

সাদা সিমেন্ট, মোজাইক, সিংক ও পাতল
আকর্ষণীয় ও কমমূল্যে
সাদা সিমেন্ট: জাপান, মালয়েশিয়া
মার্বেল চিপস: পাকিস্তান, চায়না, ভারত
কিচেন সিলিং সিংক: স্পেন, সুইজারল্যান্ড
সোসেস, পাতল: ইংল্যান্ড
মার্বেল ও ব্রোকেন মার্বেল: পাকিস্তান ও মালয়েশিয়া
হাটের মধ্যস্থতা ও সাদা সিমেন্ট সম্বন্ধী একমাত্র বিশ্ব পত্রিকা
রনী ইন্টারন্যাশনাল
ফোন: ৯৬৬৬৬৬ ৯৬৬৬৬৬ ৯৬৬৬৬৬

The Daily Star

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STOCK MARKET

DSE Index: 841.89 (-0.01%)
Market capitalisation Tk: 40.54 billion
Turnover in volume: 58,286.50
Turnover in value Tk: 12.44 million

Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a two-page supplement on Bangladesh Rifles Bicentenary 1795-1995
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Notice

Today's issue of The Daily Star includes an 8-page tabloid on Computer Special.

NEWS BRIEFS

Newspaper holiday

Offices of all newspapers will remain closed on January 16 on the occasion of holy Shab-e-Barat, reports BSS.

Opposition may reconsider if resignations rejected Speaker's ruling today

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali has completed the scrutiny of the resignation letters of the Opposition MPs and will give his decision today, his office sources said yesterday.

"Sir has said that he will give the decision tomorrow and requested you all not to wait today," Razzak Ali's private secretary told a group of reporters who thronged the Parliament yesterday evening.

Razzak Ali spent nearly nine hours since 12:30 pm at his office yesterday finalising the draft of his decision.

BNP chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf and Shahidul Haq Jamal MP met the Speaker du-

ring the day. One hundred and forty-seven MPs belonging to the major opposition parties submitted their resignations on December 28 demanding a neutral caretaker government to supervise the next general elections.

A highly-placed official of the Parliament Secretariat said that the Speaker has prepared a long ruling which is expected to be announced today.

He said that some of the signatures on the resignation letters did not match with the specimen signatures of the MPs given during the oath. Besides, some other anomalies were found in the resignation letters.

"Some of the MPs submitted hand-written letters while some others typed out theirs," the official, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star.

The senior Parliament official said that the Speaker also consulted the resignation-related clauses in the Constitutions of some other countries.

He, however, declined to comment on the nature of the Speaker's ruling.

"I did not go through the ruling which has already been typed," the official said. "But there are chances he might reject them."

"It is only a personal assumption, based on the length. See Page 12 Col 1



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting organised to mark the home-coming day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Accept either formula, Hasina's call to govt

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday repeated two opposition formulae for an interim government to conduct the next general elections.

The first plan proposes an administration to be headed by a neutral person acceptable to all and composed of non-partisan personalities while the second one suggests a council of neutral advisors under the President.

Addressing a public meeting in the city yesterday afternoon, the AL chief said the ruling BNP could choose any of

the two. In both cases, the AL chief said, the incumbent Prime Minister must resign with the announcement of the schedule for the next general elections. She also demanded the immediate dissolution of the present parliament.

Turning to the en bloc resignation of the opposition MPs, she criticised the parliament Speaker for delaying his duty and called upon him to perform his constitutional responsibility in this regard.

The BNP government sub-

Bangabandhu's homecoming day observed

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League, its front organisations and different socio-cultural bodies yesterday observed the homecoming day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Hundreds of people thronged the Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi and garlanded the portrait of Sheikh Mujib in the morning, paying glowing tributes to the late leader.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina flanked by her party colleagues also placed wreaths. Leaders of the Awami Jubo League, the Bangladesh Chhatral League and other or-

Resolve political crisis immediately: FBCCI

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the business community yesterday called upon the politicians both in government and in the opposition to resolve their differences immediately for the sake of the country's economic development.

Salman F Rahman, presi-

dent of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), made the call while summing up the discussions and decisions of a day-long conference of the business community at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The conference, the first of its kind, was attended by the leaders of the chambers and trade associations across the country and the general body members of the FBCCI.

The business leaders agreed that political unrest, characterised by enforcement of frequent haults and other 'destructive' programmes, is the single biggest problem for the business community and the economy as a whole.

"The business community does not believe that all problems will be solved if no haults are called in future. But all are of the opinion that political stability is essential for business and economic development," the FBCCI president said.

"The responsibility for restoring political stability lies with the politicians who them-

PM okays Biman's purchase of 2 Airbus

By Asiuazzaman

Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday got the final approval from the government to purchase two French-made Airbus directly from the manufacturer, a Biman official said.

The decision was conveyed to the national flag carrier yesterday after the Prime Minister approved the file of the government purchase committee, the senior official told The Daily Star.

The committee, headed by the Finance Minister, late last month okayed the Biman proposal to procure two mid-haul aircraft.

The aircraft Airbus-310-300, would be supplied by the Airbus Industry in the middle of 1996, the official said. See Page 12 Col 3

Portfolios of four ministers changed

Star Report

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday re-allocated the portfolios of two ministers and two state ministers in her 40-member cabinet.

This is the most significant change in the cabinet since the reshuffle in September 1993.

According to the latest changes, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, who has been holding charge of the Labour and Manpower Ministry since 1991, was made Food Minister, while Mir Shawkat Ali has been allocated Labour and Manpower. Shawkat was inducted in the cabinet in September 1993 as Food Minister.

The portfolios of two state ministers - Abdul Mannan and Major (ret'd) Abdul Mannan - were also swapped. The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism now goes to Major (ret'd) Mannan, who was in charge of Textiles Ministry for over three years. Abdul Mannan in charge of the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry since the present government came to power in early 1991, now moves over to the Ministry of Textiles. The re-allocation of portfolios was officially announced yesterday evening while the Prime Minister's decision was communicated to all concerned by the Cabinet Secretary. The PM's decision sur-

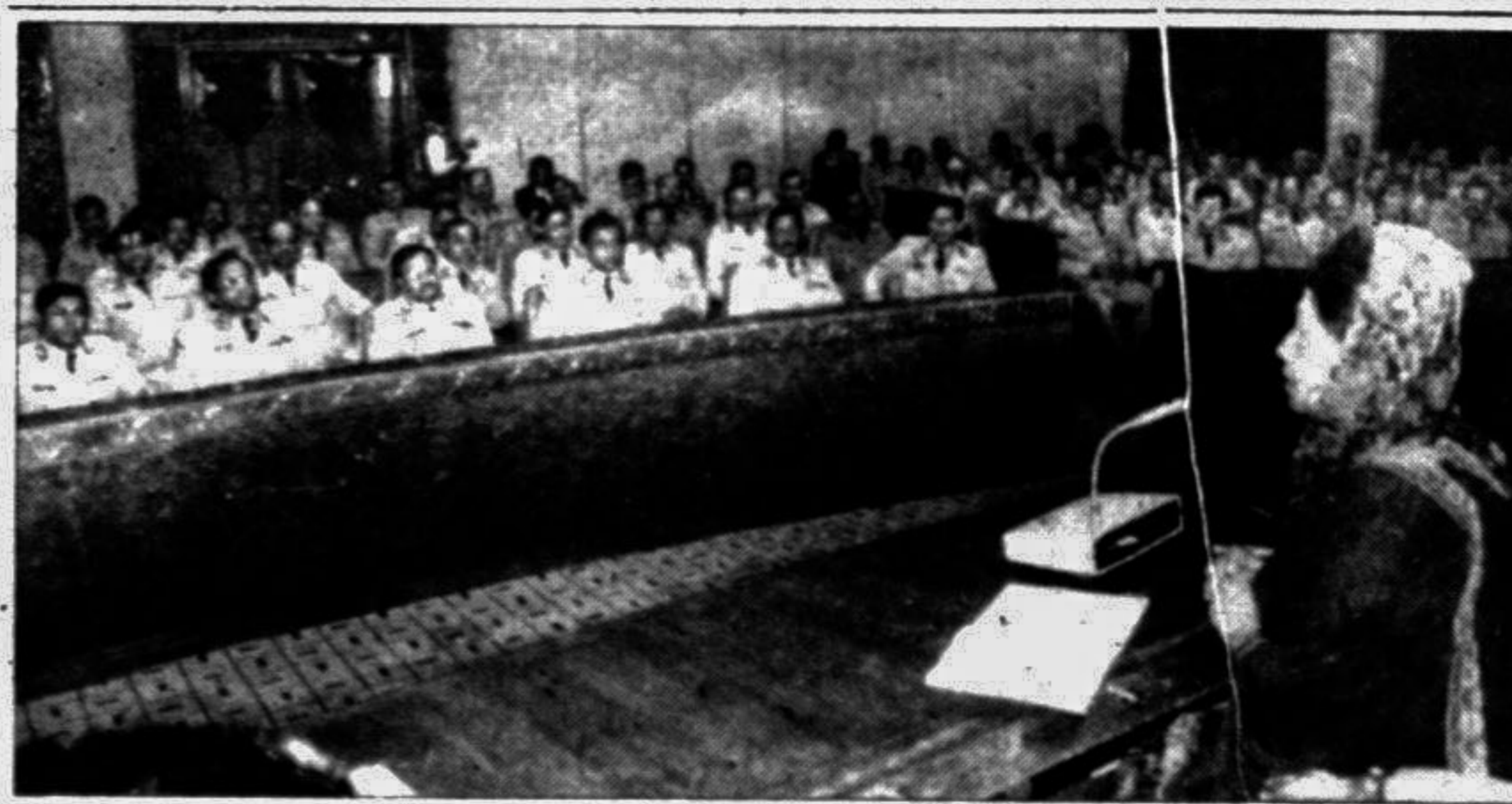
See Page 12 Col 6

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the senior police officers at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. — PID photo

'Livestock a promising sector'

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said the objective of her government's livestock development programme is to improve the nutritional status of people and alleviate poverty, reports UNB.

"Livestock is one of the promising sectors in our economy. This sector has been creating large-scale self-employment opportunities for the unemployed youths and women," she observed.

Begum Zia was inaugurating a three-day Asia regional conference of Commonwealth Veterinary Association at Osmani Memorial Auditorium. See Page 12 Col 2

Take steps against rising crime, PM asks police

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said the main task of the police was to enforce law and order, and bring criminals to book, reports UNB.

"You have to remain alert so that no innocent person falls prey to harassment... We all want people to rely on the police," she said at a meeting with senior police officials at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the city yesterday afternoon.

The Prime Minister asked the police to work as friends of the people, with tolerance and honesty in maintaining peace, curbing crimes and establishing truth and justice. See Page 12 Col 3

Time has changed. People's awareness have increased. It is essential to change our attitude. The mentalities of colonial and autocratic regimes are absolutely out of order in the democratic era," she said.

The Prime Minister said, "Members of the police force are not isolated from the people, so their principal aim should be to extend services to them."

While praising the policemen for performing their duties with sincerity, she said there are allegations that some of them are falling in their duty. See Page 12 Col 3

120 companies to be represented at this year's US trade show

By Staff Correspondent

The fourth annual US Trade Show, jointly organised by the US embassy and the American-Bangladesh Economic Forum (ABEF), is scheduled to begin in the capital tomorrow.

Minister for Information and Commerce M Shamsul Islam is expected to inaugurate the 3-day exhibition on the day at 10 am at the Sheraton Hotel.

This was announced in a press conference yesterday by the organisers. The ABEF president Forrest E Cookson hoped that this year's trade show would be an exciting one with the participation of a total of 42 exhibitors representing 120 US companies. Last year See Page 12 Col 3

See Page 12 Col 3

Duty on imported newsprint goes

The government has taken a number of fiscal measures to augment the supply of newsprint and printing and writing papers in the domestic market, reports BSS.

Imported newsprint has been fully exempted from customs duty, a PID handout said in Dhaka yesterday.

Duty on writing and printing papers upto 150 GSM has been reduced from 45 per cent to 30 per cent at the same time to safeguard the interest of domestic paper producers.

Duties on its raw materials such as chemical and semi-chemical wood pulp, other pulp and waste and scrap paper have also been reduced from 30 per cent to 15 per cent.

HC rejects plea for quashment by Taslima

The High Court yesterday rejected a petition seeking dismissal of the blasphemy charge filed by the government against controversial writer Taslima Nasreen, reports UNB.

The division bench comprising Justice AKM Sadek and Justice Abu Sayeed Ahmed, however, asked the Dhaka Magistrate's Court to halt the trial until it gets formal approval from the government.

A trial court needs formal sanction from the government to prosecute a person accused of offences such as blasphemy committed in a foreign country. See Page 12 Col 8

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation
BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C.A. Dhaka-1000

Fertilizer Distribution Notice

Government have taken effective steps to ensure adequate supply of Urea Fertilizer to all districts with immediate effect. In pursuance of this action programme, BCIC has already started despatching urea fertilizer by Truck, from all urea fertilizer factories, to all Deputy Commissioners for selling the same to the farmers through thana-wise retailers to be appointed by them or other suitable means.

It may be mentioned that urea fertilizer factories sold through private traders on first come first served basis, 8,38,360 MT. urea for domestic consumption during the first six months in the current financial year from July '94 to December '94. This system of sale through private traders at Mill gate will continue side by side with the emergency measures.

All the urea fertilizer factories are now continuing production in full-swing with daily output of around 6,000 MT. The Urea Fertilizer Factories have now ready stock of 1,15,533 MT. in their godowns.

In addition, interventionary stock of about 20,000 MT. has been built up at the warehouses and depots located at eight regions of the country. To further stabilise the fertilizer market stocks are being built up in each District by BCIC from where Fertilizer will be sold to farmers through Thana level retailers, to be appointed by Deputy Commissioners.

Survey for oil, gas in Bay hits snag

Star Report

Seismic and gravity survey for exploration of oil and gas by two foreign companies is being hampered due to chaotic traffic movement in the Bay of Bengal, according to sources in Chittagong.

They said that the survey is being hampered because no measures have yet been taken by the authorities to keep off fishing boats and trawlers from the survey area.

If the survey cannot be finished within February, it would be very difficult to resume the operation before November-December because of bad weather condition in the Bay, Petrobangla sources said.

A specially equipped survey ship, the Ross Seal, was hired by Cairn Plc of Scotland and

Holland Sea Search of the Netherlands for US dollars 30,000 a day.

Since the vessel would lay a 2.5 kilometer-long survey cable on the sea bed along the Kutubdia-Maheshkhali-Cox's Bazar-Hatiya coasts during the survey, any interference in its movement might cause damage to delicate electronic gadgets, the sources said.

The ship, which arrived in Chittagong port on January 6, began seismic survey the next day but faced difficulty in carrying out its operation because of innumerable small fishing boats and trawlers operating on its route.

Some 25 different authorities including the Navy, Army See Page 12 Col 1

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৫
(ডি আই টি এফ '৯৫)

মনোজ্ঞ সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান

মেলা প্রাক্গণে প্রতিদিন সন্ধ্যায়

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স্থান : শেরে বাংলা নগরস্থ মেলা প্রাক্গণের অভিটরিয়াম।

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টিকেট প্রাপ্তিস্থান : মেলা প্রাক্গণের গেইট ও অভিটরিয়াম সংলগ্ন টিকেট কাউন্টার।

আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা সেল
বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়

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