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## DSE MARKET

DSE price index	3217.67
Market capital Tk	2925.46 cr
Transactions in volume	405324
Transactions in value Tk	5.01 cr

## NEWS BRIEFS

### DUTA polls Dec 31

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) election for the year 1997 will be held on December 31. Prof Ajoy Kumar Roy of Physics Department of the university will conduct the election, said a DUTA announcement last night, reports UNB.

### Fake Major granted bail

Chowdhury Ahmed Parvez Sohel, a fake Major arrested from the Prime Minister's office, was allowed bail when he was produced before the CMM's court yesterday. Parvez tried to enter the Prime Minister's office impersonating a major of Bangladesh Army on Monday.

### US embassy holiday

The American Embassy, United States Information Service (USIS), USIS library and student counselling service will remain closed tomorrow on the occasion of Thanksgiving Day, an American national holiday, reports UNB.

### Fire at mosquito coil factory

A fire broke out at the Sheuli Chemical Works at Jurain under Demra thana in the city yesterday morning. Fire service officials said, the blaze in the one-story building originated from a burner at 6:20 am. Four fire fighting vehicles brought the blaze under control at around 7:20 am.

### 10 hurt as soccer fans clash

From RU Correspondent  
RAJSHAHI, Nov 26: At least 10 persons were injured in a clash between two groups of soccer fans at the stadium here this afternoon.

According to police, the clash started when the referee gave a penalty to Abahani Krira Chakra (AKC) against Digantha Froshary (DF). This penalty shot helped the AKC to win over DF by 1-0 goal.

### Phensidyl seized

JHENIDAH, Nov 26: The Narcotics Control Department today seized 600 bottles of banned Indian phensidyl worth about Tk 40,000 from a house at village Balidipara in Kaliganj thana here. Acting on a tip-off, the Narcotics officials recovered the contraband raiding the house of one Yusuf Ali Biswas at about 11:30 am and arrested him, reports UNB.

## 40000 civil servants 'hired by Benazir' sacked

ISLAMABAD, Nov 26: Pakistan's interim government has fired 40,000 civil servants, all hired by former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, news reports and officials said today, reports AP.

The sacked employees were among 200,000 people hired during Benazir's three years in power.

In a move to cut government expenses by a whopping 10 billion rupees (250 million dollars), the interim administration is firing employees, merging ministries, selling off government vehicles and eliminating 2,505 positions, said Information Minister Ershad Haqqani.

As well as 491 telephones have been disconnected which should save the government nearly 1 million dollars, he said. When the president dismissed Benazir's government last November 5, he accused her of over-staffing the government

and public corporations with friends and family.

In the last year, the national airline alone hired an additional 1,000 people — all sent to them by the government — despite the fact that it had been operating at a loss.

Haqqani said the cutbacks will not result in any reduction in service. It wasn't clear which ministries would be hardest hit, but it appeared there would be cutbacks in all 31 government departments.

The Pakistan government is the largest single employer in a country of 140 million people.

In one province, which he refused to name, every minister had 30 different luxury vehicles at his disposal.

"I'm horrified to know all about this, but it is true," he said. Benazir has denied the accusations against her.

Her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, who has been jailed

since the government was dismissed, has been at the centre of most corruption scandals.

An intelligence report acquired by The Associated Press accuses Zardari of over staffing government departments with his personal appointments "in violation of all rules."

"A large number of middle level officers were inducted or brought on line through horizontal transfers, illegal elevations and inductions," said the intelligence report.

The report runs through each government department identifying areas where favouritism was shown in the awarding of contracts and tenders as well as jobs given to friends and relatives.

Zardari was known as Mr 10 per cent during his wife's first term in office in 1988-90, a reference to the alleged commissions he charged businessmen wanting to do business in Pakistan.

## Yasmin murder 5 more witnesses examined: Hearing resumes Jan 8

From Our Correspondent  
RANGPUR, Nov 26: The Special Court hearing the Yasmin rape and murder case today examined five more witnesses.

After the hearing, the court was adjourned till January 8 by the judge upon a petition by Public Prosecutor Advocate Gazur Rahman.

Special Judge Muhammad Abdul Matin who is also the District and Sessions Judge of Rangpur recorded the depositions of five witnesses today. They were Korshed Alam, bus supervisor, Abdus Sobhan, an employee of the Anjuman-e-Mahdul Islam, Joynto Kumar, co-passenger of Yasmin, Zobed Ali, a shopowner and Kamal Arif Shah Babu, brother-in-law of Yasmin's householder.

Earlier, three witnesses submitted depositions when the court resumed on Monday. They were Afzal Hossain, senior ASP of CID police and investigation officer of the case, Yasmin's mother Sharifa Begum and Waheda Khatun.

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## Jyoti Basu due in city today

By Staff Correspondent

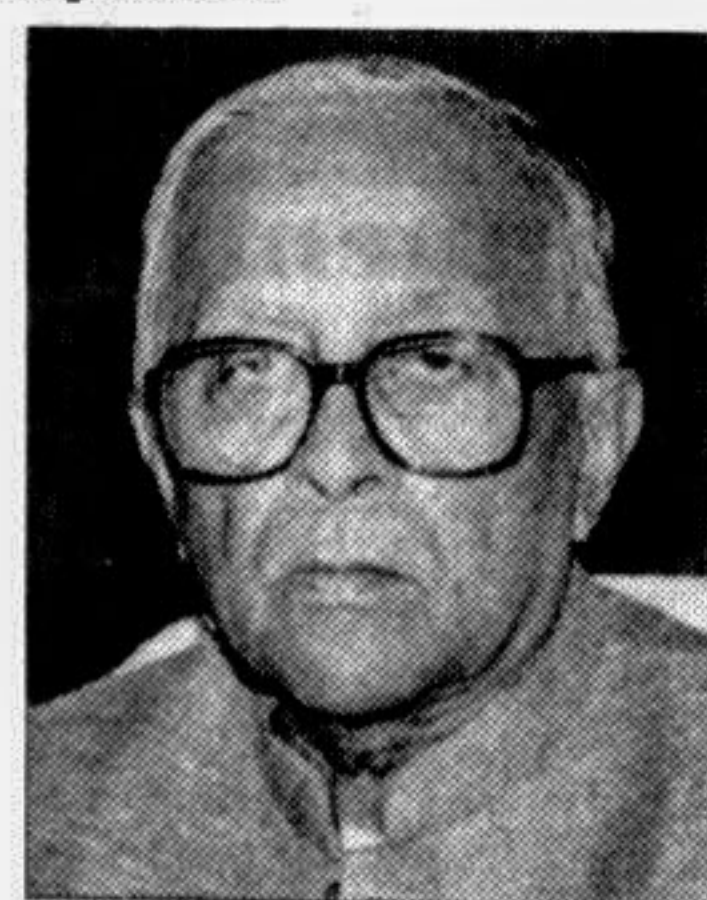
Chief Minister of the Indian state of West Bengal Jyoti Basu arrives here this afternoon on a five-day official visit to Bangladesh.

The water sharing issue would figure prominently during his talks with government leaders.

Basu's visit to Bangladesh will be crucial in reaching an understanding on the water sharing issue at the political level and he is being seen by observers as "playing a vital role as a facilitator".

Basu will be received by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at the Zia International Airport.

Basu, who holds considerable clout in New Delhi, his party, the CPI (M), is a major component of the 13-party United Front coalition government of Prime Minister Deve Gowda. His support is considered "politically important" in finalising an agreement on water sharing between Bangladesh and India.



Meanwhile, a high-level meeting of senior officials and water experts was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday afternoon to tie up the details of the talks and the programme centering the visit of the West Bengal chief minister.  
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## Sit-in continues Work in 4 wells at Kailashtila Gas Field stopped

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 26: Work in four wells of the Kailashtila Gas Field came to a halt on the first day of the 3-day dawn-to-dusk sit-in today.

No employee could go out or come in during the sit-in staged by the All-Party Action Committee to press its 6-pt demand.

Additional police were deployed in and around the Petrobangla Establishments. Thousands of villagers also joined the sit-in.

The demands include setting up a fractionation and LPG plant, increasing gas supply in all areas of Golapganj thana creating job opportunities for local people and stopping acquisition of lands in the name of Jalalabad Gas.

At the end of the day's programme, a big rally was held with the Thana Secretary of BNP Mohiud Sunnah Chowdhury in the chair.

The speakers at the rally said they were united to realise the legitimate demands.

## 9 Zoo staff placed on remand

Nine people, arrested following the killing of four Royal Bengal Tigers in Mirpur Zoo, were taken on three-day police remand yesterday, reports UNB. The CMM's court granted the remand after they were produced there. Police prayed for 10 days' remand.

The nine accused persons are: Animal caretaker, Alek Chatterjee, Asim Hossain, Saikat Alam, Md Mostafa, Saha Alam, driver Khalil, butcher Osman Gani and compounder Hafizur Rahman.

One tiger died on November 9, one on November 11 and two including a tiger cub on November 13.

Dr Ashraf Ali of Mirpur Zoo filed a case in this connection with Mirpur thana. TB police arrested the accused.

## BAU killing: Two JCD leaders held

Police arrested two Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders yesterday in connection with the recent killings at Bangladesh Agriculture University in Mymensingh, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, a special team of Detective Branch arrested Aslam Ali and Towhidul Islam from in front of Passport Office at Eskaton in the city.

Aslam Ali was identified as the former VP of BAU Shahjalal Hall Students' Union while Towhidul Islam a former member of Bangladesh Agriculture University Central Students' Union (BAUCSU).

Police said the two JCD leaders were trying to collect passport with a view to leaving the country to avoid trial of the killings of two BCL (S-F) members — Ranjil and Kamal — in the university.

They were gunned down on the BAU campus on November 9. Police said the arrested were being interrogated by DI 3 police. "They have confessed to them that they were involved in the killings," said a DB official.

## Prof Iqbal Mahmud to be made new BUET VC

By Staff Correspondent

Prof Iqbal Mahmud of the Department of Chemical Engineering is likely to be appointed Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) for the next four years, according to official sources.

According to the sources, Prime Minister and Chancellor of the university, Sheikh Hasina approved the appointment of the new VC and the order was being processed by the Ministry of Education.

Prof Mahmud, a noted chemical engineer of the country, was state minister for Science and Technology in Ziaur Rahman's cabinet.

Prof Mahmud was also chairman of Sonar Jib Bank. When contacted over telephone last night, Prof Mahmud told The Daily Star that he had heard about his appointment as the new VC but the official order was yet to reach him.

## Alleged terrorist beaten to death in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 26: An alleged terrorist was beaten to death by local people in Rishi Paikpara area in the town today, police said.

The victim identified as Millan alias Milla, 30, was son of one Ramzan Ali of the same area.

According to police, his eyes were gouged out before his death.

The local people alleged that Millan, a terror of the area came to collect toll from a grocer. But he snatched Tk 3000  
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A kerb market trader trying to sell some share certificates near the DSE building at Motijheel in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Trial of Rao begins

NEW DELHI, Nov 26: The trial of former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao opened today with an Indian businessman accusing Rao and his spiritual adviser of taking 100,000 dollar but failing to provide a promised favour, reports AP.

Confined to a wheel chair because of paralysis of his legs, Lakhubhai Pathak, a London-based businessman, pointed his finger at Rao and Nemi Chand Jain, known as Chandraswamy, when Judge Ajit Bharihoke asked him to identify the accused.

Rao listened to Pathak's testimony with his eyes half closed. Rao has pleaded innocent to conspiracy to cheat a government contract.

He is on bail after posting a 100,000-rupee bond.

Rao, the first former or serving prime minister to face criminal charges in India, is expected to make his statement in the court next month.

The Supreme Court has ordered that the trial be completed within three months. If convicted, Rao faces up to seven years in prison.  
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## Khaleda goes to S Arabia today for treatment

BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia leaves for Saudi Arabia today for treatment, reports UNB.

Begum Zia is scheduled to leave by a Saudi flight at 11.55 am, party sources said yesterday.

During her stay in Saudi Arabia, Begum Zia will receive treatment for arthritis in her leg at the King Faisal Specialised Hospital in Riyadh.

The BNP chairperson has sought blessing of the countrymen for her early recovery. She will perform 'Umrah' at Makkah and offer *fateha* at the *Raoza Mubarak* of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) at Madina.

## DSE price index falls by 100 pts

Star Report

After making a mild recovery this week, the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) All Share Price Index slid down by 100 points yesterday.

The slide came in the wake of Monday's trouble at the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), which kept the port city's share traders off the floor yesterday.

As prices dipped in the DSE, trading halted for lack of buyers barely two hours after the bourse opened for business.

Some share traders at the kerb market staged a protest march. However, police watching the situation, kept them away from DSE building, not to allow repeating last week's noisy protests.

They trod down the Motijheel Commercial Area, gathered at a rally outside Jatiya Press Club in the evening and vowed to stage demonstrations outside the DSE today, alleging inside manipulations by brokers causing the price plunge.

The dull situation that was prevailing in the market for the past two weeks had been compounded by a liquidity crisis that hit the investors, drying their funds, brokers said. Liquidity in the market was affected by the government's decision last week to stop funding by banks and the ICB for purchase of shares, they said.

Trading at the DSE plummeted with only 105000 shares.  
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## 'Let me die just like those I serve'

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 26: Floor trading at the country's second bourse in the port city faced forced suspension today in the face of agitation by kerb market traders.

CSE officials said that trading had been suspended as the authorised representatives of the listed brokers were absent in the floor fearing a fresh attack by the agitated kerb market traders.

"But we were ready to run the trading floor," one official said.

The brokers representatives stayed away from the trading floor after laying siege to Chittagong Stock Exchange office Monday by the kerb market operators.

CSE officials and witnesses said that the kerb market

## No floor trading at CSE due to fresh agitation

From Staff Correspondent

traders, today staged demonstrations and rallies chanting slogans. There was no report of major incident of violence, police and CSE officials said.

A large contingent of police were deployed around the CSE office at Kasbia Plaza at Agrabad commercial area to prevent any fresh outbreak of violence.

During Monday's incident kerb traders went on rampage pelting stones at the CSE office daubing its windowpanes and some vehicles. The agitated kerb traders gheraoed the CSE office for several hours from 1 pm on Monday, alleging manipulation of the market by some brokers amid a sharp

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Spanish Queen Sophia called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at State Guest House Jamuna in the city yesterday. — PID photo

## Ershad gets bail, prayer of 3 rejected in Manzur murder case

Former President H M Ershad was granted bail in Manzur murder case yesterday after a hearing held at the specially-built court opposite to the Central Jail, reports BSS.

Ershad is the principal accused in this case involving the murder of Maj. Gen. Abul Manzur, the then GOC of Chittagong Cantonment. Besides, four other senior army officers (all since retired) were accused in this case.

With this one the number of bails granted of Ershad rose to 14. The court also granted bail

to Lt Col (retd) Kamaluddin Bhuiyan but rejected the bail petitions of three others accused in the case.

Abdul Majid, Additional Sessions and District Judge, Dhaka, granted bail to Ershad and the other accused after nearly three hours of hearing. Except Ershad who is on parole, all other accused are in jail since the case was initiated last year.

Gen. Manzur was murdered in June 1981 and the case was initiated in February 1995 following an FIR (first information report) lodged by Barrister

Abul Mansoor, elder brother of Maj Gen. Manzur.

Bail prayers of three accused were completed on November 19 and part hearing of the bail of Maj (retd) Kazi Emdadul Huq was also held on that day.

Before taking up Ershad's bail prayer yesterday the court heard the remaining part of Ershad's bail.

While pleading for bail, Ershad's principal counsel Khandaker Mahboob Hossain said there was no prima facie case against his client in the FIR and that the allegations brought against him (Ershad) was based

on the confessional statements of the co-accused obtained under duress. Hossain mentioned that Ershad, who was Chief of Army Staff at the time of the murder of Gen. Manzur, was praised for his role in containing a rebellion in which former President Ziaur Rahman was killed.

He further alleged that his client has been implicated on political ground by the previous BNP regime which is his arch enemy. He said FIR was filed by none other than a barrister and it was not hurriedly done, but nearly 14 years after the incident.

The fact that Ershad was not named in the FIR is a testimony that he was not involved, he further stated. The counsel appealed to the court to grant bail to Ershad and allow him to fight the case freely.

Yusuf Hossain Humayun, another counsel of Ershad, while supplementing Hossain, submitted that according to the charge-sheet, his client had prevailed upon the then President Justice Sattar to hand over Gen. Manzur to army custody (to Brig Aziz, the then Area Com commander of Chittagong). The charge-sheet further said that

Ershad then ordered Brig Aziz to ensure that Gen. Manzur was killed and that order was executed by a JCO.

Humayun pointed out that both Brig Aziz and the JCO are now dead and in the absence of any oral or documentary evidence, there is no way to prove the contention of the prosecution about the connection of Ershad in the murder.  
Public Prosecutor Altaf Hossain, appearing for the state, opposed the bail prayer of Ershad and the other accused. He submitted that the involvement  
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