

**Inside Today**

**Article**

**Mining and Quarrying Sector Poised to Take off**  
Column: Along My Way  
by S B Chaudhuri  
Page 4

**International**



**Pakistan will never roll back its N-capability, says Benazir**

**Li Peng starts central Asia tour today to extend sphere of influence**  
Page 5

**Business**

**Bangkok to enhance trade ties with Dhaka, says Thai envoy**

**Indian tea industry looks for new markets**  
Pages 6, 7

**Development**

**The Federation Makes us Strong; Fatwas vs Development; North Ignores South to its Peril; MIDA: The Success Story of Malaysia's Industrialisation**  
Page 8

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**



**Disappointment and Desolation**  
Page 3

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Oli hosts dinner**

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed hosted a dinner at the Panda Garden in Dhaka last night to celebrate the Jamuna Bridge foundation. Ministers, Parliament members, diplomats, top officials, chiefs of three services and journalists attended the function, reports UNB.

## Aid Club meets in Paris today to consider Dhaka's request

Star Report

Bangladesh sits today with the donors at the Paris Consortium meeting with the economy "on the threshold of growth and poverty alleviation" to discuss assistance for next year's development programme.

The donors at the three-day meeting will review the government's economic performance of the current year, its adherence to the on-going reforms and will make new pledges for the next year.

The government will indicate that it needs about 2100 million US dollars in the coming year — 1550 million in Project Aid, 360 million in Commodity and 190 million in

Food Aid — while the World Bank, the biggest multilateral donor agency, has projected the country's need at 1800 million dollars.

The final pledge will be made public on the concluding day, April 20.

The government side, led by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, is expected to point out to the donors the adverse political, social and economic implications of any fresh or harsh conditionalities.

Meanwhile, observers feel that the meeting of the Paris Aid Club — will be quite like the previous years because of factors like the reduced funding ability of the donors as a

result of the changed global economic situation and general depression. The next general elections in the country, due in two years' time, may also come up in the talks.

The Bangladesh side's strong points in the meeting will be the increase in private investments this year, the liberalising of the economy, and its new strategy on poverty alleviation.

Private investments, as per the Aid Memorandum, went up to 7.26 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in fiscal 1992-93 from 6.6 per cent in the previous year. The investment-GDP ratio for this year is expected to reach 14.5

per cent.

The government will highlight its new poverty alleviation strategies like the food for education programme. It will also urge the donors to continue food assistance despite the country's achievement of self-sufficiency in food production against the changed perspective of poverty alleviation.

On the other hand, the donors are likely to be critical of the government's slow pace in administrative reforms, diplomatic sources in Dhaka hinted. The Bangladesh side is likely to counter criticisms on this score by saying that a number of studies have been

See Page 12 Col 8

## Talks fail, teachers go on strike today

The Teachers' Central Action Liaison Committee yesterday rejected the assurance of the Education Minister of raising the government grant to teachers and stood firm in its decision to observe strike from today, reports UNB.

The Action Committee claimed support of three out of four secondary teachers' associations and those of college teachers' association to the movement and said the teachers were more united now to realise their four-point demands.

The demands included equal benefits and teaching facilities enjoyed by government teachers and job security.

The committee claims that about 1.75 lakh teachers of 11,000 non-government schools and 640 colleges all over

the country will go ahead with their movement including the strike for indefinite period.

Kazi Farooq Ahmed, a leader of the Action Committee, telephoned UNB late last night to say that they were firm in their decision to observe strike as there was no positive response from the government to their demands.

"We have rejected outright the assurance of the Education Minister," said Kazi Farooq. He urged upon the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to intervene in the matter.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar held out an assurance to a group of teachers yesterday that government grant to non-government teachers will be raised to 100 per cent in phases.

See Page 12 Col 7

## Model polls with voters' identity cards Apr 30

By Nurul Kabir

The Election Commission (EC) is going to introduce, on an experimental basis, identity cards for voters and involve the local people in the conduct of polls on April 30, sources in the EC said.

The EC authorities feel that an almost leakproof polling system could be developed in the country through the introduction of identity cards for voters and ensuring peoples' active participation in the polling process.

The EC has taken up the Dapunia Union Council polls in Mymensingh, scheduled for April 30, to test its proposed measures for an entirely correct See Page 12 Col 4

## Faulty tower!

Star Report

At least five boarders were injured when they jumped from a six-storey hotel in Shantinagar in the capital after the building tilted some 15 degrees late Saturday night.

Panic gripped the boarders of Meghna Hotel and Restaurant at 15, Shantinagar when one side of the building suddenly inclined dangerously at around 3 am.

Residents of Shantinagar told The Daily Star, at least 30 sleepy boarders jumped off the building's second floor in frenzied efforts to save their lives.

Within a few hours of the incident the whole area adjacent to the leaning hotel became panicky.

People of at least 10 to 12 houses in the neighbourhood immediately evacuated from the dangerous side of the building.

However, the building stopped tilting any further.

Traffic movement from Rajarbagh to the Shantinagar crossing was closed as part of the security measures suggested by Rajuk and engineers of the nearby Eastern Housing Complex.

Explaining the reasons for the near-collapse of the building, engineers and local people said, within hardly a foot of the L-shaped Meghna Hotel, having a floor area of approximately 700 sq ft per storey, another person owning an adjacent plot had undertaken pile-driving work.

While the foundation of the Meghna Hotel is some 4.5 feet deep, the adjacent foundation is 8 feet deep.

Moreover, the new building site was filled with the rain water early this month. According to engineers, this water must have passed under the Meghna Hotel and slackened its foundation.

The proprietor of the new foundation site pumped out the rain water a few days ago.

See Page 12 Col 6



PRECARIOUSLY POISED: The six-storey Meghna Hotel at Shantinagar in the city tilted about 15 degrees Saturday night, causing panic among boarders and neighbours.

— Star photo

## Nor'wester lashes four dists: 1 killed

By Staff Correspondent

At least one person was killed and 37 others injured when nor'wester hit different parts of the country including Dhaka city yesterday.

A 60 km per hour 'kalbaishakhi' accompanied by gusty and squally wind swept the metropolis and its adjoining areas like Gazipur and Tongi yesterday afternoon.

BSS adds: One person was killed and 10 others were injured when a severe nor'wester lashed Paushia village under Hijla thana of Barisal district, local administration sources said.

Ratan Gazi, 20, of Paushia, was killed as his house collapsed on him during the storm which raged for 20 minutes, with a speed of 80 kilometres per hour.

More than 50 thatched houses were destroyed. More than 20 boats capsized in the

rivers of Balleswar and Kancha during the storm. Five passengers of the capsized boats were still missing.

Another nor'wester also battered parts of Patuakhali and Borguna districts destroying more than 100 kutcha houses and crops on vast farmlands.

Our Jessore correspondent says: At least twelve persons were injured and a number of thatched houses damaged when a severe nor'wester swept over different parts of the district at a speed of 83 km per hour in the afternoon.

Three people were admitted to the Jessore general hospital with serious injuries.

A number of trees were uprooted and huge crops damaged during the nor'wester.

UNB adds: At least 15 people were injured when a See Page 12 Col 8

## Coal exploration

### Draft accord with BHP

By Special Correspondent

The draft of an agreement between the government and a foreign company — BHP Minerals — for coal exploration and mining in the northern region has been finalised.

The draft was finalised on Tuesday by representatives of the two sides at the Bangladesh Secretariat. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was also signed in this regard, official sources said.

According to the MOU, both sides will complete all the formalities within the next four weeks for official signing of the agreement. The draft has already been sent to the ministries of Law, Finance,

Commerce and the National Board of Revenue (NBR) for vetting.

After the agreement, the BHP Minerals, a US-Australian multinational company, will be allowed to explore and extract coal in the greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts barring those places where coal deposits have already been discovered. The government agencies have detected coal reserves at three places — Barapukuria, Jamalganj and Pirganj.

Before the draft agreement, a high-powered delegation of the BHP negotiated for two weeks with the officials of the See Page 12 Col 8

## AL rules out talks with ruling party

By Staff Correspondent

The main Opposition Awami League has ruled out any possibility of a dialogue with the ruling party saying that it will be another exercise in futility.

"We had similar talks in the past in which there were specific agreements but those went in vain due to the BNP's attitude," Mohammad Nasim, Organising Secretary of the AL and Opposition chief Whip, told The Daily Star.

He said "We don't see any scope of a dialogue unless we can get an assurance that it will be fruitful and our demands would be accommodated."

He also contradicted press reports that the ruling party had offered the AL a dialogue in a bid to defuse the current political tension.

"Only The Daily Star and the New Nation knew about the See Page 12 Col 3

## Mujibnagar Day observed

MEHERPUR, Apr 17: The 24th historic Mujibnagar Day was observed today (Sunday) at the Baddayernath mango grove, which turned into the first capital of Bangladesh, with a call for rehabilitating the freedom fighters in due dignity, reports UNB.

Editorial on page 4

On this day in 1971, when the Liberation War was going on, a provisional government was formed at the historic mango grove with Tajuddin Ahmed as Prime Minister.

Speaking as chief guest on the occasion, Zohra Tajuddin said that over the last 18 years no government had been formed on the spirit of the See Page 12 Col 7

## LUCKY WINNERS of The Daily Star WORLD CUP QUIZ

Following are the lucky winners of The Daily Star World Cup Quiz No.1, the draw for which was held at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday:

**First Prize (One)**  
Rubayat Mahmud (Mithun)  
87/2 Barabag,  
Mirpur Section 2  
Dhaka 1216

**Second Prize (One)**  
G M Faiz Ahmed  
BTRI  
PO: Srimangal, Dist: Maulvibazar

**Third Prize (One)**  
Latiful Mannan Chowdhury  
House No: 24, Road-7,  
Block-H, Banani

**Fourth Prize (Five)**  
1. Abdul Hafiz  
8/16 Sir Syed Road  
Mohammadpur, Dhaka  
2. Sayed Tanveer Ahmed  
443, Jagannath Hall,  
Dhaka University  
3. Nahreen Maherukh  
House No-24, Road-7  
Block-H, Banani  
4. Abul Ishaque Muhammed Ibrahim  
CRB, Chittagong  
5. A N M Taherul Islam  
Seujgar, Patpara, Bogra-5800

The prizes will be handed over to the winners during the lucky draw for Quiz No.2, to be held at the Jatiya Press Club on Sunday, April 24, 1994.

The winners of Quiz No.1 are requested to contact The Daily Star in person and claim their prizes after proper authentication of their identities by Saturday, April 23, 1994.

(See the correct answers to Quiz No.1 on Page 11)

## BUET boy lands top prize

By Staff Correspondent

A BUET student — Rubayet Mahmud Mithun — became the lucky winner of the first prize, a 21-inch Philips Powervision television set in the first round of the World Cup Quiz competition organised by The Daily Star.

An excited Mithun, when

informed over telephone last night, said he was a regular reader of The Star and would continue to participate in the five other upcoming contests, whether or not he won another prize.

Yesterday evening before a packed audience at the Jatiya

Press Club auditorium, attended by leaders, sporting celebrities, journalists and several readers and participants, the names of the lucky prize winners were announced through a lucky draw.

A total of 17,740 entries See Page 12 Col 1



Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda picking the first prize winner at yesterday's The Daily Star World Cup Quiz competition No 1 lucky draw at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain, Chairman of Transcom Electronics A S Mahmud and Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, are also seen.

— Star photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
**Board of Investment**  
Prime Minister's Office  
Shilpa Bhaban, 91, Motijheel Commercial Area,  
Dhaka-1000

## SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR INVESTORS

Please come forward to build the nation through investment in industrial sector. Are you aware that at present no approval of Government is necessary to establish an industry?

To accelerate promotion of industry in the private sector Board of Investment offers the following services and assistance to local and foreign investor :-

- Investment counselling.
- Registration for institutional and infrastructural facilities and utility services.
- Work permits to foreign expatriate personnel.
- Assistance in availing of the various incentives given to the investors by the Government.