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**It's the Economy, Stupid**

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**DSE MARKET**

DSE price index 2205.55  
Market capital Tk 15948.35cr  
Transactions in volume 200231  
Transactions in value Tk 593 cr

**CSE MARKET**

CSE price index 1031.28  
Market capital Tk 13250.66 cr  
Transactions in volume 47930  
Transactions in value Tk 13250680

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Deve Gowda leaves**

Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda was given a hearty send off at the Zia International Airport yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was present at the airport to see him off.

Four Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) jets escorted the special aircraft carrying the Indian Prime Minister and members of his entourage to the last point of the Bangladeshi air space.

Ministers, heads of diplomatic missions, chiefs of the three services, senior officials, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India C M Shafi Sami and Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Deb Mukharjee were present at the airport.

Earlier, hundreds of schoolgirls and boys at the gate way of the VIP lounge greeted the Indian Prime Minister by waving miniature flags.

**Hasina-Gowda joint press confce**

**Teesta next focus, JEC takes up transit issue in March**

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Deva Gowda yesterday expressed their resolve to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries in wide-ranging areas including trade and commerce, transportation, communication, production and transmission of power, and better management of the vast natural resources for faster economic development.

The two prime ministers stressed in making a departure from the "acrimony of the past" and ushering in "a new era of Indo-Bangladesh relations."

They were addressing a joint press conference at the Zia International Airport prior to the departure of Deva Gowda at the end of a two-day state visit to Bangladesh.

They also identified the Teesta river as the next focus of attention while "settling the share of waters of other common rivers."

The two countries also declared that the Bangladesh-India Joint Economic Commission (JEC), headed by the foreign ministers, will meet in early March to discuss details of modalities of "cooperation in various fields."

The two prime ministers also said that it was decided

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart H D Deve Gowda addressing a joint press conference at the Zia International Airport before Gowda's departure yesterday.

— Star photo

**Indian PM tells business leaders**

**Removal of non-tariff barriers, concessions to increase trade**

By Staff Correspondent

Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda yesterday said that it was time for India and Bangladesh to put aside political differences with a view to improving the condition of the millions of poor people of South Asia.

"I firmly believe that it is high time for us to put aside our political differences and work together to improve the lot of the millions of poor people in South Asia," Deva Gowda said while addressing a meeting with the local business leaders, organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), in the city yesterday afternoon.

Trade and economic rela-

tions provide the foundation for stable relations in all other fields," he said.

In this regard, the Indian Prime Minister hoped that it would be possible soon "to finalise the modalities for cross-border investments within the SAARC region."

Gowda said that more attention was needed for infrastructural development to promote greater economic cooperation between Bangladesh and India, and added that the two countries were aware of the infrastructural bottlenecks on both sides.

The Indian Premier said

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**Malaysia Red move to final**

Sports Reporter

In a ding-dong affair with fortune fluctuating from one side to the other, it was Abahani who were on the receiving end when they fumbled in the penalty shoot-out after the blood-and-thunder first semi-final locked in a two-all draw during the stipulated time at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium.

Rumi Rizvi Karim, who scored Abahani's second goal in a see-saw battle, thrown his right-hand upper corner of the net, the Malaysian joined in a euphoria, leaving Abahani and the local crowd in tatters. Malaysia will meet the winners of today's second semifinal between Mohammedan SC and Ujung Pandang in the final, billed for January 10.

On the other hand, the never-say-die Malaysian, who had to appear in the knock-out phase within 24-hour after

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their crucial group league match against Muktioddha, in their turn appeared like a cool and composed bunch of professionals when Khairul Anuar, Tuan Kamree, Alif Rohamid and Ching Hong Ali converted their spot-kicks with great aplomb.

And when Chai Hong fired the right-hand upper corner of the net, the Malaysian joined in a euphoria, leaving Abahani and the local crowd in tatters. Malaysia will meet the winners of today's second semifinal between Mohammedan SC and Ujung Pandang in the final, billed for January 10.

However, in the yesterday's match, Abahani dominated the entire proceedings. But at the

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**Yasmin murder case: Hearing resumes today**

From Our Correspondent  
RANGPUR, Jan 7: Hearing of Yasmin rape and murder case will resume tomorrow in the Women and Children Repression Control Special Court, Rangpur.

The hearing was adjourned on November 26.

During two days' hearing on November 25 and 26, depositions of Yasmin's mother Sharifa Begum and eight witnesses were recorded by the court.

There are 54 witnesses in the case.

The three main accused, charged under the Women and Children Repression Control Act 6 (4) are: Former A S P Moinul Haq, former constable Abdus Sattar and former police line driver Amrita Lal Barman of Dinajpur. They are being tried in the special court.

There are six other accused in the case.

Death in camel race : Alleged child trafficker on remand

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 7: An alleged child trafficker, Shafi Mia, arrested Sunday on charge of trafficking an eight-year-old boy to UAE, was produced before a magistrate's court today which placed him on five days' police remand.

The boy, Rocky, son of one Babul Mia, reportedly died in Dubai in November last year while being used as a camel jockey, police said.

Meanwhile, a special police team of Narayanganj thana left today for Laksham in Comilla district to talk to one Ismail, who reportedly told Rocky's fa-

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Mother with four daughters commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

RAJAHMANBARIA, Jan 7: A young woman and her four minor daughters were crushed under the wheels of a local train near Mukundapur Station here Monday morning.

Railway police recovered the bodies of Suraiya Begum, 30, and her daughters — Beauty Akhter, 10, Fauzia Akhter, 9, Jhima Akhter, 5 and Tanya Akhter, 3 — from the rail track near Maheshpur, some 15 kilometres from Rajahmanbaria town, Monday night.

The Officer-in-Charge of Akhaura thana said, the mother, along with her daughters were sitting on the railway track apparently to commit suicide following a family feud. The Bhairab-bound train was coming from Bhairab.

Police quoting family sources said, Suraiya's husband and in-laws were very angry as they had no boy and her husband decided to marry again.

Young man beaten to death in city

By DMC Correspondent

A young man was beaten to death allegedly by a group of people in Fulbaria in the city yesterday.

Police said that Jamal, 22, son of Ayub Ali Hawlader of Siddibazar, sustained fatal injuries when a group of people assaulted him near a market at Fulbaria bus terminal in Kotwali thana area in the morning.

Later, the attackers took injured Jamal to a room at the Fulbaria Supermarket where he succumbed to his injuries about 7:30 am.

Kotwali police recovered the body from the market and arrested two persons identified as

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Yellow Panel sweeps RUTA polls

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 7: The Yellow Panel swept the elections of Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) and four other bodies of the university today.

Two panels — Yellow and Green — contested the election.

The Yellow Panel was backed by Awami League and a faction of pro-BNP teachers while the Green was supported by pro-Jamaat and another faction of pro-BNP teachers.

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Production in JFF resumes

JAMALPUR, Jan 7: The production in Jamuna Fertiliser Factory resumed this (Tuesday) afternoon after an eight-day suspension, reports UNB.

The production of the country's largest urea fertiliser factory was stopped on December 31 following detection of leakage at the boiler steam line of Ammonia and Urea plants, and technical fault at PG cooler.

JFF sources said the production resumed at 2 pm after necessary repairing work.



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a huge public meeting at the Manik Mia Avenue in the city yesterday. Star photo

**Sub-regional grouping a move to destroy SAARC: Khaleda**

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia said yesterday that the move to form the proposed four-nation sub-regional grouping was designed to make the SAARC ineffective and "establish Indian expansionism."

"Conspiracy is on to destroy

the spirit of the SAARC...

The sub-regional grouping is being

planned to dismantle the

SAARC and establish Indian

expansionism in the region. We

must resist the move," the former prime minister told a huge public meeting at Manik Mia Avenue in the city.

The Opposition leader also

gave the government an ultima-

tum to fulfil her party's 10-

point demand before the coming

Eid-ul-Fitr or face a "vigor-

ous" agitation 15 days after the

festival.

"Get prepared for a greater

agitation against this undemocratic,

tyrant and fascist govern-

ment. We'll make this govern-

ment understand who enj-

oys people's support by launch-

ing a vigorous agitation 15 days

after the Eid if our demands

are not met by that time," she told the meeting, attended by tens of thousands of BNP activists and supporters from the city and outside.

BNP had submitted its 10-

point demand to the Speaker on

November 10 and its law mak-

ers began abstention from par-

liament session on that date.

The demands include "neutral"

role of the Speaker, "impartial"

coverage of the parliament pro-

ceedings by the BTV and release

of detained party leaders and

workers.