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Deve Gowda faces problems from within

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by Kuldip Nayar
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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 2100.96(+2.65%)
Market capital Tk 5192.07 cr
Transactions in volume 194148
Transactions in value Tk 55.3 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 968.28(+1.14%)
Market capital Tk 12399.87 cr
Transactions in volume 26505
Transactions in value Tk 10515995

NEWS BRIEFS

Moon sighting body meets today

A meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee will be held at 6:15 pm today at the Islamic Foundation Conference Room, a press release of the Foundation said yesterday. State Minister for Religious Affairs and Chairman of the National Moon Sighting Committee Moulana M Nurul Islam will preside over the meeting. All have been requested to inform the news of moon sighting to the following telephone numbers: 9556407, 9558337, 9550280, 9559493, 9559643, 9555947 and 9555951. reports BSS.

President opens IJO HQ bldg tomorrow

The inauguration ceremony of the newly-constructed headquarters of the International Jute Organisation (IJO) will be held tomorrow morning at 145 Monipurpara, Airport Road in the city. President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the building as the chief guest. reports BSS.

By-polls : AL invites applications

By Staff Correspondent The Awami League has invited applications from candidates willing to contest the by election from the Thakurgaon-1 constituency of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The candidates have been advised to collect application forms for Awami League nomination from the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue between 9 am and 5 pm everyday till January 14.

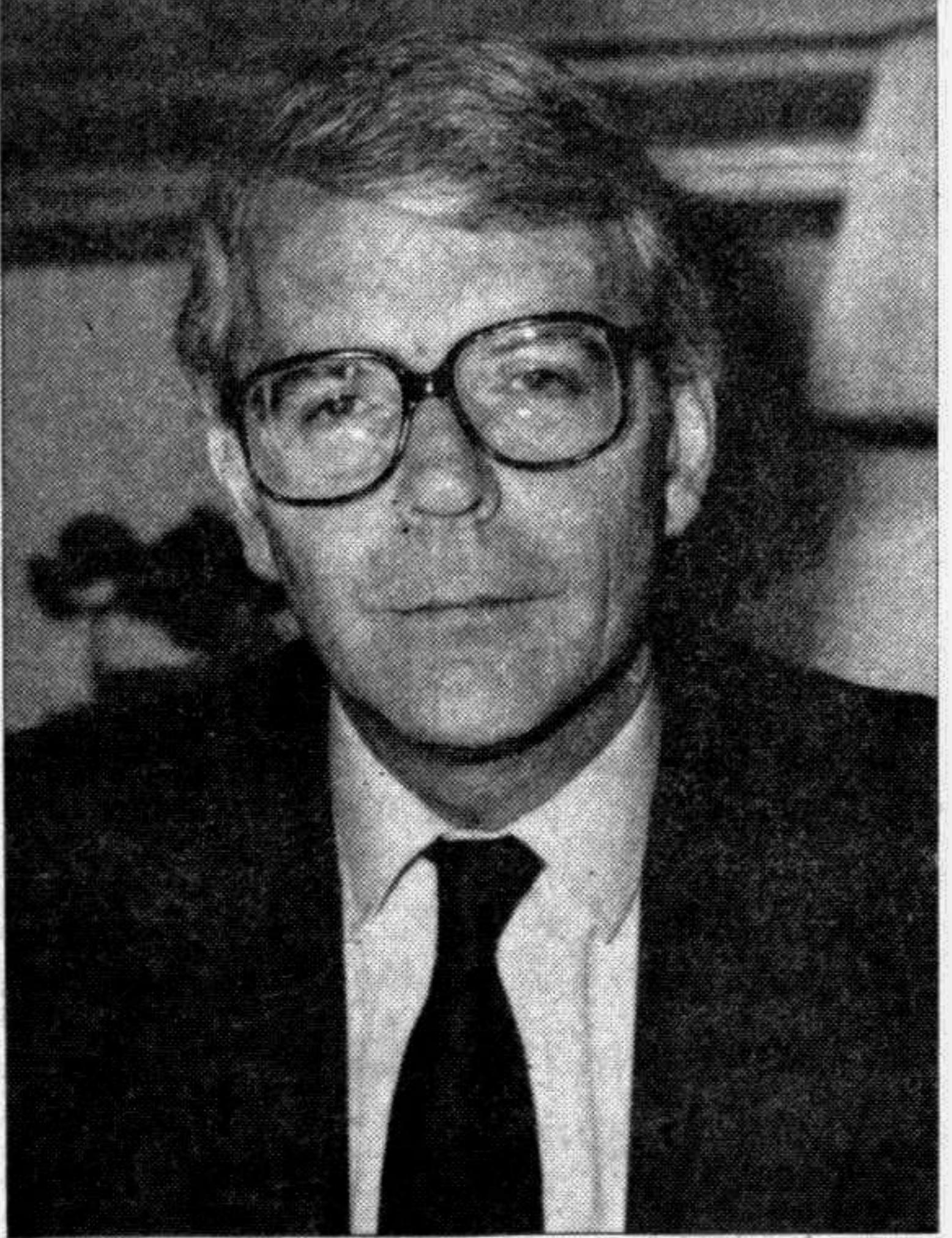
Application forms can be procured against Tk 500 each. Tk 500 will have to be deposited along with the application form, says a party press release. Interview of the nomination seekers will be held on January 15.

Cold claims 2 in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 9: Shivering cold claimed two lives in Kazipur and Chauhali thanas of the district in the last two days till Wednesday. The deceased were identified as Rustom Ali, 62, of Shakpal in Chauhali thana and Osman, 60, of Nishchintopur in Kazipur thana, reports UNB.

Welcome, John Major

Visit to boost trade, investment



British Prime Minister John Major

By Staff Correspondent

Boosting British investment in the industrial and energy sectors will figure prominently at the official talks during British Prime Minister John Major's visit to Bangladesh.

Major arrives in Dhaka tonight at 10:45 pm on a three-day official visit. He will be accompanied by his wife Norma Major. He will be staying at the residence of the British High Commissioner in Dhaka.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will receive the British Prime Minister at Zia International Airport when he arrives by a special flight. Major would be arriving from India to Bangladesh on the second leg of a three-nation tour

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that will later take him to Pakistan.

The British Prime Minister's entourage will include some leading businessmen.

The visit is being considered important as it would seek to strengthen further the existing bilateral trade and commercial links between the two countries.

In addition to holding official talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, John Major will witness the signing of an agreement between Cairn Energy/HBR Energy, two British firms, and Petrobangla on gas purchase and sales from the Sangu gas fields. It is Bangladesh's first offshore gas field

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Plan for sub-regional grouping

Worse than 25-yr slavery treaty, says Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

proposed the formation of an 'okya parishad' (unity council) comprising representatives of different professional groups to resist the Indian aggression.

"This is the best time for the people to have their patriotism tested," she said urging all those willing to salvage the country from Indian expansionism, "to rally in power in the post-independence period.

The ruling party has finalised everything to hand over the country to India through implementation of the plan for four-nation group, she said while addressing a group of Jatiya Party leaders and workers who joined BNP at her Minto Road official residence yesterday evening.

"From now on Delhi would be governing our country," the former prime minister said and

allowing their persistent efforts while others are totally ignored. Besides, even the few words by our senior members are not telecast. But we see the TV broadcasting all those falsehood resorting to the Treasury Bench members.

In this regard, she demanded strict observance of parliament's rules of procedure, 'neutral role' of the Speaker and of the TV, on end to 'repression' on her party workers and release of those detained.

Regrettably the lack of government move to resolve the impasse in parliament, the BNP chief said, "Even if these demands are met, we'll launch the planned agitation to protest the government's secret deal (with

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Bangabandhu Cup final today

Sports Reporter

The final of the Bangabandhu Cup-Silver Jubilee of Independence football tournament today coincides with the celebration of the home-coming of Bangabandhu from captivity in Pakistan.

PSM (Ujung Pandang) Football Club of Indonesia will take on Malaysia Red this afternoon at the Dhaka Stadium.

The match will kick off at 3 pm. Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar will relay the

semi-finals. On Tuesday, Malaysia Red eliminated Abahani in a tie-breaker in the first semi-final while the Indonesians made their way to the final with a convincing 4-2 win over Mohammedans in the second semifinal on Wednesday.

Both teams were found yesterday confident about their victory in today's final.

However, talking to The Daily Star, both coaches expressed

their guarded optimism.

PSM coach Mohammad Basri (52), a former midfielder of the same team, said that his team has come to Bangladesh to win the tournament and nothing but the trophy will satisfy him.

We are a semi professional side. We have a good set of players in the squad. If they can play according to their merits, they will win," said Basri who is on his fourth trip to the winners.

To mark the 25th year of the country's independence, Bangladesh Football Federation organised the Cup in which 12 teams from India, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and hosts Bangladesh, split into four groups for the first round, participated in the 11-day meet. Four group winners, two local giants Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra, and the two finalists qualified for

the semi-finals. On Tuesday, Malaysia Red eliminated Abahani in a tie-breaker in the first semi-final while the Indonesians made their way to the final with a convincing 4-2 win over Mohammedans in the second semifinal on Wednesday.

Referring to Article 61 and 62 of the Constitution in his concluding submission yesterday, the Attorney General said:

"The killers being army personnel murdered the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and hence they might have been tried by the court martial."

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Mozammel Haque and Justice Md Abdul Matin after hearing the

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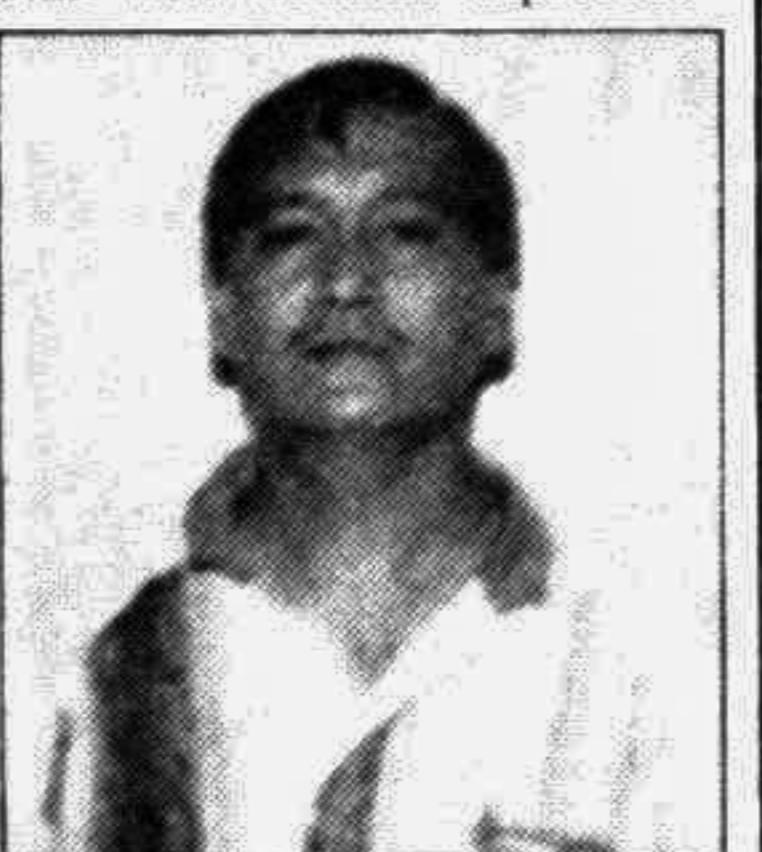
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Asked about today's opponents, the former Indonesian international who first came to Dhaka to play in the Aga Khan Gold Cup in 1961 as a 17-year old midfielder for the same team.

The party regretted the UNDP invitation on the ground that the reform programmes for parliamentary democracy undertaken by the JS Task Force were going on without the participation of BNP.

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MOHAMMAD BASRI



IRFAN BAKTI

match live from the big bowl.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the eldest daughter of late Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will witness the final as chief guest and hand over the trophy to the winners.

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VCs suggest President

Advise political parties to de-link student fronts

Vice chancellors of different universities yesterday suggested President Justice Shahabuddin to call a meeting of all political parties to advise them to de-link the student organisations from their parties, reports UNB.

The suggestion was made by the VCs when they called on Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangababhan yesterday.

They referred to the President's call to the leaders of society, including political parties, to refrain from using students for political purposes.

Vice-Chancellor of

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Yasmin murder

Depositions of 6 more witnesses recorded

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Jan 9: The special court, set up for the trial of the Yasmin rape and murder case, recorded the depositions of six more witnesses today. Five witnesses gave their deposition yesterday.

Of the six witnesses, four were Adivasis. Two others were, Zahidul Islam, a commissioner of Dinaipur Pourasabha and Rezaul Haq, an advocate. The Adivasi witnesses — Khuba Moni, Bahamoni, Jewel Haziza and Habrani — identified in the dock the three main accused in the case. They are: former ASI Moinul Haq, former constable Abdus Sattar and former police lines driver Amrita Lal Barman.

There are nine accused in the case.

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200 houses gutted, one killed at Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Jan 9: A devastating fire gutted more than 200 houses in the port city's Chowdhurypara area early today a youth killed and over 20 others injured, reports UNB.

Witnesses and Fire Brigade sources said, nearly four-hour blaze destroyed katcha houses, small shops, factories and shanties in three colonies — Sikder colony, Jafar colony and Jasim colony.

The fire is said to have originated from a tea stall at about 1:45 am, when most of the residents were asleep, and engulfed the area well before the news reached the firefighters.

Six vehicles of Fire Brigade along with policemen and local people doused the fire at 5:10 am after a long effort.

But a tragedy had already taken place as they recovered a body of an ill-fated teenager from inside a gutted house. The victim is Montu, 15, son of Nitay Chandra Dey.

Sources also said, at least 20 people received injuries in the

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PM at rally near Hardinge Bridge

'All the cases were motivated'

By Staff Correspondent

Former president and Jatiya Party Chief Lt Gen (rtd) Hussain Muhammad Ershad was released on bail from the sub-jail, a converted villa near the Sangsab Bhaban, yesterday, six years and 25 days after he was deposed and taken into custody on a litany of corruption charges and a murder case.

He was granted ad-interim bail in the last of the 18 cases by the Full Bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

But it took more than 28 hours to complete the formalities for his release, which included furnishing a bail bond of Tk 50 lakh and unlocking a labyrinth of files to execute the court verdict passed at 10:30 am Wednesday.

Hundreds of fidgety supporters, who gathered at the parliament precinct since early afternoon, expecting their leader's release with bouquet of roses and welcome banners, greeted him with thundering cheers as he emerged clutching a briefcase at 4:50 pm.

But he went back again, perhaps for the last time inside the Louis Kahn designed red-brick two-storey villa that had been his prison since he was brought there on July 14 last year to attend parliament session as an MP.