

Fingertip Convenience
Standard Chartered

The Daily Star

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 1/A, DHAKA.
TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

VOL. V NO. 41 REGD. NO. DA 781

FALGUN 13, 1401 BS, DHAKA SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1995 RAMADAN 24, 1415 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 5.00

Inside Today

Article

On Good Governance : Political Masters Must Call the Right Tune

by Kazi Fazlur Rahman
Page 4

International

Indians, Pakistanis open conference in Delhi to promote peace

UN, Myanmar to resume talks on detainees in spring
Page 5

Business

Dhaka has great prospect for expanding oilseed output

DSE index up 2.59 pc over the week
Page 6

Supplement

Special supplement on National Day of the State of Kuwait
Pages 7, 8, 9

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Designing Dreams
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Mud slide claims minor in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Feb 24: One minor boy was killed following a mud slide from a hill at Sholashahar area in the city before dawn today. Police said the victim was identified as Habibur Rahman aged 2. The incident occurred when a big chunk of hill fell on a slum house trapping all family members, police said adding that except the minor boy others survived. The body was recovered by police.

One killed in road accident

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Feb 24: One Nur Mohammad, 25, was killed on the spot on Bhola-Charfation road of Bhola around 9 am this morning. According to police, Nur Mohammad was passing the Charfation Bazar riding a bicycle, was dashed by a passenger bus coming from Charfation. He fell down and was crushed under the wheels of the bus.

Gun, ammunition seized in Raozan

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Feb 24: Raozan police in a pre-dawn raid today seized a Pakistan-made one-barrelled gun and four rounds of cartridge from Noazipur village. Police arrested one Saidul Alam.

Stampede kills 14

NICOSIA, Feb 24: Fourteen people died in a stampede at a mosque in the northern Iranian city of Rasht during Juma prayers, Iranian television reported. Thirty-six other people were injured, said the television, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), reports Reuter.

Schri, Iftar Timings

Sam	Feb	Schri	Iftar
24	25	—	6:02
25	26	5:05	6:03
26	27	5:04	6:03

Resignation of MPs to remain effective: AL

By Staff Correspondent

An emergency meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) yesterday rejected the Speaker's ruling and said the resignations of the Opposition members of Parliament (MPs) would remain effective.

The meeting, held with party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair, said the resignations of the Opposition lawmakers were constitutional and lawful.

The Speaker has no right or authority to reject the resignation letters and issuance of any ruling in this regard was beyond his jurisdiction, the AL meeting resolved.

The party said any member of Parliament has right to re-

sign from the House as per Article 67 of the Constitution and the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure do not allow anybody to interfere with this right.

The Opposition MPs had resigned from Parliament in accordance with Article 67 (2) of the Constitution and they had submitted their individual resignation letters, the meeting said.

"As per Clause 177 of the Rules of Procedure, the Speaker can ignore any word in the resignation letters if he does not like it... But he has no right to reject those," the AL said.

Referring to the

Constitution and Rules of Procedure, the meeting said the Speaker can only inform the House if any MP resigns from Parliament when the session is on. He (Speaker) cannot exercise any authority other than that, it added.

The ALCWC was of the view that the Speaker was being used as an instrument of the government since he did not inform Parliament about the resignations, but gave ruling on it.

He desecrated the Constitution by violating it and its Rules of Procedure through implementation of the decision of BNP Standing

See Page 12 Col 1



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing an emergency meeting of the central working committee of the party at its Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Prime Minister's call for direct talks is terribly late, yet relevant

By Mahfuz Anam

This newspaper, along with others, have repeatedly urged Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, ever since the crisis began nearly a year ago, to try and have direct talks with Sheikh Hasina. She finally made the offer on Thursday, in her concluding speech to the 18th session of the Fifth Parliament. Like so many of her other initiatives, this has come so terribly, unnecessarily, injudiciously and unfortunately LATE.

Just imagine what a unfortunate people we are. The leaders we selected in 1991, we want underline the word select for us, THE PEOPLE,

select them - are so wrapped up in their egos that, during the last four years that they have been elected to their highest offices - as leaders of the government, and of the opposition - they did not bother to spend even a few minutes discussing about the problems of the people they profess to represent. They both preferred to wage rhetorical battles, making wild and unfounded and half-baked accusations, thereby confusing the people as to what, and what not to believe and making the political ambience increasingly non-communicative.

Just look at these facts. It

took the Prime Minister - an elected leader in a democracy, and not a hereditary one as in a monarchy - a whole year of boycott of the parliament by the full opposition bench (please note, not a faction of the opposition, but the whole), en masse resignation of 147 members of the parliament, continuous agitation for one full year, several hartals, strikes and what have you, for our elected Leader of the Parliament, and Prime Minister, to say "If necessary, I am even ready to sit with the Leader of the Opposition, and discuss the outstanding issues

See Page 12 Col 2

5 killed in city road mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent

Five persons were killed in road accidents at different places in the city yesterday.

One Mujibur Rahman, 50, was killed on the road near Chairman Bari in Banani when a bus ran over him at about 10 am.

In another incident a Demra-bound minibus hit Abdur Rahman, 30, near Joykali Mandir yesterday afternoon.

The doctor declared Rahman dead when he was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with serious injuries.

Besides, two unknown males of 25 and 30 years of age were killed in Nakhla para and Gulistan yesterday afternoon.

Both of them were hit by minibuses, sources said. Another unidentified male, in his twenties died at the

See Page 12 Col 3

Confusion over Speaker's ruling in JS

By Asiuzzaman

A confusion arose whether or not the Speaker had accepted the resignation letters of three members of Parliament following his ruling in the House Thursday on the resignation of 147 Opposition MPs.

It was because of this confusion most of the newspapers, which did not contact the Speaker, reported that three resignation letters were accepted.

On page 15 of the 29-page ruling, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali said "I also find that, the resignation letters of 1. Mr Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, 2. Mr Hussain Mohammad Eshad, 3 Mr. Dabirul Islam, Hon'ble members are receivable by me within the

meaning of Article 67 (2) of the Constitution."

The above paragraph apparently meant to many that the Speaker had accepted those three resignation letters. It was not clarified in the ruling that those letters were rejected on separate grounds.

In the concluding paragraph, the Speaker said "Having given my anxious thought and from my examination and consideration of the constitutional provisions, the irresistible conclusion is that these 144 resignation letters cannot be deemed to have been received by me as contemplated by Article 67 (2) of the Constitution."

It was presumed by many

See Page 12 Col 5



SWEET HOME : Passengers rush for advance tickets at the Kamalapur Railway Station just a week ahead of Eid yesterday. — Star photo

Eid markets vibrant with rush of buyers

By Staff Correspondent

Despite exorbitant prices, city markets have become vibrant with an increasing flow of Eid shoppers and the sales have shot up.

The roads in the New Market, Gausia, Elephant Road, Mouchak, Bailey Road and other market areas now remain jammed with traffic till 9 pm everyday.

According to shopkeepers in Elephant Road, Gausia and Mouchak markets, sales have increased by at least thirty per cent over that in the corresponding period of last year.

The prices of different types of garments, which are the main items for Eid shopping, have gone up by 10 to 50 per cent compared to those of the 'Eid season' last year, the shopkeepers said. Yet the rush of buyers at different markets is on the increase for the last one week.

Tangul sarees which sold at Tk 250 to 300 before the Eid season now sell at Tk 400 or more. Different types of silk sarees which sold at Tk 650 to 1000 now sell at Tk 1400 or more.

Frocks which sold at Tk 300 last month now sell at around Tk 425. Children's T-shirts and trouser sets which sold at Tk 200 last month were now selling at Tk 250.

Shirts selling at Tk 300 to 500 now would have cost Taka 50 less a month ago. The prices of jeans and cotton trousers have also gone up by Tk 50 to 100 each.

New varieties of panjabis have flooded some city markets this year but their prices have also increased sharply. The same type of panjabi which cost Tk 250 a week ago was selling at Tk 300 yesterday.

See Page 12 Col 1

Jumatul Wida observed

Jumatul Wida, the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, was observed in the city yesterday as elsewhere in the country, in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

However, the last Juma prayers of the month of Ramadan may be offered on March 3, if the month of Ramadan is of 30 days.

The largest congregation of Jumatul Wida was held at the national mosque Baitul Mukarram, where thousands of devotees offered their prayers. Roads on both sides of the mosque — Purana Paltan in the north and Bangabandhu Avenue in the south — were packed with musallis (devotees).

Besides, the Friday prayers were also held in all the mosques yesterday, with larger than usual attendances.

People from various parts of the city including far-flung areas around the city, participated in the prayers.

A special munajat was offered for the peace, progress and prosperity of the country and the solidarity of the Muslim Ummah.

Move to upgrade landing facilities at ZIA

By Reaz Ahmad

A committee has been formed to recommend steps necessary for upgradation of landing facilities at Zia International Airport (ZIA).

The committee, comprising representatives from Biman Bangladesh Airlines and the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), is due to submit its report to the parliamentary standing committee concerned shortly.

The committee would suggest whether ZIA, now a Category-1 (CAT-1) airport, is required to be upgraded to a CAT-2 or a CAT-3 airport, said a CAAB official.

The committee was formed following the 35th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism held on February 18 at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The meeting, chaired by State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Major (Retd) See Page 12 Col 7

Declare new wages before Eid, workers demand

By Staff Correspondent

Workers of jute, yarn and textile mills brought out a silent procession in the city to mourn the deaths of their colleagues during the recent road-rail barricade programmes.

Leaders of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) including Rashed Khan Menon MP, Hasanul Huq Inu, Nirmal Sen, Bimal Biswas also participated in the procession which began from Topkhana Road and ended at Nur Hossain Square.

See Page 12 Col 2

New SEC measures: Foreign investors may review plans

By Sohel Manzur

Foreign portfolio investors, involved in the emerging stock markets, are planning to review the investment prospects in Bangladesh in view of the recent regulatory measures before making further investments in the Dhaka bourse, sources concerned said.

When contacted over telephone, officials of some of the leading global fund managers, operating from Hong Kong, said the decision to impose a one-year lock-in period on liquidation of shares by the foreign investors would be damaging for the capital market in Bangladesh at this stage. They said the foreign in-

vestors were alarmed by the restrictive measures including the lock-in undertaken by Bangladesh's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and would go for a fresh review of the market before investing further.

The fund managers further said the Bangladesh authorities would have to first decide whether the country needed foreign investments or not. If the authorities are confident of keeping the market vibrant without involving the foreign investors, the regulations are alright, they said. Otherwise the effect of the restrictions would be very harmful for the

bourse, they added.

They said that the decision to impose such regulations was contradictory to the commitments made by the government representatives at the EuroMoney international investment conference in Dhaka last month.

Niall Shiner, Managing Director in charge of the Indian sub-continent of the UBS Securities East Asia Limited, said the prospect of investments in Bangladesh would be seriously damaged by the decision. The image of the country as an emerging market would also be affected he added.

See Page 12 Col 7

2 parties claim majority coalitions in Manipur

NEW DELHI, Feb 24: The political parties that finished first and second in the Manipur state election — but failed to win a majority — told the governor today they have formed coalitions with enough legislators to win control of the assembly, report AP, AFP.

Governor O N Srivastava met with both sides, but not immediately announce which one he would invite to form the new government.

He must decide soon because the new assembly must take power by Wednesday, the day the previous lawmakers' terms expire.

The governing Congress Party emerged as the single largest group Thursday with 21 seats, followed by 18 for

the regional Manipur People's Party. The Janata Dal Party won seven, and the other 13 were won by independents or six small parties.

The Congress Party and the Manipur People's Party both told Srivastava they have formed coalitions with majorities, the United News of India news agency reported today.

If the governor chooses the People's Party and it manages to maintain control of the legislature, that would be the latest in a series of setbacks for the Congress Party of Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao. Late last year, it was routed in three state elections, even though India's economy was improving.

People's Court heard 90 minutes of arguments, but apparently did not make a ruling.

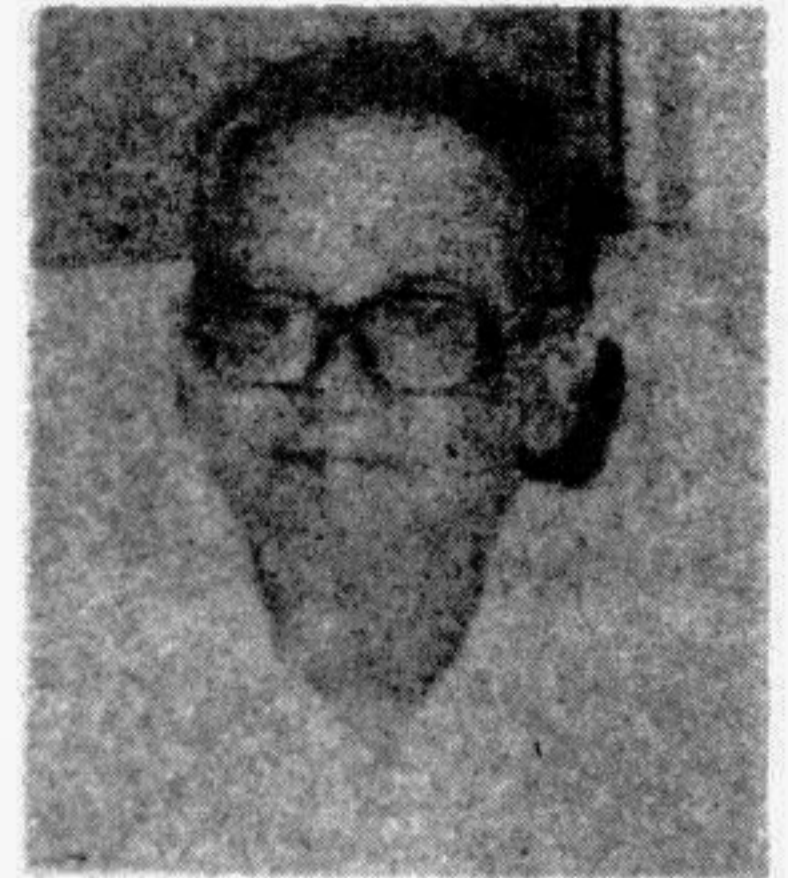
Premier Li Peng told O'Leary on Thursday that despite the risk of a confrontation over piracy, he hoped for improved bilateral relations.

The Chinese government has taken an "active, earnest and forward-looking attitude toward Sino-US relations," Xinhua quoted Li as telling O'Leary.

Also Friday morning, eight US movie companies went to court to sue two Beijing stores for selling pirated laser disks of their movies, the official China News Service reported.

The Beijing Intermediate

IN MEMORY



Today 25 February 1995 reminds us of the sad demise of our beloved founder-chairman Late Hamidur Rahman Sinha. To pray for his departed soul a milad mahfil has been arranged today after Asar prayer at his village home Dohuri, Kalma Union, P.S. Louhajong, Munshiganj and at the same time at the company's Head Office at 46 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209. All his friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to participate in the milad.

The members of ACME family

The ACME Laboratories Ltd.