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# The Daily Star

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**STOCK MARKET**

DSE Index	813.73 (+0.50%)
Market capitalisation Tk	30.29 billion
Turnover in volume	86,081
Turnover in value Tk	11.86 million

**Special Supplement**

**Special supplement on The Bangladesh Investment Conference: The Emerging Tiger**  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Ahsan wins Barisal pouro polls**

From Staff Correspondent  
BARISAL, Jan 23: The BNP-backed chairman candidate, Ahsan Habib Kamal, unofficially won the Barisal pouro assembly election securing 19,612 votes while his nearest AL-backed rival, Mahabub Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram, bagged 17,131 votes in the yesterday's polls.

**BNP leader shot in Jessore**

From Our Correspondent  
JESSORE, Jan 23: Local BNP leader Ali Kader was shot and injured by a gang of miscreants this evening. The attackers exploded bombs before snatching his revolver and shooting him. He was admitted to the CMH here.

**Reception to Dilip Kumar Friday**

Noted film star Dilip Kumar and his actress wife Saira Banu will be accorded a reception at 11 am at the Mirpur National Stadium on Friday. Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation will sponsor the reception for the renowned Indian actor and actress. The reception will be open to public, reports BSS.

**One killed in Sirajganj**

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 23: An old man was killed and a minor boy injured when a speeding truck hit them near Bhuiyagati on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway in the district today. Police said Amir Hossain, 51, of Bhuiyagati in Raiganj thana died on the spot and his grandson, aged about 10, received injury as the truck knocked them down while they were crossing the road, reports UNB.

**Transport strike in Pabna**

PABNA, Jan 23: Traffic on 16 routes of the district was cut off as the Pabna Truck Drivers' Union enforced an indefinite transport strike following the death of a worker at Nagarbari ferryghat today, reports UNB.

Police said Habibur Rahman Habib, a line worker of the union, was critically injured during a clash between truck workers at about 4 am. Habib succumbed to his injuries at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital soon after his admission.

The clash between the truck workers erupted over taking serial at the ferryghat. The union enforced the strike from 4 pm today demanding punishment of those responsible for the killing.

## Int'l investment confce begins in city today

By Staff Correspondent

A two-day international conference exclusively on Bangladesh's investment potentials begins in the city today with the participation of some 700 delegates including over 220 from abroad.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the conference titled "Bangladesh Investing Tiger" at 9 am at the Sonargaon Hotel.

The conference aimed at focusing on investment opportunities in Bangladesh and attracting foreign investment is being organised jointly by the Board of Investment (BOI) and Euromoney, a London-based organisation famous for organising such conferences on emerging markets in the world.

The Citibank NA, Global Emerging Markets Limited, Smith New Court Fareast Limited, UBS Securities Limited and WI Carr are the other co-sponsors of the conference.

Bangladesh is poised to emerge as South Asia's next success story: it is at the fringe

of emerging markets," the Euromoney said, in an introductory letter to the participants of the conference.

"Continued economic and industrial reforms have created a firm base for controlled growth," the Euromoney said, adding the country now has a five per cent GDP growth, 10 per cent industrial output growth, 20 per cent export growth, foreign exchange reserves worth six months' import, convertible currency and low inflation.

The conference is expected to help the country mobilise foreign investment worth more than two billion US dollars in 1995 and bigger amount in the coming years, organisers said at a press briefing prior to the conference.

Over 176 representatives from leading global and regional fund managers, investment bankers, banks, securities firms and corporate houses have already registered their names, while some 46 representatives from multinational companies in

Bangladesh will participate in the conference.

About 500 delegates from leading local industrial firms, business houses and financial institutions will also attend the conference.

Political leaders, bureaucrats, industrialists, economists, lawyers and experts on capital market will take part in the deliberations.

At the inaugural session, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will speak on "Economic and Financial Sector Reform", Special Envoy to the Prime Minister M Morshed Khan on "Encouraging Foreign Direct Investment", FBCCI President Salman F Rahman on "Investment Opportunities: Views from Private Sector" and BOI Executive Chairman M Kamal Hossain on "Investment Opportunities".

Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam will focus on "Trade Liberalisation in Bangladesh" and Energy Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain on Energy sector at

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## Hasina pledges autonomy for radio, TV

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday promised that her party would ensure autonomy of state-owned radio and television if voted to power.

"I can assure you that we will not appear on the TV screen frequently," Hasina said while addressing a rally at the Biswa Road near Malibagh level crossing prior to a march towards Rampura TV Bhaban.

Vice-President of Dhaka City Awami League Rezauddin Ahmed chaired the meeting which was organised as part of the Opposition's identical programme to stage demonstrations before the TV Bhaban at Rampura and National Broadcasting House at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar to press their demand for autonomy of the electronic media.

Sheikh Hasina said the Prime Minister had committed to give autonomy to radio and television when declaration of three alliances was formulated at the tag end of anti-autocracy agitation.

The Prime Minister also took part in the agitation for autonomy of radio and television during the previous regime, Hasina pointed out.

But she is now using radio and television in an autocratic

style, the AL chief alleged.

Sheikh Hasina blamed the ruling BNP for killing the nascent democracy through politicising every sector. Now it was going to introduce one-party rule by summoning parliament which has no legitimacy after resignation of 147 out of 300 MPs, Hasina said.

"We struggled against autocracy not for one-party rule," the AL president said.

Sheikh Hasina said the government would understand the situation when time would run out. "We would not have re-

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## Processions of AL, JP intercepted

By Staff Correspondent

Police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse a procession of the Awami League near the Television Bhaban at Rampura in the city yesterday and a Jatiya Party procession came under attack by a group of youths in nearby west Badda area on the day.

Jamaat-e-Islami brought out a procession after holding a

See Page 12 Col 4

## One killed, five injured in Narayanganj gunfight

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 23: One person was killed and at least five others were injured in a fierce gunfight between two groups of local bullies in the Bandar thana area today.

Sabbir, 22, who was leading one of the groups, succumbed to his injuries at Narayanganj Hospital. He was wounded in the shootout in the morning.

Among the injured, condition of Putul, 18, who also sustained bullet wounds, was stated to be critical. Other injured: Shabbuddin, 18, Shahjahan, 22, Shamsuddin, 25 and Fakir, 16, were admitted to city clinics.

The fighting occurred when an armed gang led by Mannan of Kaitakkhali area of Nabiganj under Bandar thana allegedly attacked another group led by Sabbir at Nouradapool area this morning. Local people said the firing that continued for two hours was a sequel to an enmity.

Both the groups used revolvers, sawed-off rifles and exploded cocktails. A case was registered with Bandar police.

## PM reviews political situation

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday held an emergency meeting with senior ministers and discussed the latest political situation, a ruling party source told The Daily Star last night.

Instead of holding the scheduled cabinet meeting at the Bangabhaban, the Prime Minister met with her kitchen cabinet colleagues.

Detailed discussions of the meeting, which took place at 10 pm, were not available but a BNP source hinted that the ruling party may take a fresh initiative to bring the opposition parties back to Parliament during the current session.

A source in the Opposition said they are still ready to reconsider withdrawing resignations if the ruling party accept their demand for a neutral advisory council under the President during the next general elections.

The source, a senior leader of the Awami League, further said that the AL chief had received a proposal of forming an advisory council with the members of parliament from both sides.

The AL chief rejected that offer, he added.

## JS goes into winter session Resolve crisis thru' consensus: Biswas

By Staff Correspondent

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday urged all to uphold the image of the country by reaching a consensus on national issues and said Parliament is the centre for resolving all problems.

"Let us sit across the table and reach a consensus," the President told Parliament which went into its winter session yesterday.

I hope, we, irrespective of parties and ideals, would be able to find out ways to resolve all national crises and Parliament will be the centre for resolving those," President Biswas said at the opening sitting of the 18th session of the fifth Parliament.

His 80-minute speech at the first session of the year was telecast and broadcast live.

The President said the success of Parliamentary democracy lies in the concerted efforts of the ruling party and the Opposition. Under the present circumstances "we will have to achieve that cooperation and fellow-feelings," he added.

"Our unity for establishing democracy is now a part of the history. In the light of that rich background, it is our duty to consolidate democracy," the President said.

The opposition bench in the House was totally empty as 147 MPs belonging to the Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and NDP submitted their resignation letters on December 28. Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party, Shamsuddoha of the Gana Forum and Maulana Obidul Huq of IOJ, who have not yet resigned also did not attend the session.

Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali chaired the one hour and 45 minute-session beginning at 11 am. Minister for Law, Justice and Parliament Affairs Mirza Golam Haiz introduced four ordinances ahead of the President's address.

Parliament also adopted a resolution condoning the death of Muslim League leader M A Matin, former Gana Parishad leader Advocate Sajed Ali Mia.

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## Half-day hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

Three major opposition political parties — the Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami have called for an eight-hour hartal from 6 am till 2 pm in the city today and a dawn-to-dusk hartal throughout the country tomorrow.

The opposition parties earlier announced the programmes to protest price spiral of essentials and to press their demands for dissolution of Parliament and general elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina in a statement yesterday called upon the people to make today's and tomorrow's hartals a success.

## EAB criticises Opposition

The Exporters' Association of Bangladesh (EAB) yesterday criticised the Opposition for not taking note of exporters' plea for withdrawing hartals on January 24 and 25 which coincide the international conference on investment, reports UNB.

Redwan Ahmed, MP, president of the association, in a statement resented hartals at a time when the government's economic reforms started to deliver and were attracting foreign investment.

He cautioned hartals and anarchy would shy away foreign investors willing to come to Bangladesh, frustrating all efforts to attain development.

The ruling party MP noted with concern that the opposition was calling strikes whenever there was any international conference. He referred to hartal programmes on the days of SAARC Convention and Japan-Bangladesh Investment Forum.

"If this trend continues, foreign investors may pack up one day," he added.



President Abdur Rahman Biswas addressing the eighteenth session of the Fifth Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. — PID photo

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A crumpled railway carriage pressed into service at the Kamalapur Station. — Star photo