

Stocks

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the discussion in parliament on the present state of the share market. Lawmakers Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haque Inu, Khan Tipu Sultan and Fazlul Azim participated in the discussion.

They came down hard on the government over its failure to stabilise the stock market and demanded the immediate arrest of those whom a probe body had held responsible for the market crash.

It may be recalled that after the crash in January last year, the government formed a probe body headed by Krisi Bank Chairman Khondkar Ibrahim Khaleel.

"Police action on investors cannot bring stability in the capital market," Menon said in parliament, adding that the share market issue is tarnishing the country's image in international forums.

Ahmed Rashid, a director of DSE, said, "Share prices increased as the investors got back some confidence following the discussion in parliament."

The assumption that the interest rate on deposits would be reduced also revived market confidence, he added.

The central bank has verbally asked commercial banks to limit their lending rate and deposit rate to 15.5 percent and 12.5 percent respectively, said Green Delta LR Holdings in its daily market analysis.

"The sellers decided to hold on to shares when they came to know about the decision," said LankaBangla Securities in its daily market analysis.

The market closed with a relatively low volume and turnover indicating long term buyers have decided to follow the go slow policy, it said.

DSE yesterday witnessed one loss as all the 261 securities traded advanced. A total of 180 issues hit their upper band in prices and touched the circuit breaker, which does not allow the price of a stock to go up or down by a certain limit for the day.

The turnover, however, declined by 9.8 percent to Tk 191 crore compared to that of the previous day.

No conflict

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journalists while visiting the Padma Bridge sites at Mawa in Munshiganj, Majhikandi and Naodoba in Shariatpur and Shibchar in Madaripur.

The minister said if the World Bank kept dillydallying over the Padma Bridge issue, the value of land would increase and so would the construction cost.

"If they [WB] have any evidence to bear out the corruption allegations, they should come up with that," he observed.

Quader said that Malaysia had offered to build the Padma Bridge in the context of the WB dillydallying. "We have only a year and half left of our tenure and we just cannot afford any further delay. We must start work on the Padma Bridge now and that is why we have decided to sign a memorandum of agreement with Malaysia."

The MoU will be signed on February 21. The minister attended a view-exchange meeting with administration officials and public representatives at Shibcharget house.

In Naodoba, he visited a rehabilitation area for those affected by land acquisition for the Padma Bridge.

He said that about 85 percent work of the rehabilitation project had been completed and the rest was under process. He assured the affected locals that the compensation money would be disbursed within the next two months.

Trader

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said that two of their neighbours Badal and Liton called Ishrafil out of his house around 11:00pm on Monday, after which Ishrafil did not return home.

Ishrafil's body, along with 10 empty bullet cases, was found the following morning at Himardighi in Dattapara.

Police sent the body to Gazipur Sadar Hospital for a post-mortem.

He might have been killed over control of Jhut trading in the area, said the OC and victim's relatives.

None was arrested in this connection.

Shahidullah

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other politician matched his stature.

Although Khwaja Nazimuddin succeeded him as governor general, prime minister Liaquat Ali Khan made it clear that power was now his to wield. Nazimuddin was thus a mere shadow of what Jinnah had been.

Despite the change at the centre, the people of East Bengal remained resolute in their demand that Bangla be given its due place in the state.

Liaquat Ali Khan visited the province from November 18 to 28, 1948. During this time, the students' action committee presented a memorandum, similar in nature to the demands they had placed before Jinnah in March, to the prime minister. He showed little interest in the matter.

The bigger surprise for Bangalees came, however, on December 27, 1948, when Fazlur Rahman, the very Bengalee education minister of Pakistan, let it be known at an all-Pakistan conference of teachers that Bangla should be written in the Arabic script. Predictably, his statement raised howls of protest in Bangalee intellectual circles.

What happened later was significant. A few days after Fazlur Rahman had expressed his views, an East Bengal literary conference, the first of its kind to be organised since the setting up of the Pakistan state, was held at the initiative of Habibullah Bahar, the central education minister, on December 31, 1948 and January 1, 1949.

Addressing the conference, eminent scholar Dr

2 get life

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Chowdhury of Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 pronounced the verdict around 11:00am yesterday.

Police pressed charges in the murder case on July 25 last year. The tribunal recorded statements of 20 prosecution witnesses before giving the verdict.

Mizanur's widow Razia Sultana Mili in her instant reaction told The Daily Star they had expected death penalty for the perpetrators, but expressed satisfaction with the court's verdict.

As the family members of the accused would now appeal in the High Court, "we are still very concerned about the ultimate fate of the verdict," Mili added.

The victim's brother Mamunur Rashid, the plaintiff of the case, also expressed satisfaction over the verdict.

Hasina hails

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The premier was addressing the Generals' Conference of Bangladesh Army at Army Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment.

In her first speech before the army generals after the recent attempt to overthrow her government, the prime minister gave necessary guidelines to the generals to sustain the country's democracy at any cost.

Extending her thanks to all members of Bangladesh Army for thwarting the attempt, she urged the army officers to set example of high morality and professional efficiency.

In view of this, the premier laid importance on training to improve the professional competence of the army officers.

Hasina said Bangladesh Army was born in the course of Liberation War led by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

After the independence, Bangabandhu had taken an initiative to build modern armed forces amidst many hurdles in the war-ravaged country, she said adding that Bangladesh Army had set its first 'Forces Goal' in 1974 at Bangabandhu's directives.

Many units and institutions of Bangladesh Army were established soon after the independence, and many equipment and weapons were procured during the tenure of Bangabandhu, Hasina, also in charge of the defence ministry, said.

In the course of

Muhammad Shahidullah made it clear that Bangla being a rich language ought to be adopted as the medium of instruction in East Bengal. He went further. In his view, Bangla was the language of the people of both East and West Bengal and though the people of the two parts of Bengal might be classified into Hindus and Muslims, they were bound by a common cultural heritage.

These remarks certainly did not go down well with the ruling circles as well as the proponents of Urdu in Pakistan.

As the year 1949 began, the state of Pakistan remained in limbo. It did not have a constitution and therefore elections were out of the question.

A gathering crisis over the question of the state language was sapping its strength.

More tellingly, in that early phase of the new state's existence, a cultural and political chasm was developing between East Bengal and the western half of Pakistan.

AL welcomes

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is not a prime issue for them and that is why they even did not submit any names to the committee.

BNP may give its formal reaction over the recommendations today.

The ruling Awami League (AL), however, welcomed the recommendations, though they claimed that the names proposed by them were not considered by the committee.

AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said, "We will continue our cooperation to them, who will be selected by the president, for the sake of continuation of democratic process."

Hanif, also a special assistant to the prime minister, said they will continue their support to the initiative taken by President Zillur Rahman on formation of new EC.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Party (JP) and Workers Party of Bangladesh appreciated the process of EC formation.

"It is a new process, and we appreciate that the president discussed with all instead of imposing his personal choice," said Ziauddin Bablu, presidium member of JP.

Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon said the search committee has proposed the names of the persons considering their skills and qualifications properly.

"I think, they will be able to work impartially," he added.

2 former secys fit to be CEC

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for gazette notification in a day or two, sources have said.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, added that Rakib Uddin, also a former official of the Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP), is likely to be appointed the new CEC.

Asked when the CEC and other election commissioners would be appointed, the cabinet secretary, who was also the spokesperson for the Search Committee, declined to comment. But he added that it was for the president to decide the matter.

ATM Shamsul Huda and Sohul Hussain retired as CEC and election commissioner on February 6, while Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakawat Hossain, the other election commissioner, retires on February 14.

The names of the proposed election commissioners are former additional secretary Mohammad Abu Hafiz, former joint secretary Mohammad Abdul Mobarak, former inspector general of police Mohammad Hadis Uddin,

Brig Gen (ret'd) Mohammad Javed Ali, former Supreme Court registrar Mohammad Fazlul Karim, former district judge Mohammad Shahnewaz, Sharmin Sonia Murshid, chief executive officer of Brotee, an NGO, and former additional secretary Shah Mohammad Mansurul Haque.

Of them, the names of Abu Hafiz, Abdul Mobarak, Hadis Uddin, Javed Ali and Sharmin Sonia Murshid were widely being discussed for appointment as election commissioners.

Following his dialogue with the political parties on the formation of the new Election Commission, the president on January 22 constituted the committee to suggest two names for each post.

The committee then sought names from the 24 political parties that had joined the talks.

The ruling Awami League and five other parties sent names to the committee. But the main opposition BNP and the AL's key ally Jatiya Party and 16 other parties did not send any names. Rejecting the four-

member committee, the BNP demanded a restoration of the caretaker government first.

The three other members of the Search Committee were High Court judge Mohammad Nuruzzaman, Public Service Commission Chairman ATM Ahmedul Haque Chowdhury and Comptroller and Auditor General Ahmed Ataul Hakeem.

**BACKGROUNDS**  
Ali Imam Majumder was appointed cabinet secretary on December 6, 2006. He retired on November 28, 2008, during the last caretaker government regime.

Earlier on October 31, 2006, he was made principal secretary to the Prime Minister's Office. Majumder, who comes from Comilla, was promoted to secretary on February 15 the previous year.

Rakib Uddin Ahmed was parliament secretary in the previous BNP-Jamaat coalition government till 2003. Prior to that, he was education secretary in 2000. Earlier, he served as secretary of information and primary and mass educa-

tion in the last AL government.

Also a freedom fighter, he was a zonal coordinating officer of the freedom fighters who took shelter in Agartala, India, during the 1971 Liberation War.

After the war, Ahmed served as deputy commissioner of Comilla and later became director general of the NGO Affairs Bureau.

Greece hit by 24-hour general strike

AFP, Athens

Greece was hit by a new 24-hour strike yesterday called by the country's biggest unions to fight a new wave of austerity measures currently under negotiation with the EU and IMF.

Under the slogan "That's enough, we can't take any more", protesters were set to converge on Syntagma Square in Athens, a landmark of Greek anger against austerity measures from the European Union and International Monetary Fund.

Cops sued

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the deceased filed the complaint at a metropolitan magistrate's court. Magistrate FM Mesbah-ul Haque ordered Boalia police to record the complaint as a regular case.

The prosecution lawyer and assistant secretary of the city Jamaat unit Abu M Selim alleged that the doctors sided up with the accused policemen and prepared a fake autopsy report to divert the actual incident.

The three doctors are: Dr Mansur Rahman, Dr ASM Rowshan Newaz and Dr Zinnat Ali.

The nine accused policemen are: M Moniruzzaman, additional commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police; Shahadat Hossain, assistant commissioner; M Rokonuzzaman, assistant commissioner of City Special Branch; Hafizur Rahman, sub inspector (SI) of Boalia Police Station; Hasibul Islam, SI of Armed police and constables Faruk, Zafar Iqbal, Solaiman and Hasanuzzaman.

Some 250 unnamed policemen were also accused in the complaint, Selim added.

The city BNP president Mizanur Rahman Minu was made the principal witness of the case.

A Jamaat-e-Islami activist was shot dead and 100 others including policemen were injured on January 30 this year when Jamaat men clashed with police in Rajshahi city.

Arrest order

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Chowdhury passed the order, as Selim and the others were absent from the court on eight hearing dates including yesterday since January 3 last year.

The court in the order also said that although the accused got anticipatory bail from the High Court, they did not get any bail from the trial court and did not appear before it despite being summoned repeatedly.

So their bail was cancelled and arrest warrants were issued against them, the court added.

The court fixed February 26 for hearing on charge framing against Selim and the others.

According to the prosecution, a group of AL leaders and activists clashed with police during a procession in the city's Chakbazar area on March 23 in 2004. The demonstrators pelted brickbats at police and prevented them from discharging their duties.

Following the incident, Sub-Inspector Khorshed Alam filed a case against Selim and the others with Lalbagh Police Station.

The four-party alliance government filed over 137 criminal cases against Selim but the present government withdrew over 80 cases considering those 'politically motivated', said Selim's counsel Pran Nath.

Reckless

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sub-inspector (SI) of Demra Police Station, told The Daily Star that a microbus hit an auto-rickshaw around 7:00am killing Maksuda Begum, 45, on the spot.

Maksuda's sister-in-law Shilpi Begum, 32, her four daughters-- Afsana Akhtar 15, Afroza Akhtar, 8, Ashamoni, 5 and seven months old Riya Moni and driver of the auto-rickshaw were injured in the incident.

The microbus rammed the three-wheeler as it (auto-rickshaw) picked up speed while coming out of a CNG refuelling station, the SI said.

Kamrul Islam, Maksuda's nephew, said that Masuda and the others were going to Narayanganj to see a dead body of their relative who passed away early yesterday.

Demra Police seized both the microbus and the auto-rickshaw. Meanwhile, Shahidul Islam Shahid, 20, a caretaker of a house in Dhanmondi, was crushed under the wheels of a bus in Azimpur yesterday afternoon.

Police said the Gulistan-bound bus from Dhamrai hit Shahidul as he was crossing the road in front of Azimpur Salimullah Orphanage around 2:30pm.

Locals vandalised the bus and handed over the driver to the police, said Abdul Karim, a sub-inspector of Lalbagh Police Station.

Maldives president

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power in the country's first democratic presidential elections in 2008.

The army denies the claims.

The latest protests in this Indian Ocean nation known for its lavish beach resorts erupted after Nasheed ordered the military to arrest Abdulla Mohamed, the chief judge of the Criminal Court. The judge had ordered the release of a government critic he said had been illegally detained.

The Supreme Court, Human Rights Commission, Judicial Services Commission and the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights all called for Mohamed to be released.

Nasheed's government accused the judge of political bias and corruption, said the country's judicial system had failed and called for UN help to solve the crisis.

The UN delegation is due on Thursday.

The crisis came to a head yesterday when hundreds of police demonstrated in the capital, Male, after officials

ordered them to withdraw protection for government and opposition supporters protesting close to each other. The withdrawal resulted in a clash that injured at least three people.

Later, troops fired rubber bullets and clashed with the police. When Nasheed visited the police and urged them to end the protest, they refused and instead chanted for his resignation. Mohamed was released after Hassan took power.

Large crowds had gathered outside the president's office after his resignation announcement, but residents said the streets had largely cleared by evening and shops were open as usual.

The recent unrest had also seen demonstrations by Islamic fundamentalists against the government, particularly over the transport ministry's decision to allow direct flights from Israel.

Former president Gayoom, who is in Malaysia on a medical visit, welcomed Nasheed's resignation, the spokesman for his

Progressive Party of Maldives told AFP.

Regional power India, which intervened with troops to prevent a coup in the Maldives in 1988, said the resignation was "an internal matter", adding that it hoped "all issues will be resolved in a peaceful and democratic manner".

Nasheed's resignation marked a stunning fall for the former human rights campaigner who defeated the nation's longtime ruler in the country's first multi-party election.

He rose from grassroots political opposition to the autocratic regime of Gayoom.

He formed his Maldivian Democratic Party in exile but then returned home to a hero's welcome, sweeping 54 percent of the vote in the 2008 elections.

Nasheed became an energetic global environmental crusader, founding the Climate Vulnerable Forum, to coordinate environmental policy among a group of about 30 countries most affected by climate change.

Prosecution

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Not satisfied with the answer, the chairman called forth investigation officer Helaluddin. "What is the problem?" asked Justice Nizamul Huq, pointing out that it was the investigators' responsibility to produce the witnesses.

Helaluddin said the prosecution were facing many difficulties and that some witnesses had been sick.

"Bring them to Dhaka and provide them with treatment if they are sick," said Huq. "Take them into your custody and have them treated."

Prosecutor Sairur Rahman then began with the deposition of the 24th prosecution witness, Mohammad Hossain Ali, a 67-year-old.

However, the matter of producing witnesses came up once again after the very brief deposition.

As the prosecution could not say for certain that they would be able to produce another witness today (Wednesday), the defence appealed for an adjournment until Sunday and confirmation of the next witnesses by today.

Prosecutor Syed Haider Ali told the tribunal that the prosecution team was trying very hard and added, "This is not an easy task that we are doing. It's a tough job, a really, really tough job."

The tribunal told the prosecutor that it was not seeking an explanation and was only expressing its discontent. "It is your [prosecution's] case and it is your responsibility to prove the charges."

After some more exchanges of words between the tribunal, defence counsels and prosecutors, the tribunal adjourned proceedings till February 13.

The prosecution has failed

to produce witnesses on several occasions, which has led to several unwarranted adjournments of proceedings.

On February 2, the proceedings were adjourned after three witnesses could not be produced as they had left the prosecution's custody to visit relatives and did not return.

A source at the prosecution team told The Daily Star that the witnesses had been getting warnings and threats from Jamaat members, which pushes them into having second thoughts about testifying.

While 68 prosecution witnesses were supposed to testify in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayeede, some changes have been brought to the list of witnesses since the trial began.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, prosecutor Haider Ali could not confirm the actual number of witnesses who would testify in the case.

At the tribunal, Sayeede is facing charges of crimes against humanity allegedly committed during the Liberation War.

**2-MINUTE DEPOSITION**  
Mohammad Hossain Ali, the 24th prosecution witness, told the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday that he had seen Delawar Hossain Sayeede in Bagharpara of Jessore district sometime around the Liberation War period.

Two previous prosecution witnesses had said that Sayeede was in hiding in Bagharpara, where he took shelter in the house of one Rowshan Ali. The Jamaat leader was a hunted man in Pirojpur then for committing crimes during the Liberation War, they had said.