

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
 ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA
 BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
 MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
 OF DIFFERENT TYPES
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
 199, TEJGAON I/A, DHAKA
 TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM 861985

The Daily Star

First with the news,
 The Daily Star
 Best with the views

VOL. V NO. 18 REGD. NO. DA 781 MAGH 19, 1401 BS, DHAKA WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1995 SHABAN 30, 1415 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

Inside Today

Article
 Remodelling on Ekushey Spirit
 by Nilratan Halder
 Page 4

International
 Croatian Serbs refuse to consider new peace plan
 Car bomb kills 38 in Algiers
 Page 5

Business
 Saifur seeks Italian investment
 Air India to improve dismal image, says new chairman
 Pages 6, 7

STOCK MARKET
 DSE Index 534.48 (+1.11%)
 Market capitalisation Tk 49,30 billion
 Turnover in volume 46,022
 Turnover in value Tk 11.46 million

Feature
 Law and Our Rights
 Role of the Judiciary and Human Rights
 Marital Rape is a Misnomer in Islam
 Page 8

Metropolitan
 Dhaka Day by Day

A drink can be dangerous
 Page 3

Ruling party MPs make a mess of it

By Asiuzzaman

Lack of agreement among high ranking leaders of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) created an awkward situation for the party Monday in the Jatiya Sangsad with the treasury bench divided on the issue of whether Parliament should discuss the High Court ruling on the Speaker.

The ruling party's whipping was that the matter should be discussed in Parliament to enable the Speaker to give his decision regarding the 147 resignation letters of the Opposition MPs despite a court ruling restraining him from doing so.

Steps were taken accordingly and two BNP MPs submitted three notices—two as per Section 164 and one as per Section 147—of the Rules of Procedure (ROP), the sources said.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, in a ruling Sunday, accepted the motion under 147 of ROP, moved by Nurul Islam Moni, and said that the matter would come up in the House on Monday for discussion.

After Sunday's ruling on the notices, it was clear that the House would discuss the matter whether the High Court has any jurisdiction to issue such rule nisi on the Speaker.

A HC bench, in a ruling on January 18, asked the Speaker to show cause why actions should not be taken, as required by the Constitution, regarding the resignation letters of 147 Opposition MPs within seven days. The court also directed the Speaker to refrain for an indefinite period from giving his decision on the resignation issue.

The Speaker did not reply to the show cause notices.

On Sunday Speaker Razzak Ali sent the other notice of Nurul Islam Moni under Section 164 to the parliamentary standing committee on private.

See Page 12 Col 7

Habibur Rahman takes oath as CJ today

Star Report

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, better known as M H Rahman, takes over as the new Chief Justice today. President Abdur Rahman Biswas will administer his oath at nine this morning at the Bangabhaban.

Justice M H Rahman becomes the seventh Chief Justice of the Bangladesh Supreme Court. His predecessor Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed retired yesterday on reaching 65 years of age.

Justice Rahman was born on 1 May 1930 in Murshidabad and was educated in Calcutta, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Oxford and London. His father Moulvi Zahiruddin Biswas was also a lawyer.

Before joining the High Court bar in 1964, Justice Ra-

See Page 12 Col 8

World Bank praises Dhaka's performance

By S Y Bakht

The economy grew by 4.6 per cent while the per capita GDP increased by 2.4 per cent, the per capita consumption rate rose by 1.1 per cent and the rate of inflation was 1.8 per cent in 1994, according to preliminary estimates of the World Bank.

A recent comparative study of the bank indicates that Bangladesh's economic performance in recent years compares favourably with that of other South Asian regional countries in some sectors while it lags behind in others.

According to the World Bank Economic and Social Data Base, in 1994 the preliminary GDP growth rate stood at 5.0 per cent in India, 7.8 per cent in Nepal, 3.3 per cent in Pakistan and 5.7 per cent in Sri Lanka while the per capita GDP growth rate was 3.0, 5.2, 0.3 and 4.2 per cent respectively.

The World Bank comparative study of socio-economic indicators of the South Asian countries, completed earlier this month, says that Bangladesh's economic performance compares well with other countries in the region, but cautions by adding that "there is no room for complacency."

The bank notes that there has been considerable improvement in socio-economic indicators in Bangladesh between 1990 and 1993. Listing higher growth rates of GDP and GNP per capita, increased per capita consumption, improved fiscal indicators and

See Page 12 Col 3

Ramadan begins tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, begins in Bangladesh tomorrow.

The holy night of *Shab-e-Qadr* will be observed in the country on February 27.

After reviewing the Met Office report and information reaching from different districts of the country, the Moon-sighting Committee confirmed that the Ramadan moon was not seen anywhere in the country yesterday, and therefore, the first of Ramadan will be February 2.

The committee met at the Islamic Foundation yesterday with Minister for Religious Affairs Mohammed Keramati in the chair.

In many Middle Eastern countries fasting began from yesterday.



CHANGE OF GUARD: Newly appointed Chief Justice M H Rahman (center) with other judges, including Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed (R), on the corridors of the Supreme Court building in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Opposition resignation a conspiracy: PM

SHARISHABARI (Jamalpur), Jan 31: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said Parliament boycott and resignation are part of a deep-rooted conspiracy to destroy democracy and disrupt development activity, reports UNB.

She alleged that the conspiracy of various unholy forces had started during the period of President Ziaur Rahman and continued till today.

Addressing a mammoth public meeting at Sharishabari Reazuddin Talukder College grounds in the afternoon, Begum Zia refuted the allegations of the opponents and said only the BNP government had established democracy in the country and ensured people's right to vote and food.

Rebutting the opposition claim that they are in a struggle for establishing the right to food and vote, Begum Zia said they had forgotten about it while in power.

On the controversy over free and fair elections, Begum Zia said the government had introduced identity card for the voters to ensure the voting right of everybody and to eliminate false voting, rigging and corruption.

In this context, she said the Opposition does not want the identity card system as they are very much habituated to rigging and other unholy practices.



Hazel O'Leary US Energy Secy may pay a visit next month

By Staff Correspondent

US Secretary of Energy Ms Hazel O'Leary is expected to visit Bangladesh sometime in February, it was learnt yesterday.

It would be the first visit by a US minister in two decades, since the visit of former secretary of state Henry Kissinger.

The US Energy Secretary accepted an invitation extended by Minister of State for Planning Dr A Moyeen Khan during a meeting held in New York on the occasion of the First INGA Thorsson Memorial Lecture on 'Decommissioning Nuclear Arsenals' January 23.

Dr Khan is learnt to have

See Page 12 Col 6

Hearing of writs today

SC Correspondent

The two writ petitions regarding the *en masse* resignation of 147 Opposition members of the Parliament will come up for hearing today before a three-man bench of the High Court Division.

The larger bench comprising Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman, Justice Kazi Ebadul Huq and Justice Mohammad Abdul Karim was constituted by the Chief Justice when the writs were referred to him by the division bench consisting Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman and M Hamidul Huq.

The cases were referred on the basis of separate applications filed by opposition leaders Sheikh Hasina, Moudud Ahmed and Motiur Rahman Nizami, who were made respondents along with the Speaker, in both the writ matters.

Ershad still president, claims counsel

Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, senior counsel for deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad, yesterday claimed before a special court that his client was still "President of the Republic" and that the transferring of his powers to Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was "illegal and unconstitutional," reports BSS.

Ershad, two former air chiefs and a businessman were in the court of District and Sessions Judge and Senior Special Judge M Abdus Salam to stand trial in a corruption case relating to the purchase of radars for the Bangladesh Air Force.

Arraignment and hearing of Ershad's bail petition were scheduled for yesterday.

After hearing both sides, the judge accepted a defence

prayer for adjournment and fixed February 14 as the next date for charge, hearing and disposal of the bail petition.

Moving the bail for Ershad, Mahbubur Rahman, who was a minister under the deposed ruler, said that the transfer of presidential powers to the then Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed by way of appointing him vice president and thereby enabling him to act as President by Ershad was a "violation of the Constitution and not covered under or by provision of the Constitution."

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, who held an office of profit in the service of the Republic as a judge of the Supreme Court, was therefore not qualified or eligible to be elected as a member of Parliament.

See Page 12 Col 1

Not the hustle & bustle of politics for him

Just-retired chief justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said that he would not join any political party, reports BSS.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, who retired yesterday, said this during a meeting with the members of the Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday afternoon at the bar premises.

On the last day as head of the country's judiciary, he said, "I want to live a peaceful life and write my autobiography."

The president and members of the bar association exchanged pleasantries with the outgoing chief justice.

In the afternoon, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed witnessed the final of the Supreme Court badminton championship and also distributed prizes among

See Page 12 Col 8

Dearth of textbooks due to newsprint crisis

By Reaz Ahmad

With the first month of the academic year 1995 already over, textbooks of many subjects of the secondary schools are yet to appear in the market due to a newsprint crisis.

Till yesterday textbooks of all subjects of Class VI were seen in the market, but books of several subjects of Classes VII, VIII and IX were not available.

Talking to this correspondent, the secretary general of the *Bangladesh Pustak Prakashak and Bikreta Samity* Akhlaqur Rahman said 75 per cent textbooks have so far been supplied to the markets and the rest 25 was under process of printing. These will be available very shortly, he said.

"For publishing books of all 52 subjects of the secondary-level students, we require 2100 tons of newsprint this year. The Khulna Newsprint Mills (KNM) has so far supplied us only 1800 tons," Rahman said.

He said, the remaining textbooks would come out as soon as the KNM supplied the remaining 300 tons of newsprint.

According to market sources, science books of Class VII, the English and Mathematics books of Class VIII and Geography, Elective Maths, religious studies and first and second parts of science books of Class IX have not yet been published. However, booksellers expressed the hope all the books come out by mid-

See Page 12 Col 7

Ekushey book fair begins today

By Staff Correspondent

The *Amar Ekushey Grantha Meta '95* (book fair) begins in the capital today.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the fair at the Bangla Academy premises at 10:30am.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahannara Begum will preside over the inaugural function.

The book fair will remain

See Page 12 Col 7

NEWS BRIEFS

Nasiruddin made envoy to KSA

The government has decided to appoint Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced here yesterday. A lawyer Mir Nasiruddin is a former Mayor of Chittagang, reports BSS.

Service extended

By Staff Correspondent

Secretary and Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment M. Mokammel Haq has been re-appointed in the same post on contract basis for one year with effect from January 19, said a PID handout yesterday.

Israel returns Jordan's land



Jordanian soldiers hoist flag on a hill returned by Israel to the Hashemite Kingdom in the Arava Valley on Monday. — AFP photo

2 new Airbuses to join Biman fleet

Bangladesh Biman will purchase two new A310-300 airbuses from the manufacturer—the Airbus Industrie, reports BSS.

A Biman press release said Bangladesh Biman and the Airbus Industrie to this effect at Biman, Bhaban yesterday.

The government has earlier approved the purchase.

Managing Director, Biman Ahabab Ahmad and Regional Group Director, Contracts Division of Airbus Industrie Philippe de Saint Aulaire signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Nooruddin Almasood and French Ambassador to Bangladesh Jean-

See Page 12 Col 8

Businessman murdered

By DMCH Correspondent

A businessman was hacked to death in broad daylight in the 'Battala' area of Hazaribagh, only yards from a police outpost, yesterday.

The killers used sharp weapons to murder Mohammad Mohtuddin, 30, around 1 pm when he was reportedly on way to his father-in-law's house by a rickshaw. His wife

See Page 12 Col 4

RANGS GROUP WINS FIRST PRIZE IN DTF '95

The Dhaka International Trade Fair '95 was participated by 60 foreign and 132 local organisations. At the conclusion of Fair on 29th instant, Rangs Group of Companies the sole distributors in Bangladesh of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation & Mitsubishi Electric Corporation of Japan was awarded the first prize for the best performance of their Pavilion among the local participants. Rangs Pavilion also included their sea fishing sector. Visitors to the Pavilion were exposed to the high technology of Mitsubishi TV, Refrigerators, Air-Conditioners and other house hold durables.

The prize is being awarded by the Commerce and Information Minister Mr Shamsul Islam to Mr Rumea A Hossain, Country Manager, RANGS

Shri. Iftar Timings

Ram	Feb	Shri	Iftar
1	2	5.18	5.49
2	3	5.18	5.49
3	4	5.17	5.50