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## Business

Volume of investment  
commitment dips in  
first quarter of '96-97

Bear continues to rule  
DSE floor  
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DSE MARKET	
DSE price index	2158.22
Market capital Tk	15606.08cr
Transactions in volume	212125
Transactions in value Tk	609 cr
CSE MARKET	
CSE price index	979.54
Market capital Tk	12544.08 cr
Transactions in volume	22170
Transactions in value Tk	9617977

## NEWS BRIEFS

Emergency meet  
of JP today

An emergency meeting of the Jatiya Party (JP) will be held today at 10 am at the residence of acting party chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury at Road 17, House 11, Block-C, Banani in the city, a JP press release said last night.

The meeting will elaborate programmes on party chairman H M Ershad's release, the press release added, reports BSS.

IU closed till  
Feb 17

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Jan 8: Islami University has been closed till February 17 following a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS).

According to Islamic University (IU) sources, the clash started when an ICS activist, Abdullah Al Mahmud Rana, 22, was allegedly stabbed BCL supporters this afternoon.

All the resident students of three halls left the halls by 5 pm today.

Barricade on  
road in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Jan 8: The workers and employees of Sonali Jute Mills put up barricades on the Khulna-Jessore highway from 9 am to 1 pm today.

The workers' union has given as ultimatum to the management for re-opening the mill.

Road barricade at  
Golapganj from today

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Jan 8: The All-party Action Committee has announced it will put up barricades at Golapganj to stop the vehicles of the Kailashtha gas and oil wells from tomorrow, as part of its agitation programme to realise its demands.

The leaders of the action committee announced their road barricade programme at 11 am in front of the gate of well number-1 to night.

The demands include setting up a fractionation and LPG plant at Golapganj, suspending of acquisition of land in the name of Jalalabad Gas, creating jobs for the local people in the Petrobangla establishments, and establishing gas-turbine power plant at Golapganj.

# Sub-regional grouping to boost trade among 4 SAARC states: PM

COMILLA, Jan 8: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said her government is ready to receive assistance from any country to build up a poverty-free Bangladesh, reports UNB.

"We want economic prosperity. The decision for a sub-regional cooperation with Bhutan, Nepal and neighbouring Indian states has been taken to create an opportunity for economic development," she told a huge public meeting at the local town hall premises.

Clarifying the concept of sub-regional grouping, she said a sub-regional set-up would work to boost trade and business among the four countries and would help the SAARC.

Criticising BNP leader Begum Khaleda Zia for her Tues-

day's remarks, Sheikh Hasina said, "She (Begum Zia) had forgotten to raise the Ganges water sharing issue during her visit to New Delhi."

"We have come back from Delhi with success and realised our share of Ganges water," the Awami League President said amid thunderous slogans halting her for the success.

Hasina said Begum Zia went to Delhi and signed a joint declaration, where there was no reference to Ganges water. Rather, she said, the former prime minister had allowed India to "push back" by admitting that Bangladeshi were crossing the border to India.

The prime minister called upon the people to remain alert against any conspiracy for cre-

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Today's dist AL  
meet at Tangail  
postponed

From Our Correspondent

TANGAIL, Dec 8: A planned rally of the district Awami League, scheduled for tomorrow, has been postponed following intervention from the central leadership, party sources said today.

Abdul Jalil, joint secretary of the party's central committee in a letter to the district committee today urged it to postpone the rally, the sources said.

The meeting should be postponed in the greater interest of the country and the party," the letter said. No fresh date for the meeting was announced. The meeting was scheduled to be presided over by Abdul Mannan, a central leader of the party from Tangail.

Sources in the district committee said, the rally might have been postponed to avert any possible clashes between rival factions of the party.

The two rival factions are backed by party MP Abdul Mannan and Abdul Kader Siddiky.

Abdul Kader Siddiky, a rally of the Mukti Joddha Sangsad recently announced that he, along with other freedom fighters would attend the January 9 rally.

The workshop organised

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BNP turns down  
UNDP invitation  
to join workshop

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday regretted that a UNDP invitation for participation in a workshop on setting up of an institute of parliamentary studies and development of legislative information centre, party sources said.

BNP has also directed its MPs not to attend the workshop, the sources added.

The workshop organised

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Myanmar troops fire  
on fishing boat  
in Bay: 5 hurt

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 8: Myanmar border security force intruded into Bangladesh territorial waters Tuesday night and fired at random on a fishing boat in the Bay, injuring five fishermen, four of them still missing, reports UNB.

The lone injured fisherman who swam ashore at Shahapir Dweep today told Teknaf police that a group of Nasaka troops swooped on their mechanised boat near St Martin's island at

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Source: In the district committee, said, the rally might have been postponed to avert any possible clashes between rival factions of the party.

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## Vow to resist 'evil design'

## Delhi to turn 3 countries into its provinces: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her party's firm determination to undo, what she said, the 'evil design' to turn Bangladesh into an 'Indian province' through implementation of the plan to form a four-nation sub-regional group.

Addressing a group of newcomers in her party at her Minto Road official residence yesterday evening, the Leader of the Opposition in parliament said that India would ultimately turn the three other members of the proposed sub-regional group — Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan — into its provinces.

The proposal to include part of India in the planned group amounts to denial of sovereignty of the three other countries and also treating these independent countries as Indian states. Our government is helping India materialise its evil design, alleged the former prime minister, adding, "We, the nationalist and patriotic forces, cannot sit idle at a moment when the national

sovereignty is at stake."

The BNP chief also reiterated that her party would launch a vigorous movement after the coming Eid-ul-Fitr unless the moves to form the four-nation forum and to give transit to India are stopped and parliament is made effective before the Eid.

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## Last local hope laid to rest



Jung Pandang striker Ijak Fatari, who scored two clinical goals for his team, sends yet another thunderbolt towards the net of the Mohammedan Sporting Club during the semi-final clash of the Bangabandhu Cup invitational football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

## Civil authority must be paramount, says FM

the state and the people.

"We have every confidence that the armed forces will live upto expectations that we have of them. They have clearly demonstrated their support and commitment to democratic government and the rule of law," said Samad Azad.

The FM said the government, the people, the political leadership and the armed forces shared the same goal of peace, progress and prosperity for the country and for the individual.

It's a central and basic element or promise of all democratic constitutions that civil authority must be paramount over the military," he told the function.

The minister said the government of Sheikh Hasina is firmly committed to a thoroughly professional defence force, which should be fully equipped and committed to discharging its responsibilities to

the state and the people.

Professor Mozaffar Ahmed of the Institute of Business Administration, Dhaka University presided over the first session where Dr Matiur Rahman, Director, PATA, presented paper on "Civil-Military Relations: Perception and misperception." Dr Amena Mohsin, Department of International Relations, Dhaka University commented on Dr Rahman's paper.

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Jatiya Party Chairman and former president H M Ershad shaking hands with his lawyer yesterday after hearing the news of his bail.

— Star photo

Yasmin murder  
3 of police patrol  
team involved,  
court told

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Jan 8: Five witnesses in the Yasmin rape and murder case in their depositions before the Special Court today said that the three persons in the police patrol team had committed the crime.

The three persons are former ASI Moinul Haq, former constable Abdus Sattar and former police line diver Amrita Lal Barman of Dinajpur. They are the main accused in the case.

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Train links with