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STOCK MARKET

DSE Index	780.70 (-0.31%)
Market capitalisation Tk	43.12 billion
Turnover in volume	80079
Turnover in value Tk	11.07 million

Development

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NEWS BRIEFS

PM opens Ashuganj telephone exchange
 Ashuganj, an important river port and industrial belt, came under modern telecommunication network as the Prime Minister yesterday inaugurated an automatic telephone exchange having 200 direct lines, reports UNB.

Dieter Weirich meets Shamsul
 Dieter Weirich, the visiting director of Deutsche Welle, the German radio and television organisation, made a courtesy call on the Minister for Commerce and Information M Shamsul Islam at the latter's office in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Anwarul Kader new BINA DG
 MYMENSINGH, Apr 2: Eminent agricultural scientist Dr Mohammad Anwarul Kader Sheikh has been appointed as the Director General of the Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), reports UNB.

Rural development programmes termed models

US has much to learn : Hillary



Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter Chelsea at the Zia International Airport on their arrival on a three-day visit yesterday. — Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has said the rural development programmes of Bangladesh are models for developing countries.

The United States has much to learn from Bangladesh about family planning, the Grameen Bank and other development models, said President Bill Clinton's wife, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day visit.

Mrs Clinton also conveyed her husband's thanks for Dhaka's support to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Hillary Clinton was speaking at a reception in the city hosted by the US Ambassador at his Baridhara residence, which was also attended by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Mrs Clinton also said she and her husband knew that Begum Zia's government had achieved remarkable progress in the fields of family planning, education, poverty alleviation and many other programmes.

US Assistant Secretary of State Ms Robin Raphel, politicians, high civil and military officials, diplomats and members of the elite attended the reception late in the afternoon.

Earlier, soon after her arrival, Mrs Clinton called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the Bangabhaban in the afternoon.

Welcoming her, President Biswas expressed the hope that her visit would further strengthen the excellent bonds between Dhaka and Washington.

Giving an outline of the country's judicial system, the

Joint commission to be set up

Qatari investment team will visit Dhaka soon

Bangladesh and Qatar have agreed to set up a joint commission (JC) to identify new areas of cooperation to further strengthen their relation, reports UNB.

The agreement was reached at a formal meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries at state guest house Meghna yesterday.

After an hour-long talk, the visiting Qatari Foreign Minister described the meeting as "excellent and fruitful."

At the talks, the Bangladesh delegation was led by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and included Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Executive Chairman of Board of Investment M Mokammel Haq, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Nooruddin Al-Masud, Energy Sec-

retary Faizur Razzak, Additional Foreign Secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed and Bangladesh Ambassador to Qatar Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury.

The Qatar delegation, headed by their Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al-Thani included Ambassador Abdur Rahman Bin Hamad Al-Atia, Ambassador Hassan Hussain Al Nama, Ambassador Abdur Rahman Al Khalifa and Qatar Ambassador to Bangladesh Atiq Nasser Al-Bader.

Briefing newsmen on the outcome of the talks, a senior official of the Foreign Ministry said that the Qatar delegation had been briefed about investment policy of Bangladesh government.

A delegation from Qatar would be visiting Bangladesh

soon to study the possibility of investment in different projects, including housing and energy sectors.

Qatar has also proposed to introduce Qatar Airways service between Dhaka and Doha, the official said.

The two sides agreed to expand collaboration in the fields of manpower, culture and technology, besides trade and economic cooperation.

The Joint Commission, to be headed by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries, will devise ways and means to bolster Dhaka-Doha cooperation in political and other fields also, the official said.

The talks which covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations also discussed regional and international issues

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Power generation: MOUs with 2 private cos

The government yesterday signed two memorandum of understandings (MOUs) with two companies for private power generation in the country, reports UNB.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nazrul Islam signed the MOUs with ARRO Associates, US and BANAMCO Energy Limited, a local company.

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain was present at the MOUs signing ceremony. Secretary Muhammad Faizur Razaque, other senior officials of the ministry and president of Foreign Chamber Mahabub Jamil also attended.

Robert L Renson, President of ARRO Associates and Md N M Kabir, Managing Director of BANAMCO, signed the MOUs

for their respective companies. ARRO Associates proposed to set up a plant for producing 340 MW electricity. The BANAMCO also expects to have a plant with 340 MW capacity. Together they are expected to invest 575 million US dollar for the two plants.

The government also received six proposals from both foreign and local companies showing interest in setting up both gas-based and bunker oil-based power plants with a total generation capacity of 1500 MW. MOUs are expected to be signed shortly with these companies.

The six companies have given primary offers of investing 1500 million US dollar for setting up the plants, it was learnt.

Earlier, in 1992, the gov-

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Fertiliser crisis Farmers lay siege to TNO office

From Our Correspondent. JAMALPUR, Apr 2: About 5,000 farmers laid a siege to the office of the Islampur Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) demanding proper distribution of fertiliser at fair price here today.

The agitating farmers staged a demonstration at the premises of the TNO's office demanding allocation of fertiliser to genuine farmers to help boost production.

According to them, urea fertiliser is being sold between Taka 600 to Taka 700 throughout the district instead of the government rate of Taka 230 per 50-kg bag.

Abdul Halim, a farmer of Goalerchar, who took part in the siege, told this correspond-

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Property developers urge govt Remove bottlenecks in housing sector

By Staff Correspondent

Leading property developers yesterday urged the government to remove procedural bottlenecks, ensure better financing facilities and reduce the property transfer fees to "enable the sector meet the country's growing housing needs."

"In the present context, the developers can go a long way in solving the housing needs of the lower middle income, middle income and higher income group of people," said Arshi Haider, vice president of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB), a trade body grouping some of the leading property developers in the country.

"However, the real potential of this sector remains totally untapped," he said. Addressing a press conference at a local hotel, he pointed out that the existing problems are a "constant obstacle to our progress."

Providing a brief background, Brig (ret'd) A H M Abdul Momen, president of the association, said that REHAB was formed in 1991 to deal "collectively with the problems of the sector." Also chairman of Venus Real Estate, Abdul Momen added that since then, the association has been in

touch with various government agencies to resolve some of the problems of the sector.

While highlighting various problems of the sector, members of the association present at the press conference also answered a number of questions relating to quality control, safety measures and other aspects.

Saying that the existing property development fees of

See Page 12 Col 1

Bogra BCL leader killed in clash

BOGRA, Apr 2: A student leader was killed and ten others injured in a violent clash over the submitting of a tender at the Zila Parishad premises today, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Bishu Chowdhury, son of Montu Chowdhury of Chelopara in the town and an activist of the Chhatra League.

District Chhatra League called a students' strike tomorrow (Monday) and a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the town on Tuesday to protest the killing.

Witnesses said Bishu was attacked and severely stabbed by a group of youngsters when he dropped a tender in favour of

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Hasina exchanges pleasantries with Mrs Clinton

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina exchanged greetings with US First Lady Hillary Clinton and welcome her visit to Bangladesh during a private conversation at a reception at the US Embassy yesterday evening, reports UNB.

During the 10-minute tete-tete, Hasina exchanged views with Hillary Clinton on the condition of women and children in Bangladesh, as well as poverty and environmental issues facing the country.

The Awami League president hoped that Mrs Clinton's visit here would be "pleasant and fruitful," Hasina, through

See Page 12 Col 3

Gen Manzur murder case Emdad likely to pray for making fresh statement

By Staff Correspondent

Maj (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Huq, principal accused in the mysterious killing of Maj Gen Manzur might give a fresh judicial statement if his petition seeking to withdraw his earlier confessional statement is accepted by the court, sources said.

He may pray to the court for making such an arrangement, the sources added.

Maj Emdad may also challenge his arrest by the Defence Forces Intelligence (DFI) personnel in the higher court,

Task Force on vested property abolished

The government yesterday abolished the Task Force of February 1989 for the vested property in the capital city, reports BSS.

The decision to dissolve the Task Force was taken at a meeting on the vested property chaired by State Minister for Land M Kabir Hossain, a press release said.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Land Secretary A H M Abdul Hye, the chairman of Land Reform and the director general of the Land Record and Survey.

The source, requesting anonymity, said Emdad's lawyer would soon seek permission to consult his client in

See Page 12 Col 8

Nurses' strike continues

By Staff Correspondent

Medicare in government hospitals throughout the country has been badly affected and sufferings of patients have been mounting as some 14,500 diploma and student nurses continued their strike for the sixteenth day yesterday.

Organisers of the strike said the authorities concerned were yet to come up with any proposal for discussion with the representative bodies of the nurses to resolve the problem.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, some striking

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Protest against Azam's arrival in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 2: Seven people were injured including one critically, during anti-Jamaat processions brought out by the major political parties in the town today, reports UNB.

The major political parties, including the BNP, Awami League and CPB, brought out separate processions protesting the arrival of Jamaat Ameer Prof Golam Azam to address a party meeting scheduled for April 7 at the Darul Islam Academy premises.

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Hekmatyar removed as alliance chief

ISLAMABAD, Apr 2: The four-party alliance of the opposition parties in Afghanistan has removed Gulbuddin Hekmatyar as chief of the alliance, said a press report here today, reports Xinhua.

The English paper the Muslim reported that Sibghatullah Mujaddadi was appointed as the new head of the alliance, commonly known as Supreme Coordination Council of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan (SCCIRA).

The decision was taken at an SCCIRA meeting held in Mazar Sharif in northern Afghanistan Saturday

Shishu Park too small, outdated

By Krishna P Roy

The Dhaka Shishu Park, the country's leading centre for children's entertainment, lacks adequate facilities to meet the growing demands of the time.

The park, now run by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), is hard pressed to cater to all the visitors.

"We sometimes face real problem when we see little children having to stand in long queues, but we just cannot accommodate all of them," said an official of the park.

The number of visitors is always much higher compared to the existing recreation facilities at the park, the official pointed out.

On an average, some 6000 visitors who include both children and their guardians visit the park every working day.



Partial view of the Shishu Park at Shabbagh in the city. — Star photo

DU admission test seating arrangement

The seating arrangement of Dhaka University (DU) admission test for Honours course in 1994-95 session in Science and Biological Science Faculty (Ka Unit) to be held on April 7 at 10:00 am has been announced yesterday reports UNB.

The seating distribution of 21319 candidates has been arranged in 23 educational institutions, said a DU press release.

Candidates bearing the roll nos from 01-2700 have been accommodated in Engineering University, 2701-3500 at Udayan School 3501-4500 at Home Economic College, 4501-6500 at Dhaka College, 6501-6750 at Institute of Social Welfare, 6751-7950 at City College, 7951-8550 at Ideal College, 8551-10900 at Arts Building premise, 10901-11480 at Arts Building Lecture Theatre, 11481-12280 at Institute of Business Administration, 12281-12680 at Institute of Education and Research, 12681-13180 at University Laboratory School, 13181-13280 at Institute of Statistical Research, 13281-13470 at

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