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**DSE MARKET**

DSE price index	2514.14
Market capital Tk	17956.34 cr
Transactions in volume	131827
Transactions in value Tk	3.82 cr

**CSE MARKET**

CSE price index	1213.58
Market capital Tk	14786.88 cr
Transactions in volume	19665
Transactions in value Tk	6427.0758

## \$213m WB credit for Dhaka water supply, rural road projects

The World Bank will give some 213.3 million US dollars to Bangladesh for two important projects, one aimed at providing urgently needed safe water to the Dhaka dwellers, reports UNB.

The other major project is the Bangladesh Second Rural Roads and Markets Improvement and Maintenance Project aimed at revamping the country's rural transport and revitalising the countryside markets.

According to a World Bank announcement yesterday, the Bank will provide 133 million dollar, out of the total project cost of 192.36 million dollar, through the International Development Association (IDA), its concessionary lending arm.

Swiss government will provide 15 million US dollar and the Bangladesh government and local communities about 44 million dollar for the second project.

Lending of 80.3 million dollar for the 175 million-dollar Fourth Dhaka Water Supply project will also be made from the IDA. The French government is also providing 31.3 million dollar, the Japanese government 1.2 million dollar and the Bangladesh government 63 million dollar.

The announcement, made through a press release, of the much-awaited approval will now clear the way for implementation of the water project which, when operational, will introduce the first major primary water-treatment plant in Dhaka to provide safe water and sanitation to Dhaka residents.

"The project will help relieve Dhaka's water shortages and bring safe water to areas that are currently not served by piped water," project task manager Jonathan Kamkwalala, a senior financial analyst at the World Bank, has been quoted by the release as saying.

"In these areas, people often pay as much as seven times per unit for small volumes of water as served with direct residential connections," he added.

The project includes five main components — a programme for institutional reforms, increase in the capacity of current water production and service extension, reduction in system loss and improvement of sanitation, technical assistance for institutional development and technical assistance for project preparation and implementation support.

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## PM calls for strengthening regional cooperation

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for strengthening the process of regional cooperation within the framework of the SAARC to facilitate the nation-building tasks, reports UNB.

"No country can make economic progress in isolation," she said adding that this region should also put its effort in forging various economic groupings among themselves to ensure its development.

Inaugurating a 3-day international seminar in the morning, Hasina mentioned that countries of the developed and developing world were forging various economic groupings. South Asia cannot isolate itself from the ongoing process of such radical changes in the international arena, she said.

The seminar on "Governance and Development: South Asia in the 21st Century" was organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS).

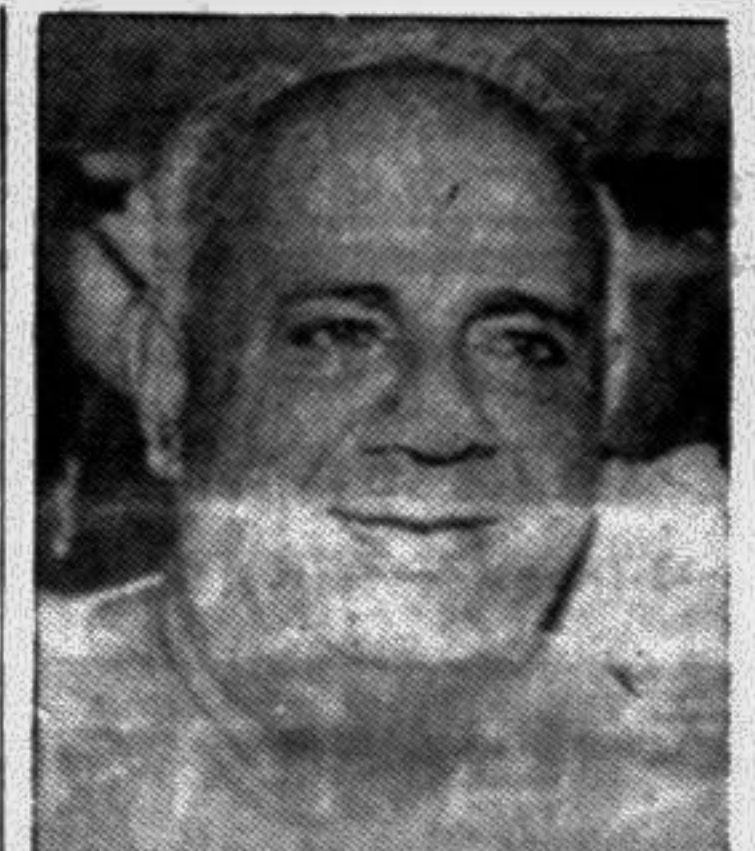
Held at the BIISS auditorium, the seminar was also addressed by its Chairman Barrister AKH Morshed, Director General Brig ZA Khan and seminar coordinator Dr Abdur Rab Khan.

The Prime Minister emphasised on good governance and institutionalisation of the process of development for solving the current-day problems.

She termed hunger, poverty, socio-economic development and democratisation as the greatest challenges of this region for the 21st century.

Hasina said her government was pledged-bound to ensure political stability, develop transparency and accountable administration, protect environment and free the people from the clutches of hunger, poverty and diseases.

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**Deve Gowda due Jan 5**

Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda will visit Bangladesh January 5-6 at the invitation of his counterpart, official sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

Gowda was invited to visit Bangladesh by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her tour of New Delhi in the second week of this month, when the Ganges water treaty was signed between the two countries.

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Inmates of Jessore Central Jail demonstrating on the roof of one of the jail buildings yesterday. — Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq

## Rebel inmates hold firm grip on Jessore jail

**From Mizan Ali**

The prisoners are showing increasing signs of fatigue and split in ranks as the hardcore criminals, at least 22 of them from the death row, some donned in black, roamed the prison yards with glistening machetes.

"Freedom or death," they displayed banners chanting slogans of defiance terrifying, ordinary prisoners.

The prison authorities used taped religious sermons blared over loudspeakers to match a megaphone of the rebel prisoners who took control of the jail chasing out the wardens on Tuesday.

They were demanding a string of reforms including invoking of the ordinance that had provided amnesty different categories of prisoners in 1991 after the then Caretaker Government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. The ordinance was repeated by another caretaker government headed by Justice Habibur Rahman in June this year.

Prison conditions, in which convicts and under trials had to live in cramped conditions, with poor sanitation and meagre food, provided the grounds for the revolt.

"We could restore normalcy much earlier using force. But the government wants to restore normalcy without resorting to force," the Divisional Commissioner of Khulna told newsmen yesterday. Persuasion by the authorities has shown results, leading to slumping morale and unity among the prisoners, he added.

About prisoners' complaints, he said that he was aware of those and when normalcy was restored, those would be addressed. Even

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## Attack on orphanage in Matlab: 100 hurt

CHANDPUR, Dec 21: More than 100 inmates of an orphanage at a village in Matlab thana were injured, seven of them seriously, when some outsiders attacked them today, reports UNB.

Local people said some 50 youths attacked the Al-Amin Orphanage at village Farazikandi, 15 km off the town, following altercation with its inmates over using its playground.

The trouble started when the intruders wanted to play cricket in the playground where the students of the orphanage were playing football in the morning.

The unruly youths stormed the orphanage, ransacked a good number of rooms, damaged its property besides beating up a teacher and many students. Seven of them were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

The damaged property included a sophisticated wireless set worth about Tk 3 lakh.

On hearing the news of the incident, the district administration sent police to the spot.

## Saudi Arabia Asian soccer champs

**Sports Reporter**

Saudi Arabia clinched the 11th Asian Cup yesterday beating hosts United Arab Emirates in the final of this region's biggest footballing fiesta at the Zayed Sports City Ground in Abu Dhabi.

In a closely contested match Emirates held their fancied opponents during the regulation time and 30-minute extra time. The match went into sudden death stage following goalless 120-minute proceedings. In the nail-biting penalty shoot-out the Saudi Arabians rolled off the spirited hosts 4-2. Saudi Arabia, who are Asia's second highest-rated team, played in the final for the fourth straight time.

Iran grabbed third place after defeating Kuwait 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out.

The losers were tied 1-1 in regular time and resorted to a penalty shootout to break the deadlock.

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The auction will be held on 30-12-96 in the Conference Room, 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10-00 AM.

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## LGC to prepare draft report by Dec 31 4-tier local body system almost finalised

**By Nurul Kabir**

The Local Government Commission (LGC), which is scheduled to prepare a draft report on a four tier local government system by the end of this month, has almost finalised the composition, powers and functions of local bodies at district, thana, union and village levels, LGC sources said.

"We have almost envisaged the separate composition, powers and functions of the proposed local government bodies at the district, thana, union and village levels," said Rahmat Ali a ruling party MP who is chairman of the eight member LGC.

Talking to The Daily Star on Thursday the LGC chairman said, "Our report would suggest measures that would ensure devolution of power from the government to the regional bodies, effective empowerment of the people in terms of their active participation in the policy making process of the government and running of all levels of administration by the elected representatives of the people."

Suranjit Sengupta, Parliamentary Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister and a member of the LGC, said the commission would not propose anything that could suggest extension of bureaucracy to village level administration.

According to LGC sources, the commission is to propose direct election of the local bodies at all the proposed four tiers while provision for reserved quota for women would also be there. Besides, the chief of a lower level local government body would be the ex-officio member of its immediate higher body, the sources added.

The local bodies would enjoy the authority of taking up various development programmes for their respective areas and certain executive authority to implement those. The LGC chairman told this correspondent.

The district level body would be named Zila Parishad and the LGC would propose to the government to give the chief of such a parishad the status of a state minister, said Suranjit.

Planning as well as implementation of development programmes relating to public health, primary education, fisheries, livestock and so on would be put under the union level bodies, LGC sources said.

The union level body, likely to be named Union Parishad, would get grants from the government to implement their programmes. But they would be given some executive authority to collect revenues from their

See Page 12 Col 3

## CHT truce extended till March 31

**From Nurul Alam**

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 21: Leaders of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), today agreed to extend the ongoing truce in Chittagong Hill Tracts till March 31 next year to continue the peace initiatives.

The agreement was reached at a dialogue between the PCJSS leaders and the government-formed National Committee on CHT, headed by the Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah at Khagrachhari circuit house.

It was also agreed that the next peace talks will be held on December 24 at 10 am at the same venue to find out a political solution to the long drawn problem in the CHT.

The PCJSS represents the Shantibahini.

After today's talks, Abul Hasnat Abdullah and President of the PCJSS J B Larma alias Shantu Larma addressed a joint press conference at the circuit house Shantu Larma is the five-member Shantibahini team, in the talks.

Replying to a question Shantu Larma said "I am definitely hopeful about a solution to the CHT issue."

"Under the new government, I have observed new efforts and feelings to resolve the issue," Shantu Larma added.

When asked Shantu flatly denied involvement of his partymen in the killing of 28 woodcutters at Longadu of Rangamati and abduction of the TNO of Thanchi thana of Banderbon recently during ceasefire performed that because of his sickness there was no detail discussion at today's meeting.

Abul Hasnat Abdullah said that today's dialogue was adjourned at 2 pm after continuing for over three hours.

He said that the dialogue, the first since the new government took over was held in a cordial atmosphere.

Another participant in the dialogue said, "This meeting will be marked as a starting point towards resolving the CHT issue."

The four other PCJSS leaders who attended the dialogue held under a tight security at the hill top Khagrachhari circuit house, were Gaurium Dewan, Rupayan Dewan, Sudhasindu Kisa and Rakta Ufal Tripura.

Eight out of eleven members of the National Committee were present at the dialogue. They included Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Awami League leader Ataur Rahman Kaiser and Mosarrat Hossain.

See Page 12 Col 1

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ভারতের সাথে পানি বন্ধন চুক্তি সম্পাদনে সাক্ষ্যের প্রেক্ষিতে মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার প্রতি অভিনন্দন

প্রয়ো নেই,

আমাদের আলোচনা, স্বাধীনতা ও মুক্তির রক্ত জড়ানো তত্ত্বাপন সরকারের বরন মাত্র ৫ মাস। এর স্বল্প সময়ে অন্যান্য সাক্ষ্যের পাশাপাশি দেশের ১২ কোটি মানুষ, বিশেষ করে উত্তরবঙ্গের ১৯টি জেলার (বৃহত্তর কুষ্টিয়া) গ্রাম সড়ে ৪ কোটি মানুষের দীর্ঘ দিনের জীবন-মরণ সমস্যা-পানি সমস্যার সমাধানে ৩০ বছর মেয়াদি পানি বন্ধন চুক্তি আপনার যুগান্তকারী সাক্ষ্য। এই সাক্ষ্যের জন্য উত্তরবঙ্গের গ্রাম সড়ে ৪ কোটি মানুষের পক্ষ হতে উত্তরবঙ্গ কল্যাণ সমিতির সভাপতি হিসেবে আমি আপনাকে শুভ ও প্রাণঢালা অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। আমি বিশ্বাস করি, যে নেতার জন্য না হলে বাংলাদেশ স্বাধীন হ'তনা, সেই মহান নেতা, জাতীয় পিতা স্ববন্ধুর সুযোগ্য কন্যা তথা উত্তরবঙ্গের বহুই আপনার বর্ধিত নেতৃত্বে ১২ কোটি মানুষের জন্য এই সাক্ষ্য হয়ে আনন্দ হয়েছিল। আপনার এই সুকীর্তি বাংলাদেশের ইতিহাসে চিরস্মরণীয় হয়ে থাকবে।

আপনি প্রায়শই বলে থাকেন, উন্নয়নে কেহে যে সফল কোনো পিছিয়ে আছে, সেই সফলের প্রতি বিশেষ নজর দিবেন। যখন সেও সিরিশের মত গিয়ে উত্তরবঙ্গের উন্নয়নের ধার ধরে থাকবে। আপনি জানেন, শিল্প, শিক্ষা, চিকিৎসা, বাসস্থানসহ বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে উত্তরবঙ্গ অনেক পিছিয়ে আছে। বিলম্ব করে চলতে আসার দেশের অন্যান্য অঞ্চলের তুলনায় উন্নয়নে যোগ্য থেকে বঞ্চিত হয়েছি। তাই বর্তমান পরতন্ত্রিক সরকারের প্রধান ও জন নেত্রী হিসেবে উত্তরবঙ্গের উন্নয়নে আপনার সময় নীতি ও ব্যক্তিগত উদ্যোগ কামনা করছি।

আপনার এবং আপনার সরকারের সর্বিক সাক্ষ্য সেই সাথে আপনার সুশাস্ত্র ও দীর্ঘায়ু কামনা করছি। সর্বকর্তমান আল্লাহ আপনার মঙ্গল করুন। খেদাওক্কেহ।

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## Recommendations for Radio, TV autonomy in 3 months

**By Reaz Ahmad**

Policy formulation work for giving autonomy to Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television (BTV) will be completed within three months, according to official sources.

The Radio, TV Autonomy Commission, formed three months back to place recommendations before the government, is now working on various aspects of giving autonomy to the two state-run electronic media. The Commission is studying the pros and cons of probable structure for the Betar and the BTV as autonomous institutions. It held its eighth meeting on Wednesday last. Chairman of the Commission M Asafuddin told this correspondent yesterday.

So far the Commission received 'good responses' in gathering public opinion regarding the planned autonomy, he said.

"We will continue to exchange views with a cross section of people including cultural bodies in the country and representatives of some reputed independent electronic media in other countries."

It was learnt that the Commission had already gathered experts views from invited representatives of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Voice of America (VOA), and NHK of Japan who were invited to Bangladesh. Media professionals from Akashvani and ZEE TV of India are scheduled to come Dhaka next week to explain their experience.

The Chairman of the Commission said that a proposal for visits by the Commission members to BBC, NHK, Doordarshan and Akashvani headquarters has been put forward for government's consideration.

M Asafuddin explained the hope that the Commission would be able to submit its recommendations within the stipulated time. The Commission is supposed to submit its recommendations within six months of its formation.

"We are hoping to put forward a set of options before the

Both Blue panel and White panel yesterday submitted nomination papers for the election to the 15-member executive committee of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) which is scheduled for December 31. However, Pink panel is not contesting.

Prof Mostafa Chowdhury of Political Science, Prof Aminur

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