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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1843.66 (+0.23%)
 Market capital Tk 13364.86cr
 Transactions in volume 142434
 Transactions in value Tk 3.99 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 850.87 (+2.34%)
 Market capital Tk 10896.34 cr
 Transactions in volume 14040
 Transactions in value Tk 384.4735

NEWS BRIEFS

ALPP meets today

A meeting of the parliamentary party of the Awami League (ALPP) will be held today at 10 am at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will preside, reports BSS.

Ershad leaves for Rangpur tomorrow

Jatiya Party chief and former president H M Ershad will leave for Rangpur on a two-day visit to his constituency tomorrow. He is scheduled to address a rally at the Rangpur Zila School ground on January 17.

JPPP meets today

A meeting of the Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party (JPPP) will be held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban at 10 am today.

BDRCS lottery draw today

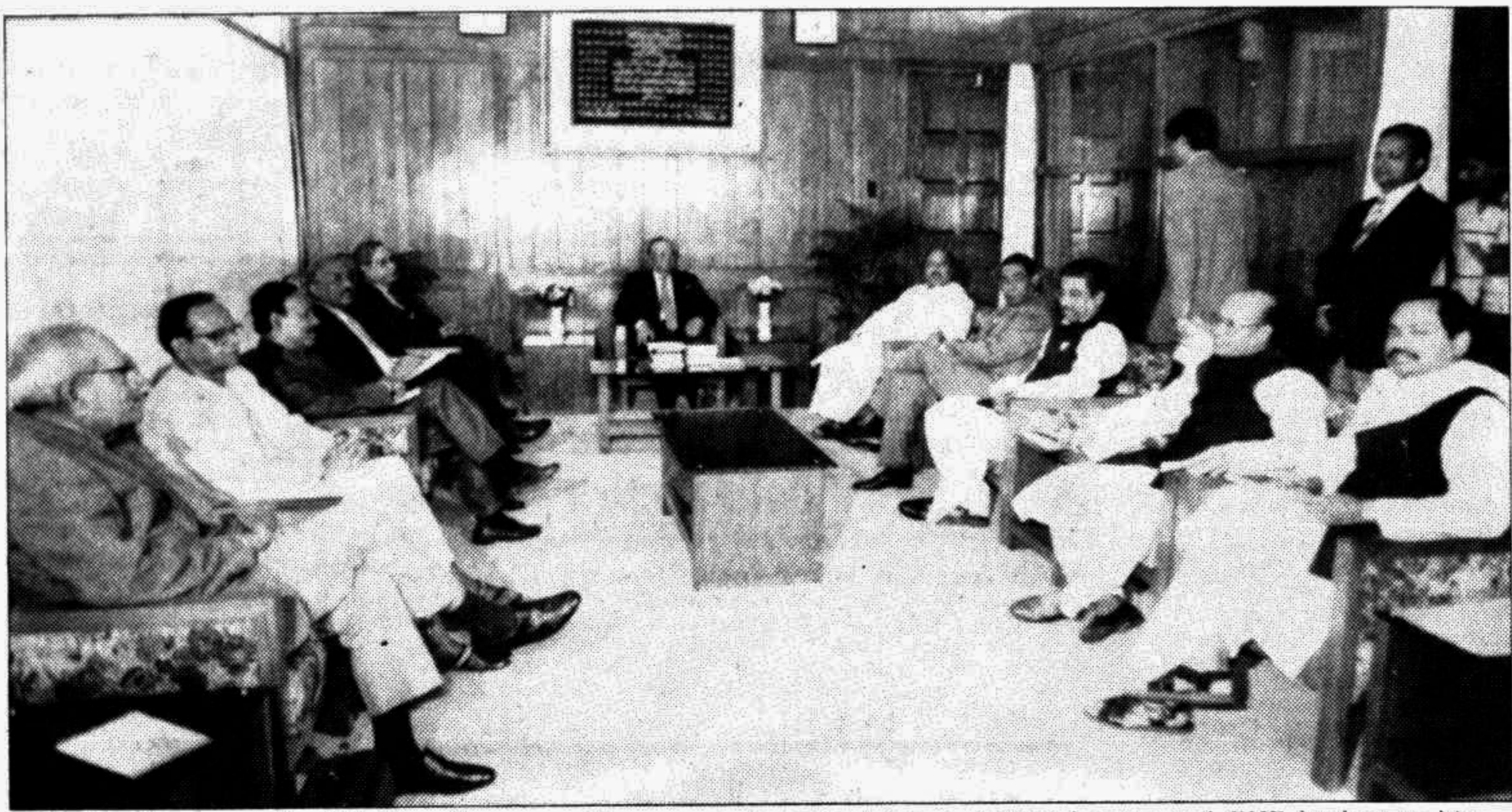
The draw of the 13th lottery of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) will be held this morning in the auditorium of BA Siddiky Red Crescent Nursing School, a society press release said yesterday. A five-member team led by Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University will conduct the draw. Three hundred and fourteen prizes worth Taka 60 lakh will be announced, reports BSS.

29 shops gutted in Gournadi

From Staff Correspondent
 BARISAL, Jan 14: A least 29 shops were gutted in a fire at Batajore bazar under Gournadi thana last night.
 According to witnesses, the blaze that originated from an electric short circuit at a factory at about 9 pm spread to other areas within a short time. Fire brigade units from Barisal reached the spot after 3 hours crossing two rivers on the way.
 Meanwhile, local people brought the blaze under control. Property worth about Tk one crore is reported to be damaged. State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Sattish Chandra Roy visited the spot today.

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Jan	Sehri	Iftar
5	15	5:20	5:36
6	16	5:20	5:37
7	17	5:20	5:38



Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury presiding over a dialogue between Awami League and BNP leaders at his chamber at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. — Star photo

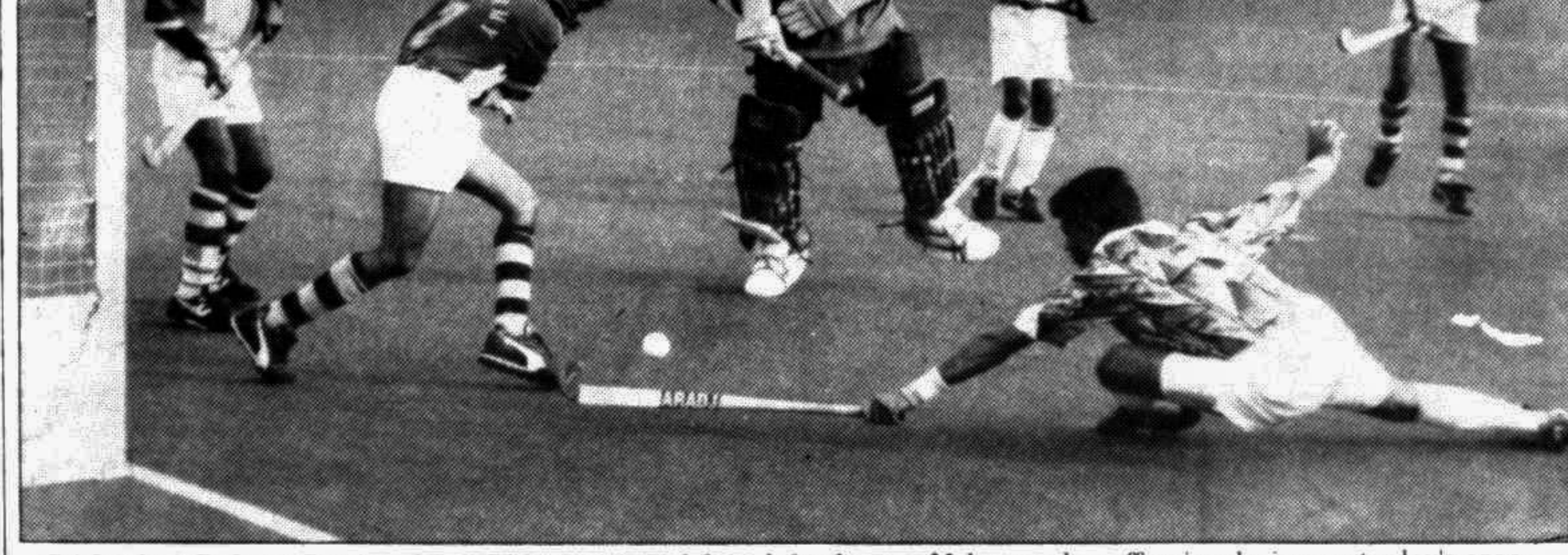
4-pt accord with AL: BNP returns to JS today

By Staff Correspondent
 BNP will return to the Jatiya Sangsad today following signing of a four-point agreement with the ruling Awami League yesterday.
 The agreement was reached after a dialogue between the two parties, brokered by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury.
 Five leaders each from Awami League and BNP joined yesterday's talks held at the Speaker's chamber in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. The talks, chaired by the Speaker, lasted for three hours from 11:30 am.
 Emerging from the dialogue, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammed Nasim read out the agreement to waiting newsmen in the presence of other leaders from both the sides.
 Nasim, also the organising secretary of AL, told newsmen that BNP would attend the coming session of the JS and participate in other parliamentary

activities provided its parliamentary party endorsed the agreement.
 Later in the day, a meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party endorsed the agreement.
 Earlier, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury held talks with BNP on Sunday and with Awami League on Monday, to resolve the impasse in the Jatiya Sangsad, arising out of

Faruque Alamgir made OSD

Deputy Director General (news) of Bangladesh Television Faruque Alamgir has been made Officer on Special Duty, reports UNB.
 Official sources said Mostafa Kamal Syed, Deputy Director General (programmes), was given the job of DDG (news) as additional change.
 Faruque Alamgir has been posted at the Ministry of Information. See Page 12 Col 2



Sri Lankan Defence Service player Dharmasiri (2nd from left) clears a Mohammedan offensive during yesterday's opening invitational international tournament match at the Hockey Stadium. Mohammedans won the encounter 7-1. — Star photo

3 top lawyers tell court Indemnity Ordinance validly repealed

By SC Correspondent
 Three eminent constitutional experts yesterday observed that the Indemnity Ordinance was validly repealed by the Indemnity (Repeal) Act, 1996 in the Parliament by simple-majority.
 Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister-at-Law and Senior Advocate M Nurullah, amici curiae, appointed by the High Court Division in the hearing on the writ petitions filed by Col (rt) Shahrier Rashid Khan and Mahmuda Rahman, mother of Col (rt) Faruk Rahman, challenging the Indemnity (Repeal) Act, 1996, concluded their arguments yesterday.
 Two other amici curiae, Senior Advocate Khandker Mahabuddin Ahmed and Barrister Amir-ul Islam, may present their opinions in the hearing which will resume today in division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Mozammel Haque and Justice Md Abdul Matin.
 Dr Kamal Hossain, a framer of the constitution, said the Indemnity Ordinance cannot be regarded as a law or a law in force since such an ordinance, purported to be made pursuant to the ordinance making power (article 93) under the constitution, because it would be repugnant to Article 7 of the Constitution.
 The Constitution cannot confer a power on anyone which authorises the destruction of the Constitution itself by describing such an assault on the Constitution as historic. See Page 12 Col 4

AL will respect agreement, hopes BNP

By Staff Correspondent
 Bangladesh Nationalist Party has decided to join the Jatiya Sangsad session, beginning this morning following signing of a four-point agreement with the ruling Awami League yesterday.
 The BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) meeting has endorsed the agreement after thorough discussion, cross-examination and careful consideration. According to we'll See Page 12 Col 1

DU tender BCL-JCD 60:40 accord over toll money

Star Report
 Armed cadres of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at the Dhaka University yesterday reached a secret understanding over opening a tender, averting a possible clash between the two sides.
 According to sources in the two rival student fronts, leaders of the feuding armed cadres agreed on a 'systematic' sharing of the 'extortion money' gained from the tender bidding for construction of the third and fourth floors of the Sir A F Rahman Hall of the university. See Page 12 Col 1

Khasru made full minister Six new faces in cabinet

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expanded the cabinet of her six-month-old government by appointing two ministers, three state ministers and two deputy ministers, reports UNB.
 The new cabinet ministers are: Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and Abdul Matin Khasru. Prof Dr M Amanullah, Talukdar Abdul Khaleq and Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir were made ministers of state while Dharendra Debnath Shambhu and Prof Zinatunnesa Talukdar deputy ministers.
 President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed administered the oath of office to the newly inducted ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers at a simple ceremony at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban in the afternoon.
 Among the newly appointed ministers Sajeda Chowdhury got the portfolio of Environment and Forest. Abdul Matin Khasru was elevated to full minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.
 Prof Dr M Amanullah Khan has been appointed Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare. Talukdar Abdul Khaleq became State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief and Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir State Minister for Planning.
 Dharendra Debnath Shambhu has been appointed Deputy Minister for Shipping while Prof Zinatunnesa Talukdar became Deputy Minister, Primary and Mass Education.
 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Finance Minister See Page 12 Col 6

New coal mine discovered in Dinajpur

The government yesterday announced the discovery of a new mine of high quality coal at Fulbari in Dinajpur district, reports UNB.
 BHP Minerals, a US-Australian multinational company, discovered the deposit last week and submitted its discovery sample to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Monday.
 With the new find, the total number of coalfields in the country rose to five.
 The four other mines discovered by local geologists are at Jamalganj in Joypurhat, Barapukuria in Dinajpur, Khalaspeer in Rangpur and Dighipara in Dinajpur.
 BHP Minerals has been exploring coal in shallow depth in the northern region of the country under an agreement signed with the government on August 20, 1994.
 The coal found in the field is of bituminous quality and sit. See Page 12 Col 3

President addresses JS today: 4 ordinances likely to be placed

By Staff Correspondent
 The Seventh Jatiya Sangsad goes into its third session this morning with President Shahabuddin Ahmed addressing the House.
 Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the largest opposition party in Parliament, which had been abstaining from attending Sangsad sessions since November 10 last year, will return to the House today following a four-point agreement signed yesterday with the ruling Awami League.
 In his inaugural speech the President is expected to make a policy statement of the government headed by Sheikh Hasina.
 In a meeting yesterday the Business Advisory Committee of Jatiya Sangsad decided that the session would continue till 28th of this month excepting holidays, Committee sources said.
 Presided over by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, the meeting was attended by members of the committee Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader of the House and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Industries and Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Deputy Speaker Mohamimad Abdul See Page 12 Col 1

Indian team to monitor Ganges flow due today

By Staff Correspondent
 A two-member Indian team of experts will arrive in Dhaka today to record the flow of Ganges water at the Hardinge Bridge point, official sources said last night.
 With the arrival of the Indian team the provision for monitoring the Ganges flow at four points as stipulated in the recently concluded Indo-Bangladesh water accord will be completed.
 The Bangladesh monitors comprising four engineers began monitoring work from January 1 at Farraka point, the Navigation Lock and the Feeder Canal.
 Meanwhile, the data of the first ten days as recorded by the joint team of monitors was yet to reach the Water Resources Ministry till yesterday. However, a top official said that from the data available at Hardinge Bridge point it was evident that the water flow of Ganges as provided in the treaty was being maintained.

5-member judicial council headed by CJ suggested

By Mizan Ali
 The Committee on Separation of Judiciary has suggested formation of a five-member Judicial Council for making recommendations regarding appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court.
 The Committee has finalised its report on separation of the judiciary. The report is likely to be submitted to the Minister for Law and Justice in a day or two, according to sources in the law ministry.
 It has been suggested that the Council be headed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. It will include the law minister, one judge of the Supreme Court nominated by the Chief Justice, Attorney General and the See Page 12 Col 3

Cargo handling at Ctg Port CBA leaders resist move for use of pvt equipment

From Nurul Alam
 CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: The move for using private equipment for cargo handling at Chittagong Port was foiled in the face of resistance by Port's CBA leaders, port sources said.
 As a result, four straddle carriers imported by a private party for cargo handling remained idle at the port jetty for the last 10 months while the CBA opposed their use.
 Chittagong Port Authority tried to bring the four private straddle carriers under operation, but failed in its move and then wrote to the ministry concerned to give decision in this regard, the sources added.
 The ministry is yet to give a decision as to the use of those private straddle carriers, keeping the matter hanging, the sources said.
 Talking to this correspondent, Chairman of Chittagong Port Authorities Captain Zahiruddin Mahmud said that reminders were issued to the ministry time and again to give See Page 12 Col 8

Manzur murder Bail prayers of Gen Latif, Col Shams rejected

Special Judge's Court trying former President H M Ershad and four others in Manzur Murder Case yesterday rejected bail prayers of Maj Gen (ret'd) M A Latif and Lt Col (ret'd) Shamsur Rahman alias Shams, reports BSS.
 Abdul Majid, First Additional Session Judge, after hearing both sides rejected the bail prayers. Bail prayer of Major (ret'd) Emdadul Haq could not be moved.
 The Court on an earlier occasion granted bail to H M Ershad and Lt Col (ret'd) Kamaluddin Bhuiyan.
 Lt Col Kamaluddin Bhuiyan was present in the court which noted the absence of former president. The court asked Ershad's counsel to make him available on the next date.
 The next date for the case Number 256 of 1995 was fixed for 24th February.

Jatiya Party Office Case Ershad asked to appear in court in person

The Special Judge's Court yesterday directed former President H M Ershad to appear in court in person on February 18 next date of hearing of the Jatiya Party Office Renovation Case, reports BSS.
 Abdul Majid, First Additional Sessions Judge, Dhaka and Judge of the Special Judge's Court gave the instruction to the counsel of Ershad following a petition submitted on his behalf to the court to dispense with his (Ershad) personal appearance and allowing him to be represented by his lawyer under Section 540a of CrPc.
 Yesterday was earlier fixed for argument by the defence counsel in the Jatiya Party Office Renovation Case.
 In the petition, Ershad's lawyer said since his release on bail, there is big crowd wherever his client goes. It causes road blockade, traffic jam and law and order situation. In the light of this Ershad may be exempted from physical appearance, rather allowed to be represented by his lawyer, his counsel said in the petition.
 Khandkar Mahub Hossain, counsel for Ershad, said pres- See Page 12 Col 4

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Smooth sail for Sampras

MELBOURNE, Jan 14: World number one Pete Sampras and Swiss starlet Martina Hingis marched into the second round of the Australian Open today, but former prodigy Jennifer Capriati broke down in tears after an unexpected defeat, reports Reuter.
 Sampras, top seed and hot favourite for the men's title, steamrollered Romanian qualifier Dinu Pescariu 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.
 Sixteen-year-old Hingis picked up a warning for racket abuse before subduing German veteran Barbara Rittner 6-1, 7-5 on Centre Court.
 Third seed Goran Ivanisevic stormed into the second round with an easy 6-2, 7-5, 6-3 win over Australian Ben Ellwood.
 More on page 11

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