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Dhaka City BNP brought out a procession yesterday demanding release of four party leaders. — Star photo

Probe into share market scam

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ment of the company later on. It was done with a view to raising the price of the share at a very high level, it said.

Main parties, either as buyers or sellers, were Shine Pukur's sister concerns and associates namely Beximco Investment Company Ltd, New Dhaka Industries, Satkhira Fisheries, Bakhkhali Fisheries, Mritika Ltd. Among the few individuals, some are likely to be Beximco Group employees benami shareholders.

The enquiry committee also found a deposit of only Tk 145.24 crore in the share money deposit account of Shine Pukur, which should show receipt of Tk 250 crore as the shares were issued against cash payment and on full subscription.

"It appears that the management of the company has a tendency to deviate more from rules/regulations/procedures than to follow it strictly," said the committee which also held meeting with Beximco's Deputy Chairman Salman F Rahman.

Over 60 per cent of the Beximco Pharma shares were transacted by Imtiaz Hussain, Premium Securities, SES and Hemayet Uddin.

It has been observed that HMMS sold 1,101,000 shares through foreign DVP which could not be traced directly in DSE record. Similarly, Securities Consultants Limited sold 171,450 shares that also could not be traced directly in the DSE record.

As per foreign DVP statement submitted by the Bank Indosuez and Standard Chartered Bank, Imtiaz Hussain sold 3,015,510 shares whereas as per DSE record total shares sold by him was 2,926,785 only.

Again as per bank statement, M/S SES sold 1,398,800 shares but as per DSE record it was 908,200.

Reviewing the available records, the committee found that the Chittagong Cement Clinker and Grinding Company has 12,90,000 shares at the face value of Taka 100 each which went up to Taka 134 in book value.

The highest market price of the share was Taka 18,048 during the peak period and there was no transaction of this issue in the bourse for more than two months. The present market of this share is around Taka 1,731 only.

The report said though the committee could not get into detailed examination in absence of records, supposed to be maintained by the company, it appeared that two DSE members/brokers, Rakiibur Rahman and A S Shahidul Huque Bulbul are directors of the company.

Despite SEC directives to vacate the position, these two per-

sons continued to remain as directors, the report said.

The committee said that the SEC inquired about the sale of shares by the company to outsiders bypassing the DSE and CSE but "there was no satisfactory reply from the company."

The committee said that during the peak period, there were some "price sensitive announcements."

One of the directors of the company is said to have transferred a large number of shares during the July-November period of 1996 to one of their relations which were sold in the market.

During this period some shares were sold by foreign investors. On scrutiny it appeared to the committee that in foreign fund account an amount of Taka 282 crore for 2240 shares remained unsettled for long.

"These clearly indicates an act of manipulation. These dealings come within mischief under Section 17 of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969," the committee observed.

Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd, is a company of Beximco Group with 2.95 crore shares of Taka 10 each. Book value per share as per DSE statement is Taka 29.00, the report said adding the market price was Taka 87 on June 30 last year and the highest price was Taka 551 on November 16 the same year.

The committee report said that originally the face value of the share was Taka 100. But the company offered right shares 1:1 in 1994 with a premium of Taka 1100. The premium was over-calculated, the reports observed.

It said the company subsequently split the share and

Feni killings

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home and would return from Dhaka two days later.

Police sources said, they would go for another round of raid tonight.

Police Super (SP) of Feni, Kazi Anwar Hussain told The Daily Star that messages were sent to all police stations of the country to remain vigilant about the accused.

He said other than the special operation, district police were engaged in bringing back normalcy in Feni town and averting further violence.

Police in the town feared that rival groups were preparing to face each other again.

The SP told this correspondent that police would go for legal actions in case of absconding accused and attach their properties.

CID seizes documents

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the team did not find any evidence of any 'electric short circuit,' which was claimed by the Assistant Export Officer of the company in his general diary field with the Narayanjanj thana following the fire.

The source also disclosed that so far their findings indicated that the fire was an act of sabotage. "But we will have to wait until the completion of the probe to determine the cause," he said.

Meanwhile, the CID yesterday seized several documents from the company including purchase register, stock register, two personal letters written to the company from Lalmonirhat and Baushia and a list of all the employees of the company.

Moreover, a source in the company said that at least two contradictory statements were made while claiming the damage caused by the fire which is still raging three days after it broke out. "In his general diary with the police, the Assistant Export Officer of the company put the amount of the damage at Tk 17.55 crore. But the manager of the company, in his statement put it at Tk 13 crore," the source said.

Fire Brigade sources said that it would take another two to three days to completely extinguish the fire. "Only then we will be able to determine the extent of the damage," said an official.

The company owned a total of 28 jute godowns, of which nine were gutted. The godowns were insured with four companies including People's Insurance Company, of which, the Managing Director of Popular Jute Company himself is one of the Director.

It was learnt from other sources in the company that the godowns did not have any fire-fighting equipment in the premises. "There was no fire extinguisher in the godowns," said an employee of the company.

Others talking to this correspondent said that they had seen a white microbus near the godown on the day of the fire. When asked, Narayanjanj police said that they did not know about it.

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Prime Minister's directive Take stern action against saboteurs

BOGRA, Apr 2: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today directed the officials to take stern action against those who are creating anarchy, by uprooting railway track and felling power transmission tower, report agencies.

She said it was the responsibility of the administration to ensure security and safety of people.

Hasina asked the government officials to remain transparent in their activities and accountable to the people.

The Prime Minister was addressing a meeting on law and order and development activities in Rajshahi division at the local circuit house here.

"You are paid from public money, you have to work for welfare of the people," she said and directed the officials to gear up the people-oriented development programmes.

The Prime Minister asked the officials to make planning first for development programmes and then go for their proper implementation.

"We are determined to make proper use of every taka of foreign grants and loans," Sheikh Hasina said directing the officials to come up with specific proposals and use the foreign money properly.

She asked them to take stern action against terrorists irrespective of their party affiliation.

The Prime Minister referred to uprooting rail tracks, breakdown of power tower and setting ablaze jute godowns and said subversive acts were unleashed in the country.

She asked the law enforcing agency to protect people's property and curb campus violence. She specially called for resisting violence in Rajshahi University campus with a strong hand but remaining impartial.

Warrants against 39

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whom cases were filed are: Imtiaz Hossain of Imtiaz Hossain and Company, Ms Runa Alam and Mohammad Sabet Siddiky of SES Company Ltd, A K M Shamsuddoha of Doha Securities, M G Azam Choudhury, Mohammad Shahidullah and Prof Mahbub Ahmed of Securities Consultant Ltd, A Rauf Choudhury, Mashur Rahman, S Choudhury and Anu Jajgirar of Premium Securities Ltd, Riazul Bin Faruk and M K M Mohiuddin of First Capital Securities, Hemayetuddin Ahmed, Mushtaque Ahmed Sadeki, Syed Mahbub Murshed, Sharif Ataur Rahman and Ahmed Iqbal Hasan of HMMS Financial Consultancy and Services.

The SEC has named those companies and those persons who have been named specifically in the enquiry committee report for having contravened or violated Section 17 of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969," said Dr M Zahir, senior advocates in the Supreme Court, specially appointed by the SEC.

He said "Generally, we have named the chairmen, vice-chairmen, managing directors of the companies which have been named in the probe report and those directors whose names were specifically mentioned in the report."

The four-member enquiry committee, headed by Prof Amirul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, scoured the share market since it was constituted on December 27, and came up with recommendations of measures against the accused on March 27.

"The inevitable happened, the bullish market crashed. Large number of less sophisticated and new investors suffered. Allegations of rampant manipulations were also voiced by the media and also believed by the investors. It is not easy to detect manipulative activities. Even then the committee in the short time has been able to detect manipulations and identify the wrong doers so far possible. These manipulators must be brought to task in the interest of long-term growth and development of the securities," the 81-page report observed.

BSS adds: Dr Haroonur Rashid, Chairman of the SEC, said "The commission would seek maximum punishment for those responsible for the happenings in the country's stock market. The Securities and Exchange Commission Ordinance, 1969, provides for maximum punishment of five-year jail term or fine of Taka five lakh or both."

Dr Rashid hoped that the government's action against the companies and brokers/dealers responsible for the fraudulent acts would restore the confidence of investors and help maintain normal trend and stability in the share market. The government's action would also help stop fraudulence and manipulations in the stock market and all concerned quarters would be more careful in share transactions. Replying to a question, Dr Rashid said "The enquiry committee report, in addition to identifying the fraudulent acts, also made some

Ministries

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from roads, bridges and from the sectors of trade, agriculture, forest and fisheries and livestock.

The ministries concerned, it said, would take emergency steps regarding changes of prices of petroleum products, fertiliser and gas, etc due to the increase of prices in the global market.

The decisions included steps to reduce the loss in the autonomous bodies, ensure austerity in government organisations and strengthen all reform programmes including privatisation.

Storm

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schools and two mosques, were razed to the ground while a large number of trees and electric poles uprooted during the storm.

The affected unions are Char Pakkimiari, Lashmapur, Char Mocharia and Char Sherpur.

Power supply to the district remained snarled till filing of the report at about 10.30 pm.

BJP may abstain

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India's most populous state. Kesri's good standing with Laloo Prasad Yadav, chief minister of the second most populous state of Bihar, was also at the back of the BJP's mind.

"If he gets both these state leaders, given their influence with Muslim voters and lower caste Hindus, it could have a powerful nationwide impact in favour of the Congress, one Kesri aide told the agency.

NAM meet tomorrow

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tailed agenda for the foreign ministers' meeting. The issues to be discussed would include global political issues and co-operation in the fields of trade, investment, energy and security.

Restructuring the United Nations is likely to receive tremendous attention at the NAM meeting. There is a growing feeling among Non-Aligned countries that in the changed global circumstances since the charter of the UN was drawn up on October 24, 1945, at the close of the Second World War, the international organisation has failed to live upto the needs of the times, particularly the expectations of the NAM-members who now number 113, out of the 185 UN members.

The NAM meet is also likely to propose strengthening of the UN General Assembly. It would suggest that the organisation be streamlined and mechanisms be adopted to make the General Assembly resolutions more binding in nature.

NAM countries are likely to suggest expansion of the 15-member UN Security Council, now comprising five permanent members and 10 non-permanent rotating members.

The NAM's contention on expansion of Security Council is supported by the recently expressed views of the current President of the General Assembly, Razali Ismail, from Malaysia. He has called for expansion of the Security Council both in terms of permanent members and non-permanent members.

The Security Council had 11 members when the total UN membership was 51. The Council membership was increased to 15 in 1965 when membership of the UN rose to around 100 countries. Now the number of countries represented in the UN is 185.

The UNGA President has suggested that five more permanent members representing one developing country each from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and two industrialised states be included.

Razali Ismail has also proposed inclusion of four non-permanent members in the Security Council from different regions.

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Kathmandu

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to put recommendations to the governments of the four countries who will take appropriate measures in due course of time.

Experts are likely to meet to examine the prospects of cooperation in the fields identified by the Kathmandu meet, the Foreign Secretary said.

The meeting welcomed the approach paper presented by the host Nepal, which was also discussed in detail by the officials of the four countries.

Suicide

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of the deceased, police said.

An unnatural death (UD) case was registered by Montu with the Dhanmandi thana in this connection, police said adding that the pistol was recovered by them from the house.

The incident was reported to Montu by Hossain's wife immediately after the occurrence. Montu rushed to the house from his office and took his brother to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), police said quoting Montu's statement.

UNB adds: Hearing gunshot, Hossain's wife Hasina Hossain, who was in bathroom, rushed to their bedroom and found her husband lying on floor with his head bleeding.

Family sources said Hossain became abnormal as his 15-year-old son, Mithun, also committed suicide by the same revolver in 1991.

Mithun killed himself after his father rebuked him over preparation for his SSC examination.

Mohammad Hossain, who played a vanguard in 1969 mass upsurge and 1970 election, was also a platoon commander during the Liberation War. He is the owner of a garments factory, Mohammadia Textiles, at Mirpur.

He left behind his wife and two daughters — Lagna Hossain (15) and Provattee Hossain (5).

Two gunned down

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and died on the spot. Mamun, who suffered bullet wound in his chest, died on way to Suhrawardy Hospital.

Their bodies were later sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy, police and hospital sources said.

DMCH sources said that injuries caused by bullets used in cut-rifle and revolver were found over the bodies of the victims.

Meanwhile, the engineer concerned is learnt to have told police that two armed men entered his office about 20 minutes after the two victims came to meet him. Police said the two had come to the PWD complex at about 11:30 am adding that the gang fled the scene in a white microbus. Some other staff of the complex reportedly saw about six young men in the microbus.

Extra police force was deployed in the area later.

Mamun's uncle Gazi Obaidur Rahman Nanna, reportedly a

PM: Dialogue

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Sheikh Hasina accused the main opposition party of damaging power towers and indulging in subversive act. This party is creating trouble by calling hartals on the issue of transit, she told the rally.

The Prime Minister blamed BNP for present power crisis and alleged that BNP misappropriated Tk 6,000 crore allocated for reforms in the power sector in the last five years.

Responding to the demand for declaring Bogra as a division, Hasina said despite resource constraint, her government would give priority to Bogra if any new division is created.

Non-govt teachers' salaries sent to bank

The government portion of salaries and allowances of the teachers and staff of non-government educational institutions for the month of March has been sent to concerned banks, reports UNB.

The heads of respective educational institutions have been advised to collect the salaries by April 16, said an official handout yesterday.

The educational institutions, which could not collect the salaries and allowances for any previous month of the current year, can draw the salaries during the period, the handout said.

Eskander

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course of the business and the future of hundreds of workers will be jeopardised.

After hearing both sides, ACCMM Habibur Rahman rejected the prayer.

Advocate Abdur Razzaque Khan, Sanaulah Miah, Masud Ahmed Talukder appeared on behalf of the accused.

কেন এই বিদ্যুৎ সংকট

প্রিয় দেশবাসী,
এই দেশ আমার, আপনার, আমাদের সবার।
দেশের সমস্যা ও সাফল্যে আপনিও সমান অংশীদার।
তাই আপনাকে জানাতে চাই - কেন এই বিদ্যুৎ সংকট।

বিগত বছরগুলোতে ক্রমবর্ধমান চাহিদার সাথে সঙ্গতি রেখে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন এবং গ্যাস সরবরাহ বৃদ্ধি করা হয়নি।
যার ফলে আজ সারা দেশে লোড শেডিং হচ্ছে।

এই সংকট মোকাবেলায় বর্তমান সরকার সর্বাঙ্গিক চেষ্টা চালাচ্ছে

এপ্রিল মাসের মধ্যে ৫৮ কিলোমিটার দীর্ঘ আশুগঞ্জ-বাখরাবাদ গ্যাস পাইপ লাইনের কাজ সমাপ্ত হচ্ছে। এর ফলে দেশের উত্তর - পূর্বাঞ্চলের গ্যাস চট্টগ্রাম অঞ্চলে সরবরাহ সম্ভব হবে এবং গ্যাস চালিত বন্ধ বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্রগুলো পুনরায় চালু হবে। ফলশ্রুতিতে মে মাসে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন উল্লেখযোগ্যভাবে বৃদ্ধি পাবে।

মনোহরদী-নরসিংদী এবং মেঘনা-বাখরাবাদ এই দুইটি গ্যাস পাইপ লাইনের নির্মাণ কাজ দ্রুত সমাপ্তির পথে। এ নির্মাণ কাজ শেষ হলে গ্যাস চালিত বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র সমূহের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি পাবে।

এ বছরের জুলাই মাসে রাউজান-এর নতুন দ্বিতীয় বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন কেন্দ্র চালু এবং বেশ কয়েকটি বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন কেন্দ্রের পুনর্বাসন সমাপ্ত হলে শীঘ্রই আরো অতিরিক্ত বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ সম্ভব হবে।

এছাড়া সরকারী এবং বেসরকারী উদ্যোগে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন ও গ্যাস সরবরাহ বৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যে ব্যাপক কর্মসূচী হাতে নেওয়া হয়েছে।

বিদ্যুতের এই সংকটকালে কৃষ্ণতা সাধন করুন। প্রয়োজনের অতিরিক্ত বাতি, ফ্যান, এয়ারকুলার বন্ধ রেখে বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হোন এবং আমাদের সহযোগিতা করুন।

এ সংকট কাটবেই

বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড ■ ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ ■ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড