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94 more point fall
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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 2269.01
Market capital Tk 16407.24cr
Transactions in volume 144513
Transactions in value Tk 533 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 1086.34
Market capital Tk 13268.00 cr
Transactions in volume 24065
Transactions in value Tk 7605586

NEWS BRIEFS

Four killed in road accident

CHUADANGA, Jan 5: Three members of a family and a rickshaw van puller were killed in a road accident on the Chuadanga-Jhenidah Road near Saraganj bazar under Sadar thana. Police said one Anwarul Islam, 30, his wife Ziarunnesa, 25, their child Jiban, 7, and the puller Altaf Hossain, 30, were killed on the spot when a speeding truck hit the rickshaw van in which the family members were travelling, reports BSS.

Kerb marketmen's procession today

By Staff Correspondent
The Out Market Share Trade Association has decided to bring out a procession in front of Dhaka Stock Exchange this morning protesting the recent fall in the prices of shares.

RUTA polls tomorrow

From RU Correspondent
RAJ/SHAHI, Jan 5: The elections of the Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) and four other university bodies will be held tomorrow (Jan 7). Two panels — Yellow and Green — are contesting the polls. The pro-Awami League teachers are supporting the Yellow panel while the Green-panel is supported by the pro-Jamaat teachers. The pro-BNP teachers have not submitted any separate panel for the election.

Bank dacoity at Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Jan 5: Armed dacoits stormed into Krishi Bank's Bhoiroba branch in Maheshpur thana and looted goods and cash worth Tk 15,000. Police said a gang of about 12 robbers overpowered the peon and the guard and tied them. They broke open the vault and decamped with Tk 6363 of the bank. Tk 2300 of the night guard and Tk 2100 of the peon at around 1:30 am.

Tejgaon College Principal robbed

By Staff Correspondent
The Principal of Tejgaon College was robbed of Tk 25 thousand on Airport Road under the Tejgaon thana in the city yesterday. A gang of three men, who were carrying a rickshaw, were walking through the road after withdrawing the money from a Krishi Bank branch at about 11:30 am, police said.

Red carpet reception for Deve Gowda today

By Staff Correspondent

A red carpet reception will be accorded to Indian Prime Minister Deve Gowda when he arrives in the city today on a two-day state visit to Bangladesh.

A 19-gun salute will herald his arrival. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will greet the visiting dignitary at the Zia International Airport as he arrives by a special aircraft at 10.30 am, official sources said.

Bangladesh Air Force jets will escort the special aircraft after it enters Bangladesh airspace.

After the airport formalities, Deve Gowda, accompanied by Sheikh Hasina, will drive in a ceremonial motorcade to state guest house Jamuna where the distinguished visitor would be staying, the sources said.

Gowda is coming at the invitation of Hasina, who visited India from December 10 to 12. This will be the first bilateral visit of the Indian Prime Minister since he took over office. It will be the third meeting between the two prime ministers since they took over as heads of government almost simultaneously in June last year.

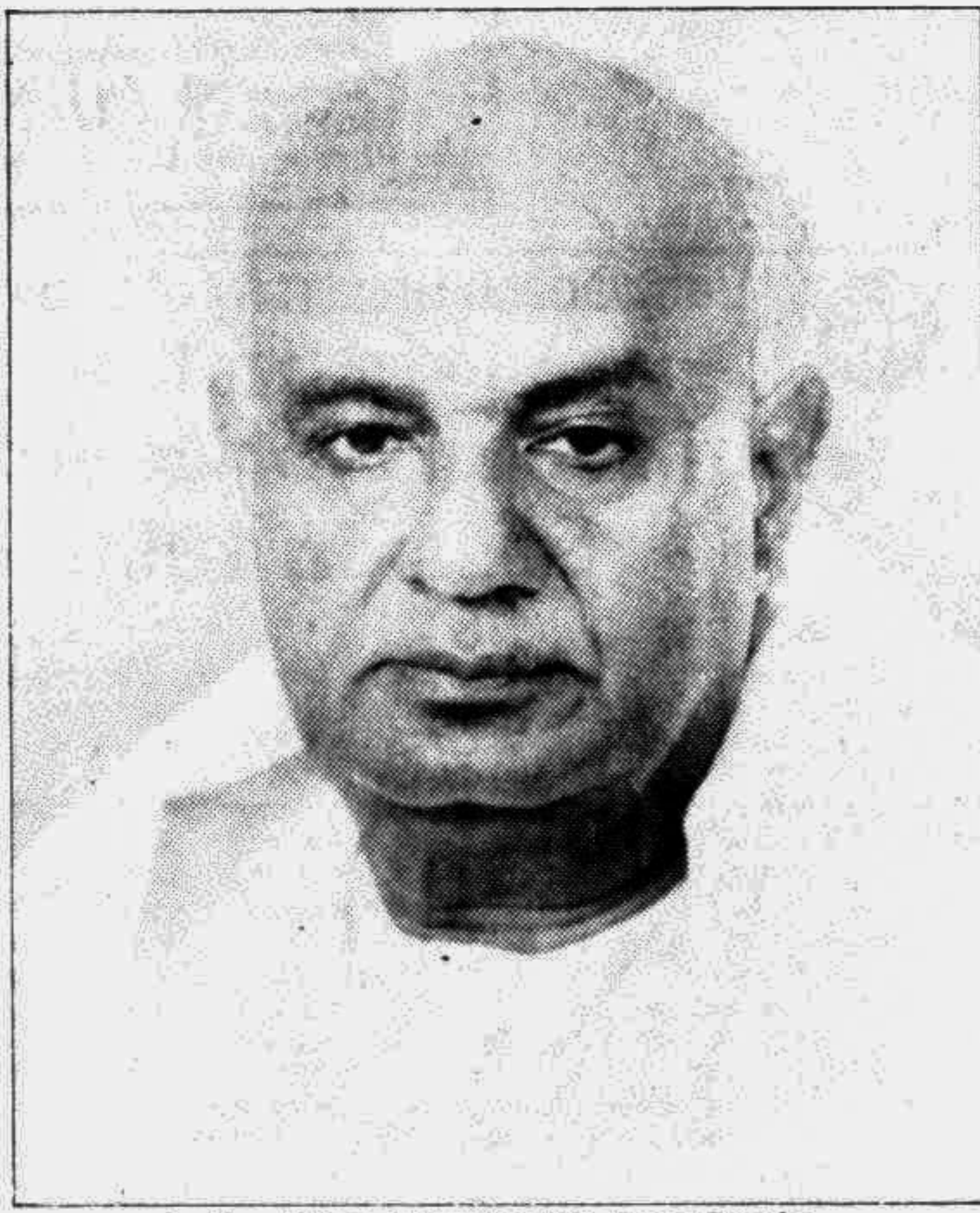
The visit is being considered very significant in strengthening bilateral relations between the two neighbours as it is taking place against the backdrop of the recently concluded historic Ganges water sharing agreement on December 12.

Trade expansion and water resources development will be among the major issues to figure prominently at the official discussions between the two prime ministers this afternoon, the sources pointed out.

The official talks between the two prime ministers will cover the entire gamut of bilateral relations with special emphasis on expansion of trade and commercial links, sources concerned said. Ways and means of reducing the huge trade deficit with India will figure prominently at the talks. The Bangladesh side will also seek early repatriation of Chakma refugees. Other outstanding bilateral issues including 'facilitation of trading measures', boundary demarcation, security matters and regional and international issues of common concern will also be discussed.

Talks will be held on the progress of operative aspect of the recently concluded water sharing agreement. The date of joint monitoring that began on January 1, making the treaty 'operational' is likely to be re-

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Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda

Tomorrow's meeting: BNP yet to get permission

By Nazmul Ashraf

BNP is yet to get the authorities' permission for its planned public meeting at the city's Manik Mia Avenue tomorrow.

The BNP had applied to the office of the Mayor for permission several days back, sources in the party said.

An official of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) when contacted yesterday said that the application was sent to the police authorities for opinion whether the planned public meeting would cause any 'obstacle'. The application is expected to be returned to the office of the mayor, the official said. The application fulfilled all the criterion for permission, the official said requesting anonymity.

An influential leader of the ruling Awami League hinted to this correspondent that the visit of the Indian Prime Minister might be a consideration for not entertaining the prayer.

A top-ranking BNP leader told The Daily Star last night that the party workers might defy any ban on holding the public meeting.

When asked what his party would do if permission is denied, BNP secretary general Mannan Bhuiyan said, "I hope the government will not commit such a mistake... If it so happens, we'll decide our next course of action later." Mannan said they have a plan to announce tomorrow.

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Sylhet JCD calls hartal tomorrow

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 5: The District Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has called a dawn-to-noon hartal here on Tuesday to protest the 'killing' of its activist Ruhul Amin.

The hartal call was given at a press conference here this evening.

Ruhul Amin, 22, a second year student of the Madan Mohan College died at the MAG Hospital Medical College Hospital early Saturday from injuries received during clash with BCL activists.

The JCD, student wing of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), has also announced other programmes to protest the killing.

The programme includes a

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President Shahabuddin Ahmed presenting gold medal to a graduate student at the convocation of Jahangirnagar University on its campus in Savar yesterday. — PID photo

Transport strike begins in Tangail

From Mizan Ali

TANGAIL, Dec 5: The first day of the transport strike, called by the Tangail Transport Owners' Association, passed off peacefully today.

No bus belonging to the Association plied on the road. However, a few buses were seen on the Dhaka-Tangail route, the number of which increased later in the day.

The deputy commissioner (DC) Abdus Sattar Khan and the Superintendent of Police told newsmen at the Circuit House in the evening that they would try to convince the leaders of the transport owners' organisation to call off their strike.

The Tangail Transport Owners' Association is not registered with the Ministry of Commerce under the 1961 Trade Organisations Regulations. The DC said adding they would make all possible efforts to bring an end to the strike through negotiations.

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One held with arms from BCL rally

By Staff Correspondent

Police last night was interrogating a man apprehended for carrying a pistol of a rally of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at the Ramna Batamul yesterday, which was addressed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Police sources said Anisul Bari, 35, a resident of village Dipeswar under Hossainpur thana of Kishoreganj district was stopped by Special Branch police while he was passing through a metal detector.

A search revealed a point two two pistol and 23 rounds of ammunition in Bari's pocket which, he said, was licenced.

Police, however, took him into custody and began investigation.

President at JU convocation 'Don't spoil students for petty interests'

By JU Correspondent

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday urged all not to spoil the students by 'tutoring them in violence, terrorism and extortionism to gain petty, mean and selfish party or group interests.'

The President said the students are deprived of proper education as they are being attracted to lethal weapons rather than to books to serve the interests of political parties. "Our existence as a civilised nation will be jeopardised if the students are not brought up as conscientious citizens of the country," he added.

The President who is also the Chancellor of the universities was addressing the first convocation of the Jahangirnagar University (JU). Held at the central playground of the university, the convocation ceremony was also addressed by JU

Vice-Chancellor Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury and first VC of the university Prof Mafizuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Nurul Haq, Assistant Professor of Economics who was a student of the first batch of the university addressed the function on behalf of the participant graduates while JU Pro-VC Alaaddin Ahmed gave the vote of thanks.

State Minister for Women, Children and Social Affairs Dr Mozammel Hossain, Attorney General K S Nabi, former VCs of the university Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and Kazi Saleh Ahmed, a number of parliament members, diplomats and deans and members of different faculties attended the function. A total of 2290 graduates attended the solemn and colourful ceremony.

Recalling the past glorious

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Police won't be used to serve party interest: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated that police would not be used to serve party or personal interest and told them to enforce law to ensure an orderly social life, reports UNB.

"We have a mass-based, big and popular party... We don't need to use police or administration for organising political meetings or any such purpose, as was done in the past," she told senior police officers at a meeting at the ICC yesterday morning.

"I have confidence in the people, they are the source of all powers and it is the people who will protect the government," said Hasina.

The Prime Minister directed the police force to take all

steps to improve law and order situation. "Take stern action against terrorists, mafians and extortionists," she said, but cautioned them not to harass the people.

"We'll have to improve law and order situation, if we want to gear up economic activities and ensure investment. Continued peace and order is prerequisite to development."

She asked the police to perform their duties with utmost sincerity to strictly maintain law and order and help create condition for increased investment in the country. "I firmly believe that sincerity, devotion and dedication are the key to success."

The Prime Minister said her

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Ujung Pandang, Abahani in semis

Sports Reporter

Ujung Pandang of Indonesia and local favourites Abahani Krira Chakra advanced into the semifinals of the Bangladesh Cup invitational football tournament after eliminating their respective opponents at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Ujung Pandang recorded an impressive 4-2 win over Eastern All Star of Thailand while Abahani held to a one-all draw with Calcutta Mohammedans in the second engagement at the flood-lit big bowl to advance into the last four as Group A champions with highest four points.

The goal-fest first match of the day marked a premature exit of the most enterprising outfit in the 12-team meet as Ujung Pandang, with this flattering margin victory, pipped Bargh Shiraj of Iran at the post of Group C champions on better goal difference.

In a see-saw encounter, Pandang led the breather 2-0. Striker Luciano Leonardo scored both the goal in a span of four minutes midway through the first half while Izak Fatari gave them an unassailable 3-0 lead shortly after the lemon

break. For All Star, Somporon pulled one goal back in the 47th minute converting a penalty. But the strong Indonesian outfit made it 4-1 one minute later when Musa Kallon find the opponents' net with a fierce left-footer before Apichat scored the second goal for the vanquished in the 68th minute.

It was Eastern All Star's second successive defeat to return empty handed. They had earlier lost their first group league match against Bargh Shiraj by a lone goal.

Meanwhile, in the other match of the day Abahani

Krira Chakra disappointed the home crowd when they held to a one-all draw with their Indian rival Mohammedan Sporting Club.

In a lopsided affair, Calcutta Mohammedan took the lead in the 49th minute through striker Abdul Khaliq before midfielder Rumi restored parity for Abahani one minute later.

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club and Muktioddha Sangsad Krira Chakra, the other two local outfits in the 12-

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An unidentified Calcutta Mohammedans defender clears the ball before Abahani midfielder Rumi (L) reaches it during their Bangabandhu Cup engagement at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The match ended in 1-1 draw. — Star photo

A second Asian Highway link through Teknaf suggested

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a policy dialogue on the Asian Highway (AH) yesterday called upon the government to organise debates in and outside the parliament to create public awareness as well as to remove any misgivings about it. They were speaking on the concluding day yesterday of the two-day national seminar on Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID), organised in the city by the ESCAP and the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

The seminar adopted a set of recommendations on the Asian Highway and the proposed Trans-Asian Railway and urged the government to initiate talks with Myanmar on opening up a second Asian Highway route to Southeast Asia through Chittagong-Teknaf. Immediately, the present route to that direction goes through Tamabil in Sylhet via India to Myanmar.

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju, former

ministers Saifur Rahman, Syeduzzaman and Anisul Islam Mahmud, JSD leader Hasanul Haq Inu, CPB leader Mujahidul Islam Selim, The Daily Star editor Mahfuz Anam, Holiday editor Enayetullah Khan took part in the discussions.

The speakers also included BUET Professor and former adviser to caretaker government Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, former ambassador Reazul Karim, ESCAP Director Dr

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'Students will no more run after tender, capture halls'

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reiterated that the educational institutions will be made violence-free.

"We cannot give arms to the students and we do not believe that students using arms will help us in any way," she asserted.

The PM said "at any cost law and order will be restored on the campuses. Arms holders will be rounded up irrespective of their party affiliation."

The PM, who is also Awami League chief, was addressing a reunion and discussion meeting organised by the Bangladesh

Chhatra League in observance of its 49th founding anniversary at the Ramna Batamul in the city yesterday.

Students will no more run after tenders and capture halls, she said and added terrorists must come back to a normal life. Normalcy would be brought in every sphere of the society, Hasina said and sought cooperation from all.

She, however, said there is a section of people who does not want normalcy in the society.

The PM urged the former BCL leaders to come up with

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Tenure of 3 hill dist councils extended

The government has extended the tenure of three hill district councils till December 31, 1997 by an ordinance, an official announcement said in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

The tenure of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban Hill District Councils, formed under the Hill District Local Government Council Act of 1987, expired yesterday.

Meanwhile, an inter-ministerial committee has prepared a report for amending the electoral rule of the hill district councils to hold transparent and meaningful elections.

25 book shops gutted in city

By Staff Correspondent

At least 25 book shops were gutted in a fire at the Nilkhet old book market in the city early yesterday.

The fire broke out in the shops near the boundary wall of Balaka Cinema Hall at about 4:30 am. Fire Brigade personnel took about an hour to extinguish the blaze.

Most of the shops made of hardboards and corrugated iron sheets. A cloth shop in the market was also gutted. Five book shops were also partially damaged in the fire.

The cause of the fire could not be known immediately. However, local people gave different versions about the cause of the blaze. Some said the fire started from an electric short circuit while according to others it originated from burning coal at a restaurant. The fire was an act of sabotage, said others.

The extent of damage could not be known. A general diary was filed with Dhanmondi thana.

Defamation suit

Holiday Editor granted anticipatory bail

Star Report

A warrant of arrest was issued yesterday by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate against Enayetullah Khan, Chief Editor of the Weekly Holiday, and its Publisher Abul Khair Khan following a defamation suit filed by Shine Pukur Holdings Ltd, a Teximco subsidiary.

Enayetullah Khan earlier yesterday sought and was granted anticipatory bail by a Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury and Justice Joynal Abedin.

The filing of the defamation suit followed an advertisement in some newspapers, including

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Cracker blasts during BNP procession in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 5: Sporadic explosion of crackers rocked different parts of the city this afternoon.

Crackers were exploded at Anderkilla, Momin Road, Love Lane and Jubilee Road during a procession of BNP supporters at around 5 pm.

Police said none was injured in the blasts.

The Chittagong chapter of BNP brought out the procession demanding withdrawal of the case filed against party chief Begum Khaleda Zia and protesting alleged torture on party activists and leaders.

CHEHLUM



The chehlum of late A S M Mostafizur Rahman former Foreign Minister will be held at his residence, House No 43, Road No 37, Gulshan at 5-30 PM tomorrow, Tuesday, 7 January, 1997.

All friends, relatives and wellwishers are requested to attend the chehlum to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Begum Sufia Rahman
Riaz Rahman
Farah Deeba