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# The Daily Star

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**STOCK MARKET**

DSE Index	763.99 (+0.12%)
Market capitalisation Tk	42.20 billion
Turnover in volume	58192
Turnover in value Tk	8.22 million

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Eajuddin takes over as UGC chairman**  
 By Staff Correspondent  
 Prof Eajuddin Ahmed took over as the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh yesterday. Prof Eajuddin met the officers and employees of the Commission during an introductory meeting in the morning. He was appointed UGC chairman last week.

**Jahanara Imam Gold Medal**  
 The Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirman Committee yesterday decided to award the Jahanara Imam Gold Medal to an individual and an organisation for their important roles in the struggle against the ghatok-dalal. The decision was taken at a joint meeting of the central executive committee of the Nirman Committee and its Dhaka city unit conference preparatory committee.

**Minor boy killed in Sylhet road mishap**  
 From Staff Correspondent  
 SYLHET, Apr 8: A minor boy was run over by a speeding truck near Shahporan gate on Sylhet-Tamabil road this morning. The boy, a student of the Shahporan Government Primary School, died on the spot. Following the accident, agitated people blocked the road for three hours.

**CCHRB to observe Tongi model polls**  
 A 10-member 'non-partisan and neutral' team of the Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) will, observe the Tongi Pourashava model election to be held tomorrow, reports UNB.

## Nor'wester lashes several districts 8 killed, 50 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

At least eight people were killed and 50 injured and over 100 thatched houses were damaged and trees uprooted as nor'wester hit several areas in the country yesterday.

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent reports: Two persons were killed and at least 30 injured when a thunderbolt struck Koiarbil village under Kutubdia thana in Cox's Bazar district early yesterday.

A nor'wester with a wind-speed of 66 km per hour swept all the seven thanas in the district at 5 am. During the hour-long storm, accompanied by gusty wind, dozens of thatched houses were damaged and many roadside trees uprooted.

Kutubdia police confirmed the death of one Mridul Kanti Nath, 23. The identity of other dead could not be known immediately.

Another man named Lal Moti, 65, was killed in Teknaf Pahar area in Cox's Bazar town yesterday afternoon when a wall, badly affected by the dawn shower, collapsed and fell on him.

Power supply in the district remained snarled following the damage of a transmission pole at Satkania and collapse of the national grid line at Dohazari caused by the storm.

The whole district plunged into darkness as power supply could not be restored till the filing of this report late last night. Twenty mm rainfall was recorded in Cox's Bazar.

News agencies add: Two wood cutters were killed and five others seriously injured when a thunderbolt hit a labour shed at Baghacharimukh in Dighinala thana of Kargachhari district Friday night.

The victims were identified as Subol Chakma, 35, and Sishab Chakma, 38, of Panchhari thana.

The injured also hail from Panchhari.

One person was killed when a house collapsed during a predawn nor'wester that hit the port city of Chittagong.

A hailstorm accompanied by rainfall lashed Chittagong. Nuru Mia, 28, was killed when trapped inside his thatched house at Bakalia, damaged during the 20-minute storm with a wind speed of 135 km per hour.

Chandgao police recovered the body from under the debris. Several other houses in



The city experienced its first Kal Baishakhi (nor'wester) of the season yesterday afternoon. — Star photo

## Adhikari aware of Dhaka's plight

By M Anwarul Haq back from Kathmandu

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's two-day visit to Kathmandu has amply focused on the need for utilising and harnessing the water resources of the region through cooperation and participation of Nepal, official sources said.

The Prime Minister, who is the Chairperson of the SAARC, returned to Dhaka yesterday.

A top official accompanying the Prime Minister said, Bangladesh could strike a most responsive chord with the Nepalese government of Man Mohan Adhikari.

"The new government in Nepal is much more sincere and concerned about the plight of the people created by the water problem in the northern districts of Bangladesh," the official said.

Now India should come forward to solve the water problem, which is the cause of agony and suffering of nearly 40 million people in Bangladesh.

Both Nepalese Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari and Deputy Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal spoke of the need for an understanding between India, Nepal and Bangladesh on the long outstanding water issue.

Nepal is in an enviable position, being the upper-most riparian country, and holds nearly 70 per cent of the water in the region in the lean season.

At the official talks and during the courtesy calls by the Nepalese Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, the two sides emphasised the need for mutual understanding and cooperation among the three countries to utilise the vast water resources of the Ganges basin.

Nepal expressed its desire to harness its water resources by inviting foreign multi-nationals and donor agencies.

There is also scope for building reservoirs in the Himalayan kingdom which can be put to good use during the lean season. Besides, hydel power projects can be taken up in Nepal which can bring

## Fertiliser crisis to hurt rice production 1m ton shortfall feared

By Sharier Khan

Production of rice may fall short of the target by one million tonnes this year as a consequence of the urea fertiliser crisis, according to a preliminary estimate of the IFDC.

The International Fertiliser Development Center (IFDC), consultant to the Ministry of Agriculture, in a bulletin last month also projected that the shortfall may lead to import of rice, costing the country about Tk 1000 crore.

The target for production of rice, according to the annual development programme for 1994-95, was set at 208 lakh tonnes. Of this, 26 lakh tonnes are *aus*, 109 lakh *aman* and 73 lakh tonnes *boro*. The *boro* crop is to be harvested next month.

According to an official estimate, from July till March this fiscal, there was a short fall of urea sales by 48,000 MT. The fertiliser factories under the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) produced 1559 thousand tonnes of urea during the period as against the Agriculture Ministry's demand of 1498 thousand tonnes.

Meanwhile, 1450 thousand tonnes of urea have been sold in the local market.

The IFDC bulletin pointed out that the demand for fertiliser during the current *rabi-boro* season was very high because the farmers wanted to increase *boro* production to recover the shortfall in *aman* harvest caused by last year's drought.

It, however, said, short supply of urea in the market and abnormal increase in the price of urea are hindering the use of urea in *boro* fields. *Boro* yield is, therefore, likely to be

## JS session summoned on Apr 24

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has summoned the session of the Jatiya Sangsad at 4 pm on April 24 at the Sangsad Bhaban of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, reports BSS.

This will be the 19th session of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad, a Parliament Secretariat press release said.

## Dawn to dusk hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

The major opposition political parties have called a dawn-to-dusk hartal today in the five divisional headquarters including Dhaka to protest the price-hike of essentials and for early general elections under a caretaker government.

The Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami announced identical programmes from separate rallies after their 'Dhaka siege' programme on March 8.

## Mother Teresa arrives Apr 19

By Staff Correspondent

Nobel laureate Mother Teresa will pay a week-long visit to Bangladesh from April 19 at the invitation of Rotary International, Bangladesh.

During her stay in Bangladesh, Mother Teresa will inaugurate a Rotary Floating Hospital in Narayanganj and attend a re-

## World Bank survey says Bureaucratic attitude towards private sector yet to change

Years of reform efforts have failed to move some key government agencies towards improving their services, according to the views expressed by local private entrepreneurs in a recent World Bank survey, reports UNB.

The survey also found the majority entrepreneurs believing that the attitude of bureaucracy towards the private sector has not changed over the last five years.

All the respondents unequivocally found the services of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), Duty Exemptions and Drawback Office (DEDO), PDB, WASA and Titas Gas to be just as bad as before, says the survey report.

...the reforms have failed to bring improvements in the quality of services offered by these agencies," adds the report quoting general views of the respondents.

And again, about 70 per cent of the respondents did not think that the government officials are now more responsive to the problems and needs of the private sector than five years back.

As many as 295 manufacturers and exporters, including 75 readymade garment exporters, were surveyed by the Bank's resident mission to gather information about the implementation of reforms and the entrepreneurs' feedback on delays they encounter at some crucial government agencies.

The respondents were divided about the quality of services of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) and the Board of Investment (BOI).

About half of them found that services of these institutions have improved over the last five years while the other half found the services to be just as poor.

The major complaint of the entrepreneurs was delay in clearances, adding unnecessary costs to their business.

The survey finds that a firm spends, on an average, more than half a person a year to deal with government agencies, and has to spend seven per cent of its sales revenue to



Nepalese Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari made a farewell call on SAARC Chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Soaltee Regal Complex in Kathmandu yesterday. — PID photo

## Nepal, Bangladesh for jointly harnessing water resources

Bangladesh and Nepal believe that the water resources of the region should be utilised to enhance the economic status of the people of the regional countries without causing ecological and environmental degradation, reports BSS.

The two countries expressed this view in the joint communique issued yesterday simultaneously from Dhaka and Kathmandu at the end of the two-day visit of SAARC Chairperson and Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the Himalayan kingdom at the invitation of her Nepalese counterpart Man Mohan Adhikari.

The joint communique further said that the two leaders acquainted each other with policies and perceptions of their governments, efforts being made in their respective countries towards economic and social development, promotion of the welfare of their people and consolidation of democratic institutions.

The two prime ministers, reviewed the progress in regional cooperation under the aegis of the SAARC and expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the SAARC ministerial conferences on women and family health, disabled persons, the youth and the meeting of SAARC finance, planning ministers held respectively in

## Khaleda has violated Constitution: Hasina

GHATAIL (Tangail), Apr 8: Awami League President Sheikh Hasina today asked the government to resign to make way for immediate elections under a neutral caretaker authority, reports UNB.

Addressing a big public meeting at the local GBG College ground in the afternoon, Hasina said the industries minister had resigned accepting moral responsibility for the fertiliser crisis.

The Prime Minister should also follow suit accepting her failure, she said.

On rejection of the Opposition resignation letters, the AL chief alleged that the Speaker was influenced by the Prime Minister in not accepting the resignation letters to prolong the rule of Begum Zia.

"You (Speaker) have no right to reject the resignations of the opposition MPs," she said adding that this government has become illegal with the resignation of 147 opposition MPs.

Hasina also alleged that the Prime Minister had violated the Constitution by inducting MPs of other parties into the BNP.

"You have violated the Constitution, you betrayed with the people," she said of the Prime Minister.

Organised by Ghatail thana  
 See Page 12 Col 1

## Rotten garlic dumping in Bay affects marine life

By Asiuzzaman

A huge quantity of rotten garlic, dumped illegally in the Bay of Bengal recently, has seriously affected aquatic life along the Bangladesh coast, Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al-Noman said.

The stench from the rotting garlic has damaged marine life in the off-shore areas and its vicinity, the minister told The Daily Star.

"Fishing trawlers facing a hard time, recorded a very poor catch," the minister added.

A private firm had disposed of some 880 tonnes of rotten garlic nearly two months ago.

The Ministry of Fisheries has ordered an inquiry into the matter and has also requested the Ministry of Environment for necessary action.

The company executives, during the initial investigation, had reportedly told the Fisheries Ministry that they obtained permission from the authorities concerned to dispose of the garlic.

Abdullah Al Noman said the country earns about Tk 100 crore from marine fish export. The target is unlikely to be fulfilled this year, he apprehended.

Currently the country has 51 trawlers for fishing in the sea.

The minister said the rotten garlic would also hamper shrimp cultivation in the country because the mother shrimps are usually collected from the sea for local hatcheries.

"During a recent trip, a (government) trawler caught only 17 mother shrimps while the previous trawling yielded nothing," the minister added.

Bangladesh earns about Tk 1,000 crore from the export of fish, 80 per cent of which come from shrimps. At present, the country produces around 10 lakh tonnes of fish as against a demand of 19 lakh tonnes.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue, Dhaka Notice

The Government has decided to bring about certain procedural changes regarding import and export between Bangladesh and India as well as between Bangladesh and Myanmar, through the land customs stations except Benapole and Tamabil. The existing procedure will continue to apply for imports & exports through land customs stations of Benapole and Tamabil, exports of all goods through any land customs station and in respect of imports of bovine animal, fresh fruits, rice, wheat, seeds, plants, fish & cement. The new procedure shall apply to all other goods imported through and land customs stations other than Benapole and Tamabil. The importer will have to submit a pre-shipment inspection certificate as provided under SRO No 316-L/94/1568/Cus dated 3.11.94 in respect of price, quantity & quality. Import without the above mentioned certificate shall be treated as irregular imports and actions in accordance with law will be taken. This new procedure will be applicable only to those imports in respect of which letter of credit has already been opened or shall be opened by 10th April, 1995. It may be mentioned here that the land customs stations which are presently not in-operation due to various reasons shall remain as it is until further orders.

DFP-8727-8/4  
 G-943  
 National Board of Revenue

## One shot during gunfight in city

By DMCH Correspondent

One young man received bullet injuries during a gunfight between two groups at Tejkanipara in the city yesterday.

Sources said, Mintu 22, received serious injuries when he was passing the area at about 8 pm.

The cause of gun fighting could not be known immediately.

The victim was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.