazil, Bolivia, Cuba, Canada, Egypt, South Korea, Germany, Austria and Venezuela, as well as the European Union's charge d'affaires, a Portuguese diplomat.

Also being held were Peru's Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela and Agriculture Minister Rodolfo Munante, as well as six congressmen and the president of the Supreme Court.

Fujimori, whose sister was among the hostages released, called on emergency cabinet meeting today.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda told a news conference in Tokyo. About 60 Japanese are among the estimated 200 hostages being held in the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima.

"At the moment we believe that there are about 60 (Japanese), including embassy employees," Ikeda said. "Three of the 20 embassy employees who were being held hostage have been freed and there may be slightly more than 40 Japanese working for Japanese companies still being held."

Police said the 23 guerrillas, including three women, slipped through the compound's security by posing as waiters carrying champagne and hors d'oeuvres for the party in honour of Japanese Emperor Akihito's birthday next Monday.

They made their move soon after they entered the compound, ringed by a 15-foot (5 meter) concrete wall topped by a 10-foot (3 meter) electrical fence.

"I heard a loud explosion, then gunfire," said Mico Torii, who was among those released. "We were told to get down and not move. There was a lot of yelling."

Another guest, BBC correspondent Sally Bowen, said in a report soon after her release that she had been eating and

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Washington, Dec 18: President Bill Clinton offered help today to Peru's President Alberto Fujimori and Japanese Prime Minister Hashimoto in solving the hostage standoff, reports AFP.

Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela and Agriculture Minister Rodolfo Munante, as well as six congressmen and the president of the Supreme Court.

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Impasse at Jessore jail continues

The impasse at Jessore Central Jail continued yesterday as unruly prisoners declined to allow jail guards in unless their demand is broadcast over radio, reports UNB.

Leaders of different political parties including three local MPs tried in vain to negotiate with the revolting prisoners twice yesterday through loudspeakers.

"Normally will not be restored unless we hear our demands over radio," a so-called leader of the jail revolt told them using a loud speaker the prisoners had snatched from a jail official.

Angry prisoners took control of the jail driving out its wardens on Victory Day Monday. The trouble started at about 9 am following a wrangle between the jail warden and prisoners over distribution of food.

High officials concerned from the capital Dhaka and Khulna division rushed to the district headquarters but failed to control the jail revolt till yesterday afternoon. Prisoners blocked the entry by placing sacks of rice and flour at the jail gate.

The negotiators repeatedly tried to convince the prisoners that it would take at least three-month time for the government to take decision on their demands. At present, we can release the demand in only Jessore Central Jail, one negotiator told the prisoners.

Their call went unheard as the prisoners stuck to their 9-point demand that includes a general amnesty like 1991, repeal of Special Powers Act, setting cases within three months.

Editorial on page 4

of trial, improved diet, health facilities and an end to accommodation problem.

They also want that a prisoner who has served 14 years term be released, day and night be counted as two days, hajjat tenure included in jail terms and Indian nationals in jail be

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CHT peace talks on Saturday

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 18: Preparations are afoot for Saturday's dialogue between Shantibahini leaders and the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts, formed by the new government, official sources said.

The government side in the dialogue, aimed at finding out a political solution to the long-drawn Chittagong Hill Tracts problem, will be led by Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah while the five member Shantibahini team will be headed by J B Larma alias Shanto Larma, president of Parbattya Chittagong Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), the sources said.

The dialogue is scheduled to start at 10 am at the

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জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
 প্রথম সমাবর্তন, জানুয়ারি, ১৯৯৭

সমাবর্তন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আগামী ৫-১-৯৭ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের প্রথম সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠান উপলক্ষে সমাবর্তনে ডিগ্রী গ্রহণকারীগণের কাছে পরিচয়পত্র ও জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বিতরণিত কর্মসূচী সফলিত চিঠি, এবং বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সিনেট, সিন্ডিকেট ও শিক্ষা পর্ষদের সম্মতিত সনদ্য ও শিক্ষাপত্রের কাছে জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বিতরণিত কর্মসূচী সফলিত চিঠি ইত্যোমধ্যেই প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে। উল্লিখিত পরিচয়পত্র এবং/অথবা চিঠি কারো কাছে না পৌঁছে থাকলে এই বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লেখকৃত জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় অনুসরণ করার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়:

- সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠানের দিন সকাল ৯-৩০ মিনিটের মধ্যে সমাবর্তন-পাউনসহ সমাবর্তন প্যাডেলে নির্ধারিত এলাকায় অবশ্যই আসন গ্রহণ করতে হবে।
- সমাবর্তন প্যাডেলে ডিগ্রী গ্রহণকারী ও নিমন্ত্রিত অতিথি ব্যতীত অন্য কোনো ব্যক্তির জন্য আসনের ব্যবস্থা থাকবে না।
- ৩১-১২-৯৬ তারিখ থেকে ৩-১-৯৭ তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতিদিন সকাল ৯-০০ টা থেকে বিকেল ৪-০০ টা পর্যন্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ক্যাম্পাসে নিম্নলিখিত কাউন্টার থেকে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সমাবর্তন পরিচয়পত্র দেখিয়ে এবং মূল প্রতিশ্রুতি স্যাটিকিটে (সাতক ও সাতকোত্তর) জমা দিয়ে সমাবর্তন পাউন গ্রহণ করতে হবে। ডিগ্রী গ্রহণকারীর পক্ষে অন্য কোনো ব্যক্তিকে পাউন প্রদান করা হবে না।

ডিগ্রী গ্রহণকারী:

ক) কলা ও মানবিকী অনুষদ ও প্রাণবিজ্ঞান	: ছাত্র-শিক্ষক কেন্দ্র
ইনস্টিটিউটের অন্তর্ভুক্ত বিভাগ সমূহের ডিগ্রীগ্রহণকারীগণ।	
খ) পাণ্ডিতিক ও পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান অনুষদের অন্তর্ভুক্ত বিভাগসমূহের ডিগ্রী গ্রহণকারীগণ।	: অডিটোরিয়াম
গ) সমাজ বিজ্ঞান অনুষদের অন্তর্ভুক্ত বিভাগসমূহের ডিগ্রীগ্রহণকারীগণ।	: সমাজ বিজ্ঞান ভবন

উল্লিখিত তারিখ ও সময় ব্যতীত অন্য কোনো দিন পাউন বিতরণ করা হবে না।

- বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত পরিচয়পত্রে ও শুধু সাতক ডিগ্রীর সন উল্লেখ থাকলেও সংশ্লিষ্ট ডিগ্রী গ্রহণকারীগণকে সকল ডিগ্রীর সনদপত্র প্রদান করা হবে।
- কোনো ডিগ্রী গ্রহণকারী এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সিনেট অথবা সিন্ডিকেট অথবা শিক্ষা পর্ষদ অথবা একাদিক্রমে দুই বা ততোধিক কর্তৃপক্ষের সনদ্য হয়ে থাকলে, সেক্ষেত্রে পাউন ও হুড ছাড়াও তাঁকে সর্বোচ্চ কর্তৃপক্ষের স্যান প্রদান করা হবে।
- ইতোপূর্বে কোনো ডিগ্রীগ্রহণকারী মূল সনদপত্র গ্রহণ করে থাকলে পাউন গ্রহণের দিন তাঁকে অবশ্যই মূল সনদপত্র জমা দিতে হবে।
- সকল প্রতিশ্রুতি স্যাটিকিটে/মূল সনদপত্র (বীর ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য) জমা না দিলে সমাবর্তন-পাউন প্রদান করা হবে না, এবং সমাবর্তন-পাউন ব্যতীত কোনো অবস্থাতেই সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠানে অংশগ্রহণ করা যাবে না।
- সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠান শেষে প্রদান বেলা ১-০০ টা থেকে ৫-০০ টা এবং ৬-১-৯৭ তারিখ বেলা ১০-০০ টা থেকে ৪-০০ টার মধ্যে নির্দিষ্ট কাউন্টারে সমাবর্তন-পাউন ফেরৎ দিয়ে মূল সনদপত্র গ্রহণ করতে হবে।
- কোনো ডিগ্রী গ্রহণকারী সমাবর্তন-পাউন ফেরৎ দিতে ব্যর্থ হলে তাঁকে মূল সনদপত্র প্রদান করা হবে না, এবং সেক্ষেত্রে উক্ত পাউন বাবৎ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত মূল্য তিনি পরিশোধ করতে বাধ্য থাকবেন।
- সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠানের দিন ডিগ্রী গ্রহণকারী, বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষক, সিনেট সদস্য, সিন্ডিকেট সদস্য ও শিক্ষা পর্ষদের সদস্যগণের যাতায়াতের সুবিধার্থে ঢাকা জাতীয় জাদুঘরের (শাহবাগ) সামনে থেকে সকাল ৭-৩০ টায় বাস ছেড়ে কাঁটাবন, নীলক্ষেত, নিউ মার্কেট, কলাবাগান ও আসাদ গেইট হয়ে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ক্যাম্পাসে পৌঁছাবে। প্রদান বিকেল ৫-০০ টায় একই রুট অনুসরণ করে ক্যাম্পাস থেকে বাস ছেড়ে ঢাকায় যাবে।
- মহামান্য চ্যান্সেলার কর্তৃক আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে ডিগ্রী প্রদান বা কা পাঠ করার সময় সকল ডিগ্রী গ্রহণকারীকে নিজ নিজ আসনের সামনে পাঁড়তে হবে।

মুহাম্মদ আবদুল পকুর
 উপ-রেজিস্ট্রার(শিক্ষা)

সদস্য-সচিব, সমাবর্তন ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটি।

JS standoff: Mannan urges govt to create atmosphere for talks

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday urged the ruling party to create a congenial atmosphere for dialogue to break the standoff and make way for his party's return to Parliament.

"We sincerely want to come back to the House and play an effective and constructive role but before that, the ruling party will have to create a favourable atmosphere," he told UNB at the BNP central office.

BNP lawmakers have been abstaining from Parliament since November 10, when it was in its second session, to press its 10-point demands.

A BNP delegation led by its chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia also met President Shahabuddin Ahmed on November 18 and apprised him of the crisis.

Bhuiyan said: "We have already conveyed the matter to the President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. The Pres-

ident agreed to take initiative if the two sides agreed to sit."

He further added, "We are ready to sit, if the President calls us. But till date, we have not received any positive response, neither from the President nor the ruling party."

Bhuiyan said BNP still believes that Parliament should be the centre of all political activities. Despite "ranging" in the last general elections, BNP wants to maintain the democratic and development process.

"We thought that we would be able to play our constructive role in Parliament and join the nation-building activities. But we cannot do so because of undemocratic and unconstitutional activities of the government."

In reply to a question, Bhuiyan said: "Our return to the coming session remains uncertain unless the problems are resolved."

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Speakers at roundtable on WB report Consensus on reforms, good governance must for quick growth

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for political consensus on reforms, good governance and a strong local government structure to get on the path of quick growth.

They also felt that a home-grown development agenda is important to keep it out of all controversy and to make it truly fulfilling the local needs and aspirations.

The roundtable on the World Bank's recent publication "Bangladesh: An agenda for action" was organised by a vernacular daily Bhorer Kagoj at a city hotel.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, former state minister for planning Moeen Khan, Grameen Bank Chief Prof Mohammad Yunus and former adviser to caretaker government Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud, Prof Jamilur Reza

Chowdhury and Manzur Elahi participated in the discussions.

Addressing the roundtable Finance Minister SAMS Kibria said a major task before the government is to complete the reform process initiated in the past. Needed reforms in the legal system will be made to help this process, he added.

He also mentioned the reforms in the administration and local government system are also urgent task before the government.

But, above all, political consensus is a must to carry forward the reforms, he observed.

"The reform programmes we are now pursuing were conceived during the last government's tenure. So, there should not be any problem in reaching that critical consensus. Reforms have no political identity."

Talking on the issue of sub-

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At Breakfast with Frost on BBC...

...together.

CityCell
 I'll be there.

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