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DSE price index falls to 1474 pts

By Shehab Ahmed

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) All Share Price Index plunged to 1474.24 points under heavy selling pressure yesterday.

But the trading volume improved in the bourse, a trend considered by some market players as indicative of share prices reaching a normal level.

DSE Chairman Intiaz Hossain told The Daily Star there was nothing to be panicky as the market was reaching the "water level to bottom out at a certain point," which, he thought, it had already reached.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria was reported to have assuaged the jittery investors on December 4 last year that they had nothing to fear at the falling index, slipping from a bullish high of 3600 points. Saying that the market was correcting itself, he set the danger line at 1500 points, when it would require state intervention in the form of a "contingency plan" to prevent the capital market from crashing, the reports added.

When contacted last night, See Page 12 Col 1

Resist distortion of Liberation War history: BNP

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has called upon all patriotic parties and individuals, freedom fighters and people irrespective of party and opinion to resist distortion of the history of liberation war, reports UNB.

The government has been trying to make the independence movement a partisan and family affair by distortion of history," he said addressing a joint meeting of BNP's front organisations at 29 Minto Road on Saturday.

"No single party or a group or any individual can claim the unilateral contribution in the liberation war as all the freedom-loving people, except a few, had taken part in the struggle for independence," he said adding that it was not even at the mercy of any other country.

Bhuiyan alleged that the government was denying the contribution of the "proclaimer of independence" Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, leader of the downtrodden Maulana Bhasani and Commander in Chief of the Liberation War General Osmani.

He called upon the party leaders and workers of all district, thana, city and town units of the party to observe the Independence Day across the country in a befitting manner.

5000 tribal refugees return home in first phase Mar 28

Tribal refugees of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) will start returning home from refugee camps in the Indian state of Tripura on March 28, reports UNB.

According to a joint declaration made by government committee and tribal leaders yesterday, some 5,000 refugees will be repatriated in the first batch.

The National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts led by Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah and leaders of Parbatya Chattagram Jumma Sharanarthy Kalyan Samity (PCJSKS) reached a 20-point agreement to help arrange a safe return of tribal refugees to their homeland.

A copy of the agreement signed by Director General of Special Affairs Division ASM Mobaidul Islam and PCJSKS President Upendral Chakma was faxed to UNB last night.

According to the agreement, a joint task force will be constituted comprising the national committee members and tribal refugees to provide support in implementing the agreement and to monitor it.

A delegation of the refugee leaders will monitor the overall condition of the repatriated refugees and the situation in the CHT within one month of the repatriation. If the situation is found favourable the repatriation process will continue.

Earlier, a delegation of national committee visited in two phases the camps where tribal people were living and discussed issues and privileges to be provided by the Bangladesh government as confidence building measures.

Following are the 20 points of the agreement:

1. Security to life and property of every citizen of Bangladesh including the tribal refugees, would be ensured as per the Constitution and law of the land.
2. Each of the repatriated refugee family will be provided with a total of Tk 15,000, including Tk 5,000 as per demand by the tribals in addition to earlier Tk 10,000, as house building and agri grant. Besides, grants will be provided for funeral of the deceased members of the families enlisted by refugee leaders in the CHT.
3. Each of the repatriated refugee families will be given rice for

nine months at the rate of five kg to every adult and 2.5 kg for every minor. Besides, four kg pulses, two kg soyabean oil and two kg salt will be given to every family for nine months.

4. Each repatriated refugee family will be given two bundles of CI sheets for construction of houses.

5. The refugee families who have cultivable lands will be given Tk 10,000 each to purchase a pair of bullocks after their return home. The refugees who are enjoying their ancestral lands, but failed to record in their own names will be given the facility after the collection of succession certificates from the headmen.

6. Each of the landless families will be given Tk 3,000 to purchase cow and steps will be taken to allocate land to those families as per the government's policy.

7. The government decision to write off agri loans upto Tk 5,000 will be applicable for every refugee family.

8. Other dues like bank loans will be waived, subject to necessary scrutiny of the dues, after the return of all the tribal.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaking at the banquet in honour of Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet at the Bangabhaban last night. — PID photo

Dhaka, Hanoi hold formal talks this morning

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet of Vietnam arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a two-day visit to give a boost to Dhaka-Hanoi economic ties, reports UNB.

A red carpet was rolled out to receive the Vietnamese Premier at the airport as he flew into Dhaka from New Delhi at 4 in the afternoon.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received her Vietnamese counterpart at the Dhaka International Airport.

The Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is paying the visit at the invitation of the Bangladesh Prime Minister. Vietnam established diplomatic ties with Bangladesh in 1972.

Kiet will hold talks with

Sheikh Hasina this morning at the Prime Minister's office. The summit will cover all aspects of bilateral relationship as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

He will also call on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and meet with Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury.

Two tiny tots presented bouquets as the Vietnamese Prime Minister alighted from a special aircraft of the Vietnam Airlines.

A 19-gun salute heralded the arrival of the Prime Minister, who was given a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent, drawn from three

services. Senior ministers, Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif, Dean of the Diplomatic corps PLO Ambassador Shahta Zarab, Chiefs of three services, and high civil and military officials were present at the airport to receive Vo Van Kiet.

Airport formalities over, the Vietnamese Premier grove in a ceremonial motorcade to state guest home Jamuna, where he will be staying.

The two Prime Ministers, at the talks today at 10 am, will discuss some specific proposals in order to expand trade and economic cooperation between the two friendly nations striving to revitalise their war-rav-

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Both of us now fighting poverty, says Kiet

Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet yesterday said both Vietnam and Bangladesh are now fighting against hunger and poverty to achieve progress and prosperity for their people, reports UNB.

"We both are now in another work... fighting against poverty and hunger. We are also striving hard to achieve a happy and prosperous country," Kiet said speaking at a banquet hosted in his honour by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Bangabhaban.

The Vietnamese Prime Minister said both the countries have now entered into a new period for developing and modernising their respective countries and people.

He recalled the support and help extended by the people of Bangladesh during their fight against foreign aggression.

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Visit to help strengthen ties: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Vietnamese Prime Minister's visit would help create some institutional basis of bilateral relations and expand cooperation in economy and other fields between the two countries, reports UNB.

"Your visit will help in further strengthening the relations between the two old friends, based on our rich cultures, common history and similarity of views on international and regional issues," she told a banquet at the Bangabhaban hosted in honour of visiting Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

The Prime Minister said the Trade Agreement signed in Hanoi last September may now be used to bring Bangladesh and

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2 killed, 15 hurt during gunfight at Jurain

By Staff Correspondent

Two women were killed and about 15 people injured during an armed clash between two groups of terrorists at Muradpur in Jurain area in the city yesterday afternoon.

The dead were identified as Mina Khatun, 14, and Kanchan Bibi, 60, police said adding they sustained fatal injuries when caught in the crossfire during the gunfight that lasted about an hour from 2:30 pm. The elderly woman and her grand daughter succumbed to their injuries within a short time.

Eight of the injured, including a 10-month-old baby girl Sumi, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The seven others were identified as Rokeya, 35, Ripon, 20, Amin, 17, Anwar, 30, Humayun Kabir, 24, Al-Amin,

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18, and Tofazzal, 16. They were taken to local clinics. Most of them received bullet injuries.

The rival groups of terrorists in Jurain under Demra thana were locked in the armed clash over gaining control of the locality. The two groups known as 'Sanaullah group' and 'Lallu group' were involved in extortion and hooliganism. According to local people, yesterday's clash was the sequel to a dispute over sharing toll money.

The clash ensued when some members of one group attacked some of their rivals on Muradpur High School Road at about 2:30 pm. They chased each other and all of a sudden opened fire. Hearing the gunshots, the armed militants of the two groups started gathering around

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FF's' service quota to be kept for their wards

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday declared that the 30 per cent service quota for the freedom fighters would now be kept for their sons and daughters, reports UNB.

"The quota for the freedom fighters will continue for their wards," she said, adding that the government has taken all measures for the help and rehabilitation of the freedom fighters.

The Prime Minister, handing-over stipend of Tk 5,000 each to some 100 children of freedom fighters at her office, observed that the freedom fighters remained neglected during the last 21 years.

The annual stipend for the meritorious sons and daughters of those who fought for the country's liberation in 1971 will also be continued for facili-

tating their studies.

Hasina told the function that the freedom fighters had not been properly evaluated during last 21 years, after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"This government has taken steps for giving due honour and recognition to those who fought to liberate the nation at the call of Bangabandhu."

The Prime Minister said the history of liberation had been distorted during the last two decades, and announced that names of the martyred freedom fighters would be kept engraved on stone plaque at every union and thana of the country.

Dream of the father of the nation was to build a poverty and hunger-free 'Sonar Bangla', she said calling upon all to

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Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 2-page supplement on UK Trade Fair '97
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Business

Three-day UK trade fair opens: Tofael hints at further liberalisation of trade policy

DSE price index loses 67 more points, going down to a record low in six months
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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1474.24(-4.35%)
Market capital Tk 11402.31cr
Transactions in volume 294600
Transactions in value Tk 7.19cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 690.38(-1.04%)
Market capital Tk 9369.98cr
Transactions in volume 59735
Transactions in value Tk 1.25cr

65 industrial units to be privatised this yr

Sixty-five state-run industrial units have been slated for privatisation in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Of them, shares of 12 units will be offloaded in the market while the rest 53 mills and factories sold out.

The disclosure was made in Parliament yesterday by Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed replying a question from Jafrul Islam Chowdhury of opposition

Foundation of Bay Resort Project laid at Patenga

CHITTAGONG, Mar 9: The foundation stone of a Taka five billion Bay Resort project at the Patenga sea beach was laid here today, reports BSS.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman laid the foundation stone.

The project, a modern recreational centre, will be implemented over 150 acres during the next five years under the joint auspices of the Chittagong

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BNP (Chittagong).

The units to be privatised fully include Hafiz Textile Mills, Jessore Jute Mills, Nishat Jute Mills, MM Jute Mills, Doulatur Jute Mills, Gul Ahmed Jute Mills, Karim Jute Mills, Nabaran Jute Mills, Hafiz Jute Mills, Alim Jute Mills, Latif Bawani Jute Mills, Crescent Jute Mills, Karnaphuli Jute Mills, UMC Jute Mills, Amin Jute Mills, Kwami Jute Mills, Royal Textile Mills, Engineering Industries Ltd, Noakhali Textile Mills, Pilon Industries Ltd, Kerlill Silk Mills, Dhaka Cotton Mills, Monno Cotton Mills, Fine Cotton Mills, Bangladesh Textile Mills, Khulna Textiles, Bangladesh Oil Mills, Doshia Extraction, Amin Agencies, I K Industries, Ashrafi Oil Mills, Bangladesh Cold Storage, Dhaka Ice Factory, Firoze Ata Dal Mills, Deshbandhu Sugar Mills, Kaliachappa Sugar Mills, Bangladesh Can Company, Bangladesh diesel Plant, Kohinoor Battery, Can Making and Tin Printing, BG Bangla Rice

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Oli urges Ershad to reveal names of those in JS who took money to destroy democracy

By Staff Correspondent

BNP lawmaker and former minister Oli Ahmed has urged former President and Jatiya Party Chief HM Ershad to reveal in the Jatiya Sangsad the names of the political leaders who "took money from him to destroy democracy during his nine years of presidency."

As Oli Ahmed was repeating his request pointing his finger at the JP chief during yesterday's sitting of parliament, a smiling Ershad was seen waiving his hand at some BNP lawmakers staring at him.

Speaking on the vote of thanks to the President's address to the House, the senior BNP leader termed Ershad "a very fortunate person who became a Brigadier while in India, later became the longest-serving President of the country and was attending the parliament sessions by the grace of Awami League government even after being an accused in 17 cases and

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Intra-party rivalry in Chittagong: Salauddin Quader defies party decision, holds public meeting

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Mar 9: Intra-party rivalry has again surfaced in Chittagong unit of BNP as former minister Abdullah Al Noman, who is Convenor of the city committee of the party, and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, who was inducted into BNP from NDP, were commanding separate factions, insiders said.

The factional fight came to light when both the camps made announcements for two separate public meetings in the city as part of a showdown, insiders said.

When the rivalry was reported, the high command of BNP yesterday took up the matter and asked both Abdullah Al Noman and Salauddin Quader to postpone both the public meetings.

The former complied with the high command directive but the latter defied it. Former mayor of Chittagong Mir Md Nasiruddin, who is also former governor of the city

committee of BNP here, assigned by the party high command, contacted both the feuding leaders for postponing the public meetings, party sources said.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan also contacted both in this regard, they added.

But Salauddin Quader-led faction organised the public meeting at Bahaddardhat crossing in the city this afternoon as announced earlier. The faction also advertised in a local daily about the meeting.

Noman-led faction, however, postponed its public meeting which was scheduled to be held at the Outer Stadium. Instead, it organised a rally of party workers in front of the party office at Nur Ahmed road, this afternoon.

Meanwhile, Mir Nasiruddin, who was supposed to attend the meeting organised by Salauddin Quader, did not turn up there.

He did not also attend the rally organised by Noman.

Noman faction drew the support of most of the JCD, Jubodal leader and president of Chittagong north unit of BNP Golam Akbar Khondakar.

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Residents of the city's Kayetulya area brought out a procession yesterday demanding solution to the gas supply problem. — Star photo

Steps to acquire land for Ctg gas plant

By Shahrier Khan

The government has taken steps to acquire 16 acres of land in Chittagong to set up a gas processing plant for the Sangu well, discovered and now being developed by British company Cairn Plc.

Cairn is committed to supplying 168 million cubic feet of gas to the Bakhrabad gas system from April 1998. The Bakhrabad system is suffering heavy gas supply shortfall due to which a number of gas-based power stations in Chittagong region and some fertiliser factories have remained closed for several months now.

Sources concerned said, the government is planning to acquire 16 acres of seaside land currently belonging to the T&T authorities. The plant, when set

up, will be owned by the Petrobangla and operated by the Cairn.

Cairn Plc's teams are working in full swing with all support from different agencies of the government to drill two on-shore gas wells in April and June in Semutang and Rajan respectively and four off-shore development wells in Sangu.

Cairn has already installed a drilling rig in Sangu for 18 months now while its investment partner Brown and Roots has taken full preparation to build a pipeline and a 50 km pipeline to connect Sangu well with the Bakhrabad system in Chittagong city.

Of the two on-shore wells, one is located in Semutang in See Page 12 Col 1

BNP, Jamaat call hartal in CHT on March 12

KHAGRACHHARI, Mar 9: The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami have called for a day-long hartal in the three hill districts on March 12 to protest a possible agreement between the government and the Shantibahini against the interest of Bengali settlers, reports UNB.

The BNP gave the hartal call for Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban districts from a protest meeting of its district unit at Shapla Chattar in the town today while Jamaat called for the shutdown through a press release.

The government and the Parbatya Chattagram Jatiya Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), political wing of Shantibahini, are likely to sign an agreement in their next round of talks in the capital on March 12 to put an end to the CHT problems.

At the protest meeting, BNP leaders described the PCJSS men as 'killers of innocent Bengalis' and said they would not accept any agreement contrary to the interest of Bangali settlers in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Presided over by BNP leader Mohammad Musa, the meeting was addressed by the party's district unit general secretary Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, Juba

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Gunmen shoot policeman, go on rampage in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Mar 9: Some unidentified gunmen shot a police official near railway colony and went on a rampage on Saturday night.

The gang looted six shops and set fire to a makeshift police camp at the Station Road area. They also assaulted four supporters of a ward commissioner, Ershad Sikder.

ASI Nazrul Islam of Kotwali thana sustained bullet wounds in his chest. He was rushed to hospital in a critical condition.

The gang later exploded several bombs in the Kotwali thana premises at around midnight. They also entered the OC's room and hurled abusive remarks.

Police suspected that the group belonged to the Skid ghat unit of Sramik League.

Situation tense on CU campus

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 9: A tense situation was prevailing on the Chittagong University campus today following a chase and counter-chase between the activists of the Chhatra League and the Chhatra Shibir. They also exploded cocktails police said.

The trouble started at 1 pm when a banner of the Chhatra Shibir was set on fire by the rival group at the university railway station, police said.

Meanwhile, some students under the banner of an organisation of those who were allegedly issued forged certificates, gheraoed the administrative building and locked the offices today, police and campus sources said. They also gave a call for a strike at the university on March 13 demanding action to solve their problems.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue, Dhaka

* কর দেয়া আপনার নৈতিক দায়িত্ব।
* প্রদেয় কর যথাসময়ে পরিশোধ করুন এবং অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে আপনার অবদান রাখুন।

The date for advance income tax payment for the 3rd quarter of the current financial year is March 15, 1997. The advance income tax payable by the concerned taxpayer is to be paid through I.T. Form No. I.T. 31 (B) (Amended) Challan.

The taxpayers should pay the advance tax filling in the said challan form as usual by replacing the figure "74(1)" with the figure "64" in as many places as it occurs in the form. It may be mentioned that the financial limit of total income for payment of advance income tax for all classes of assesseees is now Taka 1,00,000/-.

All assesseees concerned are requested to pay their advance income tax for the 3rd quarter of the current financial year relevant to the assessment year 1997-98 under this system by March 15, 1997. Simple interest @ 10% per annum will be leviable if the advance income tax is not paid or paid at a lesser amount than due.

DFP-5482-8/3
G-667
National Board of Revenue