

**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

# The Daily Star

**Moneylink**  
**ATM's**  
 Standard Chartered

VOL. V NO. 76 REGD. NO. DA 781

CHAITRA 22, 1401 BS,

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1995

ZILQAD 4, 1415 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 5.00

**Inside Today**

**Article**  
**The Reconquest of Mexico**  
 by Eqbal Ahmed  
 Page 4

**International**

**UN to cut off all support if Rabbani refuses to quit**  
**Filipino rebels rob 4 banks, kill 100**  
 Page 5

**Business**

**Trade unions not opposed to privatisation of economy, experts say**  
**BCCI creditors may get back 40pc of deposited amount**  
 Pages 6, 7

**STOCK MARKET**

DSE Index	774.11 (-0.59%)
Market capitalisation Tk	42.75 billion
Turnover in volume	71189
Turnover in value Tk	10.85

**Law and Our Rights**

**Rebuilding Trust Amidst Recriminations; Tighter Controls for Financial Institutions; Blasphemy Row Follows Acquittals; Landscape**  
 Page 8

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**



A Face in the Crowd  
 Page 3

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Khaleda may visit ROK in May**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to pay an official visit to South Korea in the last week of May, official sources said in Dhaka yesterday. The visit will take place at the invitation of the South Korean President. The governments of the two countries are finalising details of the planned visit, reports UNB.

**Defence secy meets naval chief**

Defence Secretary M A Hakim paid a visit to the naval headquarters at Banani yesterday and met chief of the naval staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaiminul Islam. The navy chief warmly received the new defence secretary and introduced to him the principal staff officers and the directors of the naval headquarters, reports BSS.

**Arms, looted goods seized in Ctg**

CHITTAGONG, Apr 4: Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) recovered a good number of arms and ammunition and looted goods from a residence at Ferroz Shah colony here today. The detective police, who made the drive in collaboration with Pahartali police, arrested four persons in this connection, reports BSS.

**Indian cattle, goods seized**

RAJSHAHI, Apr 4: BDR personnel of 20 Rifle Battalion seized Indian cattle, salt, current net, clothes, carbon filament and grapes worth Taka over three lakh by conducting several anti-smuggling drive at Hakimpur, Berhpara, Horirampur Lanikumra and Keogashi under the battalion area yesterday, an official handout said, reports BSS.

**Vested quarters created fertiliser crisis**  
**PM warns of stern action**

MOHANGANJ (Netrakona), Apr 4: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said that certain vested quarters had created an artificial fertiliser crisis for political gain, reports UNB.

They wanted to play with rice, but failed as the government took measures to foil their evil design, she said.

The Prime Minister addressed two mammoth public meetings at the Mohanganj Pilot Government High School playground and Jahangir T Amin Pilot High School ground under Madan thana of Netrakona district.

Begum Zia warned of stern action against those responsible for the artificial fertiliser crisis. She asserted that action would be taken against them after inquiry.

She said, her government had first reduced the fertiliser price, but some traders belonging to the vested quarters hoarded fertilisers and sold them at high prices.

Under the circumstances, the government arranged distribution of fertilisers through district administrations. When the administration started the smooth distribution the opposition parties called for hartal and blockade programmes causing disruption of fertiliser transportation, she said.

At a stage, Begum Zia al-

leged that, some opposition parties instigated looting of fertiliser affecting the distribution system.

Instead of cooperation, the vested quarters called for hartals and blockade programmes to hamper food production at the cost of immense sufferings of farmers, she observed.

"It was also the duty of the

Opposition to ensure smooth supply of fertiliser, but they blocked railways and roads to hamper transportation," she said.

She said the BNP government had waived agricultural loans up to Tk 5,000 and land tax up to 25 bighas and termed her party as the true friend of farmers.

Begum Zia said the Opposition became imbalanced and were resorting to 'games' one after another to harass the government and bring miseries for the people.

The Prime Minister said rice price had slightly increased due to drought in the northern districts, and added that prices of rice and fertiliser were now coming down due to prompt measures of the government.

There are adequate stocks of fertiliser and rice in the country, she said while allaying fears of further rise in prices of essential commodities.

In an oblique reference to the Awami League, she said an opposition party has become desperate to go to power by any means. "They do not think about people. While they dream of ascending to power they also dream of looting."

Begum Zia said people would not give them any more chance to plunder national

**Khaleda may talk Ganges issue with Adhikari**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to discuss the Ganges water sharing issue with her Nepalese counterpart Manmohan Adhikari during her forthcoming visit to the Himalayan kingdom, officials indicated yesterday, reports UNB.

Begum Zia is scheduled to leave Dhaka Friday for Kathmandu on a two-day visit to Nepal.

The Prime Minister, although making the tour in her capacity as SAARC chairperson, will seize the opportunity to hold talks with Adhikari on bilateral matters, regional and international issues of common concern, besides the progress and future programmes of the seven-nation

See Page 12 Col 7

**Zahiruddin quits over fertiliser crisis**

By Staff Correspondent

Minister for Industries A M Zahiruddin Khan resigned from the cabinet yesterday after nearly three and a half years in the job.

He submitted his resignation letter to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at around noon. It was accepted by the President at 3 pm, the PM's Office and ministry sources said.

A government announcement last night cited no reason for Khan's quitting but BNP insiders said that he was asked by the Prime Minister to resign following the acute fertiliser crisis in the country.

A government handout said

See Page 12 Col 1



**Zahiruddin quits over fertiliser crisis**

By Staff Correspondent

Minister for Industries A M Zahiruddin Khan resigned from the cabinet yesterday after nearly three and a half years in the job.

He submitted his resignation letter to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at around noon. It was accepted by the President at 3 pm, the PM's Office and ministry sources said.

A government announcement last night cited no reason for Khan's quitting but BNP insiders said that he was asked by the Prime Minister to resign following the acute fertiliser crisis in the country.

A government handout said

See Page 12 Col 1



US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter Chelsea waving from the gangway prior to their departure for Colombo yesterday. — Star photo

**Hillary leaves deeply impressed**

By Staff Correspondent

US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday lauded Bangladesh's progress in the fields of health care, education, economic development and population control.

"The successes I witnessed here are models for the rest of the world," Mrs Clinton said in a prepared statement handed to the mediamen at the end of her three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Mrs Clinton said she was

Editorial on Page-4

leaving "deeply impressed with the strength and determination of the Bangladeshi people."

"In my future travels to other countries, and around the United States, I will remember the creative and innovative solutions applied here to some of humanity's most vexing problems," she added.

The First Lady also stated: "I owe special thanks to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for taking time to exchange views on a range of issues of mutual interests to the United States and Bangladesh."

She said she was confident "it will become even more so in the years to come."

See Page 12 Col 3



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a huge public meeting at the Mohanganj Pilot High School ground in Netrakona district yesterday. — PID photo

**Hasina exchanges views with cross-section of people**

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina held a series of meetings with different political parties and socio-cultural and professional groups yesterday for an exchange of views on the current anti-government agitation.

At a joint meeting with the leaders of the Samik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) and the Krishibid Institution at her Dhanmondi office, Hasina expressed her strong resentment at the recent killings of industrial workers and farmers, sources said. Besides, terrorism, the rice and fertiliser crises and the price-hike of essentials also came up for discussion at the meeting.

Hasina sought cooperation of the two organisations in the agitation for a caretaker government and supply of essentials at fair prices.

See Page 12 Col 3

**79 Bangladeshis not paid for 5 months in Kuwait**

KUWAIT, Apr 4: A group of Bangladeshi workers has accused a Kuwaiti employer of not paying wages for five months and of providing unhealthy accommodation, the Bangladeshi Embassy said today, reports Reuter.

An embassy spokesman said the embassy was having difficulty in trying to contact the owners of the company, Al-Ragad Trading and Contracting Company, to probe complaints set out in a statement of the 79 employees delivered to the embassy on Monday.

If the firm continued to be "untraceable" the embassy would pursue the matter with Kuwait's labour authorities, he said.

The listed telephone number for the company was out of order and no company officials could be contacted for comment.

The workers, including welders, electricians and driver, also complained of poor con-

ditions at their brick and timber barracks, the spokesman said, confirming a report in the English-language Arab Times. The newspaper said the company's manager was Iranian.

The workers said they would strike if they were not paid.

The embassy spokesman said the workers would normally be paid around 35 dinars (120 dollars) a month.

An embassy official had visited the barracks's and judged the conditions to be unhealthy, the spokesman said.

Some workers also alleged they had not been provided with residence permits. The embassy had therefore issued the workers with documents explaining their predicament so they would not be detained by police when moving around Kuwait City.

Kuwaiti officials have said some labour problems involving

See Page 12 Col 7

**Ershad's former adviser refused bail**

By Staff Correspondent

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday refused bail to Dr Rafiquzzaman, a former adviser to deposed president Ershad, and sent him to jail.

Rafiquzzaman was earlier arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau on Monday in connection with the defalcation of a bank loan of over Tk 10 crore.

Moving the bail, the lawyer for the defendant, former public prosecutor Shamsul Huq, argued that the case was instituted to politically and socially malign his client. He noted that a money suit filed by the Bangladesh Shilpa Bank in 1992 was still at the hearing stage and that Rafi Systems Ltd., of which Rafiquzzaman is the managing director, was a joint venture project with the BSB.

He claimed that the Anti-

See Page 12 Col 1

**Liberal import policy soon, says Shamsul**

By Staff Correspondent

A liberal import policy would be introduced soon but at the same time steps would be taken to avoid import of unnecessary goods, Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam said yesterday.

The government's import policy aims at helping the growth of indigenous industries, supplying inputs in time and improving the quality of commodities, he said.

Referring to the withdrawal of 125 items from the import control list during 1993-95 to implement a liberal import policy, the minister said that the government is actively considering to withdraw some other commodities from the control list in continuing the ongoing simplification process.

He added that as in the past, opinions of the industrialists and traders

would receive priority consideration in the formulation of the 1995-97 import policy.

The Commerce Minister was presiding over an import consultative committee meeting held in a local hotel. Leaders of different trade organisations, officials of concerned ministries and departments made detailed observations and proposals for preparing the next biennial import policy.

A total of 221 proposals were placed at the meeting by some 39 public and private sector organisations seeking changes in the 1995-97 import policy.

President of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Saïman F Rahman, President of

See Page 12 Col 7

**Mob storms bldg for blocking access of fire engine**

By Staff Correspondent

Nearly 100 people stormed a multi-storied building at Sipahibagh under Sabujbagh thana which blocked the access of a fire engine gone there to put out a blaze, police and Fire Service sources said.

A large water tanker from the Rajarbagh fire station failed to negotiate a narrow kerb around the said building near Bhuiyanpara, where 20 rooms of a tin-shed slum were gutted by a fire in the afternoon.

The owner of the building alleged that although the fire was doused within several minutes after the arrival of the vehicle, a Fire Service man reportedly incited the local people by saying that the tanker could not reach the spot because the building had narrowed the road.

See Page 12 Col 6

**Aid situation bad, says Saifur**  
**43 pc funds for ADP to come from domestic resources**

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said that Bangladesh should increasingly depend on its own resources and should develop a capital market primarily relying on the domestic investors.

"From next year, at least 42 to 43 per cent of the funds for the annual development programme (ADP) will be allocated from domestic resources," the Finance Minister said, noting that the aid situation had deteriorated and donor agencies were drastically reducing their assistance.

"We will have to work hard to be self-reliant in our development efforts and the stock market is an important catalyst," Rahman said. "We have to create savings to invest in pri-

representative of a donor agency, the Finance Minister said. "We do not need any foreign advice from any ambassador or high commissioner. We should have a good idea of ourselves; we have resilience and vigour, and we should not suffer from complexes and seek unwanted wisdom."

The inaugural session of the workshop, chaired by ERF President and Editor, Financial Express Moazzem Hossain, was also addressed by SEC Chairman Sultanuzzaman Khan, Dhaka Stock Exchange Chairman Khurshid Alam and Chittagong Stock Exchange Chairman Amir Khazru Mahmud Chowdhury.

Saifur Rahman made it clear that from now on foreigners

See Page 12 Col 1

**UNDCP-sponsored master plan Survey on drug abuse begins from June**

By Masud Arif

The United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in collaboration with the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) is implementing a master plan to control drug abuse in Bangladesh. The implementation of the plan will involve 1.9 million US dollars.

The five-year plan is aimed at reducing the influence of drugs and related criminal activities on individuals, families and communities, according to sources.

The European Economic Community is financing the plan.

Under the plan, a country-wide survey is expected to begin next June to establish a reliable data base on drug abuse in the country.

Official sources say, no such survey has been conducted in the country so far. But the number of the drug addicts is estimated between 100 thousand and 1.3 million.

The project will focus on three major sectors — law enforcement and legal assistance, treatment and rehabilitation and preventive education and information.

See Page 12 Col 6

**Manzur murder More people questioned**

By Staff Correspondent

CID officials continued their investigations into the mysterious 1981 death of Maj Gen Abul Manzur. No new arrests were made in this connection yesterday.

"They are trying to fill some of gaps regarding the information gathered in the course of their investigation. Some more people have been questioned over the past few days," one CID official told The Daily Star.

The persons questioned are Subedar Nurul Islam, Sepoy Sadruddin, Naik Shamsuddin and Naik Sazder — all of whom were in service during the May 30, 1981 assassination of

See Page 12 Col 4

**8 LDF leaders sued**

Eight Left Democratic Front (LDF) leaders and activists have been sued under the Special Powers Act 1974 on charges of arson and damaging property, reports UNB.

The accused are Hasanul Huq Inu, Tipu Biswas, AFM Mahbubul Haq, Dilip Barua, Golam Mahmud, Shirin Akhter and Krishna Pada. Krishna Pada was arrested by police on Sunday from the scene at Motijheel. LDF sources said yesterday.

They have been charged with involvement in Sunday's incident at Motijheel where two vehicles were burnt and several others damaged during a scheduled siege of the FBCCI office by the LDF.

See Page 12 Col 3

**100 more injured: Sec 144 clamped on Sirajganj**

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 4: The district administration has imposed Section 144 for an indefinite period from tonight on Sirajganj town as the workers of the major political parties clashed again with Jamaat activists this morning.

At least 100 people were injured in the clash. Police fired blank shots, and lobbed teargas shells to disperse the warring groups.

The local units of the major parties including BNP, Awami League, Left Democratic Front, All-Party Students Unity have been agitating for the last few days against a planned public meeting here of the Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Golam Azam

Police arrested 11 persons including the local leader of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Ismail Hossain.

To protest today's incident and resist the arrival of Golam Azam the All-Party Action Committee has called for a three-day hartal from tomorrow in Sirajganj town and at all nine thana headquarters.

**Finance Ministry break-in: DB to investigate**

By Staff Correspondent

Investigation into Sunday night's daring break-in incident at the Finance Ministry has been taken over by the Detective police.

Senior police officials visited the third floor of Building No 7 at the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

See Page 12 Col 1

**SSC candidate murdered in Mirpur**

By DMCH Correspondent

A Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination candidate was killed by some youths at Mirpur in the city Monday.

Sources say, a group of about 10 local mastans attacked Nazrul Islam, 20, with machetes and other weapons at Talata.

The youths were taking revenge because Nazrul had reportedly helped the police arrest some of them when they were indulging in extortion about a month ago.

Nazrul was the only son among late Abdul Mannan's five children. A student of the Al-imuddin High School, Pirerbagh, he was preparing for the SSC examinations, due to

See Page 12 Col 8