

Kuwait for top priority

From Page 1
and commerce.
Another joint committee, headed by the energy ministers of the two countries, was set up to discuss and explore cooperation in the energy sector.
Both committees were to meet separately yesterday. They are due to meet again for detailed discussions.
The proposal for setting up the joint commission came from Begum Zia while the proposal regarding the two joint committees was made by Crown Prince Al-Sabah.
At the talks, Begum Zia pointed out that political and other ties between Dhaka and Kuwait were excellent. There was also ample scope for developing trade which was now virtually non-existent. The Bangladesh Prime Minister made some specific suggestions to expand economic cooperation between the two countries.
Begum Zia suggested frequent exchange of business and trade delegations and holding of trade fairs and exhibitions in each other's capitals.
She apprised the Crown Prince of foreign investment opportunities and pointed out that overseas investment in Bangladesh was protected by law.
Begum Zia thanked Kuwait for its assistance for various projects in Bangladesh.
Crown Prince Al Sabah thanked Bangladesh for participating in the re-construction of his country after the Gulf war.
He extended his moral support to various proposals and suggestions made by the Bangladesh Prime Minister.
Begum Zia, during the talks, also apprised the visiting leader of the water sharing

problem affecting 40 million people in northern Bangladesh. The Crown Prince expressed his sympathy with Bangladesh on the water issue and assured that he would try for a solution.
The Crown Prince of Kuwait said, "Iraq was delaying in fulfilling its conditions" for withdrawal of sanctions imposed by the United Nations and expressed the hope that at the coming Bandung Conference, the participating foreign ministers would pressurise Iraq to fulfill the conditions without an further delay.
Before the start of the talks, the Crown Prince paid a courtesy call on Begum Khaleda Zia at the International Conference Centre. During the call on, the two leaders exchanged pleasantries and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Women lawyers seek punishment of child abuser

By Staff Correspondent
The Bangladesh Jatiya Mohila Ainjebbi Samity (BJMAS) yesterday demanded punishment of the persons who carried out sadistic torture on a 10-year-old maid, Taslima, in the city early this month.
In a statement yesterday, the BJMAS observed that though child labour was banned in the country, atrocities on children employed as domestic servants were on the rise.
The wife of a government official reportedly abused her maid Taslima on April 1, scarring her body with a razor blade.
The Ramna police found the girl near the police station and arranged for her treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.
Noting that Bangladesh Shilpa Bank has also filed a money suit which is still at the hearing stage, he said it is not proper to file a criminal case when a civil suit is pending. Submitting that the petitioner is absolutely innocent and that he is a respectable person, Moudud Ahmed assured that if he is granted bail he will not misuse the privilege of bail.
Opposing the bail prayer, Assistant Public Prosecutor As-saduzzaman, however, stated that the petitioner took loans from the BSB by using undue influence and by disregarding the industrial policy. He claimed that the petitioner illegally transferred the money overseas and went abroad. He also stated that the petitioner, after returning home, attempted to destroy the evidences of the case and if he is granted bail he will again leave the country.
After hearing the arguments of both sides, the court gave the judgement.
Earlier on April 3, Dr Rafiquzzaman was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau on charges relating to the defalcation of a BSB loan of over Tk 10.85 crore. He was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail after the CMM's court rejected a bail prayer and the District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, withheld an interim bail prayer till yesterday's hearing of an appeal against the lower court ruling.

Injunction on Dhaka Bar chief vacated

By Court Correspondent
The court of the Additional District Judge, Dhaka, yesterday vacated the temporary injunction restraining the newly-elected president of the Dhaka Bar Association Abu Sayeed Sagar from discharging his duties.
Earlier, the court of the Third Sub-Judge, Dhaka, had ordered the injunction upon a declaration suit filed by a defeated presidential candidate in the association polls.
This year's winners are: First—Shahidul Islam (Shikder); second—Meer Farid and Mahub Hussain Khan Nabin; third—Md Alam, Shaftuddin Ahmed Bitu and Anisur Rahman of The Daily Star.

Manzur murder

From Page 1
number of them would be produced as witnesses during the trial.
Another source close to the investigators said that the CID officials might submit a 'progress report' on the investigation to the court before April 17, the next date of hearing of the case at the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Chittagong.
CID investigators said they need some more weeks to complete the probe.
Meanwhile, fresh warrants were issued by the court of the CMM, Chittagong, for producing the three former army officials, arrested in connection with the case in the court on April 17. They were earlier scheduled to be produced in the court on April 11.
Maj Gen (ret'd) Abdul Latif is detained in the Dhaka Central Jail. Lt Col (ret'd) Shamsur Rahman in Tangail Jail and Maj (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Haq in Comilla Jail.

Zia murder case

From Page 1
quiry into the case.
This is the 55th shifting of the hearing date since the case was filed with Kotwali police on June 2, 1981 following the assassination of President Zia on the night of May 30, 1981 at the local Circuit House.
The CMM also issued a fresh reminder to Kotwali police via the Police Commissioner for filing the probe report at the earliest.
During the hearing today, Assistant Commissioner (Prosecution) told the CMM that Kotwali police had been asked to submit the enquiry report and that at his stage nothing more could be said.
Abdul Hakim Khan, the then assistant commissioner of Kotwali thana who was the investigating officer of the case, is now serving in Dhaka following transfer from the CMP.

Photo show at Press Club

By Staff Correspondent
A two-day photography exhibition organised by the Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association began at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.
Part of the annual "Rupashi Bangla" contest, welcoming the Bengali New Year, this year's competition drew 150 entries from 31 press photographers, which have been put on display. The exhibition will remain open for visitors from 9 am to 8 pm today.
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Kuwait to help develop oil, gas resources

Kuwait yesterday assured Bangladesh of developing its untapped oil and gas resources, reports BSS.
The assurance came in a meeting between Bangladesh Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, and the visiting Oil Minister of Kuwait, Dr Abdul Mohssen Med'ej Al-Med'ej.
During the over an hour-long meeting, the two ministers discussed ways and means of possible cooperation of Kuwait in energy sector of Bangladesh particularly in the areas of oil, gas and limestone. Setting up of 2nd refinery in Bangladesh also came up in the discussion and Kuwait has showed keen interest in providing financial support for the proposed refinery project to be set up at Mongla.

Rafiquzzaman

From Page 1
with an intent to harass him. The case was filed in 1992 and since then none of the eight other co-accused have been arrested and only Rafiquzzaman was arrested because he was an adviser to former president Ershad, he argued.
Moudud Ahmed also claimed that the arrest of the petitioner arising out of a civil dispute is nothing but harassment for political reasons and that it is mala fide and since no charge sheet has been submitted the arrest is motivated and unwarranted.
Noting that Bangladesh Shilpa Bank has also filed a money suit which is still at the hearing stage, he said it is not proper to file a criminal case when a civil suit is pending. Submitting that the petitioner is absolutely innocent and that he is a respectable person, Moudud Ahmed assured that if he is granted bail he will not misuse the privilege of bail.
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Double-murder trial

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dhury Shoma, a second year student of the Mymensingh Medical College, were slaughtered with a kitchen knife at their third-floor flat on October 2 last.
Detective Police arrested Romena alias Nomi, 35, the sole suspect, from a village in Manikganj two days later.
Following investigations, police submitted the charge-sheet on January 26 against Romena, who confessed to the crimes in a judicial statement made before a magistrate.
The court nominated Advocate Abdul Hasib as the state defence for Romena who expressed her inability to afford the services of a lawyer.
Assistant Public Prosecutor M Masud Ahmed Talukder will conduct the case for the state.
April 23 has been fixed for arraignment.

Pahela Baishakh today

From Page 1
evaluation of our successes and failures of the outgoing year in order to face the challenges of the new year with renewed vigour and determination.
In her message, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina conveyed her greetings and goodwill to the nation and expressed her wish for the new year.
We have to consolidate our hard-earned independence and establish the rights of the people by foiling all conspiracies against the people and the independence," she said.
The day's programmes include colourful processions, musical soirees, Baishakhi mela (fairs) and discussion meetings.
Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television will air special programmes while the newspapers will publish special supplements highlighting the significance of the day.
Chhayanaut, a cultural organisation, will hold its traditional musical soiree at the Ramna park this morning.
Artists of Chhayanaut will welcome the new year with Tagore's "Esho Hey Baishakh Esho Yey" under the big banyan tree.
To facilitate smooth holding of the new year functions at the Ramna Park, no shops or stalls will be permitted this year inside the park.
The Baishakh Utsav Committee 1402 has taken up a seven-day programme which includes a colourful procession from the Fine Arts Institute of the Dhaka University starting at 8 am and also a water colour exhibition.
The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation has arranged a week-long Baishakhi mela at the Dhanmondi Club field.
The Bangla Academy has arranged a week-long folk festival.

FBCCI

From Page 1
investment from the Kuwaiti royal family in Bangladesh which, he said, would encourage investors from the Gulf to think about Bangladesh.
"Any investment from Sabah family will, without doubt, be a signal to the Gulf and the world at large that Bangladesh is a safe and mature haven for investment. We earnestly need such flagship initiatives," Rahman said.
Apprising the Kuwaiti delegation of Bangladesh's incentive package to foreign investors, he said, with decline in the attractiveness of Depository Receipts, Kuwaiti investors could profitably participate in companies in Bangladesh growing with local, regional and export markets.
On the lucrative return from investment in Bangladesh's capital market, the FBCCI President said, "The market is still termed bargain basement having single digit price earning ratio and remain very attractive picking for any astute investor."
Rahman mentioned power generation, petro-chemicals based on natural gas, telecommunications, oil refinery, basic pharmaceuticals, real estate development, private air field, shipping as potential areas for Kuwaiti investments, either in 100 per cent or in joint venture.
The FBCCI chief also made a request for import of Bangladeshi consumer items by Kuwait.

MCCI seeks IFC help

From Page 1
tor, is ready to provide funds for infrastructure development in such sectors as power, telecommunication, bridge construction, oil and gas exploration and even agriculture, Ms Leonard told the meeting.
"We are looking forward to investing in the capital market of the country," she said.
Ms Leonard noted that the IFC could mobilise funds from the international community for bigger projects and provide advisory services and technical assistance to entrepreneurs.
MCCI president Anis-ud-Dowla sought the cooperation of the IFC in reducing the cost of gas in the commercial sector in order to encourage power generation in the private sector.
"There is a growing energy shortage in the country. With an average daily load-shedding of upto 456 megawatts, a crisis situation has arisen with the mills and factories outside the metropolitan areas having to suffer production losses due to unplanned load-shedding," Anis-ud-Dowla said, demanding generation of power by the mills and factories themselves.
He also pointed out that the reduced tariff and non-tariff barriers policy of the government had allowed India to increase exports to Bangladesh, whereas, exports to India were much less due to the high tar-



Students of the American School, Dhaka performing a dance at a function on the eve of the Bengali New Year yesterday. — Star photo

Agri Minister

From Page 1
from giving any further statement against such reports since one-member commission of enquiry with Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury has been formed to determine the cause of fertiliser crisis, the handout said.

Water sharing issue WP programmes to mobilise public opinion

By Staff Correspondent
Workers Party has urged the government to formulate a water policy and take a political initiative to resolve the problem of water-sharing through mutual cooperation among the governments and peoples of Bangladesh, India and Nepal.
It also demanded of the government to build a dam in the country to counter the impact of unilateral withdrawal of water by India.
Addressing a press conference at the party office yesterday, Workers Party general secretary Rashed Khan Menon said that to mobilise public opinion on the water issue, his party had taken up a programme.
The programmes include exchange of views with resource persons in Dhaka on April 15, gherao of the GK project in Kushtia on April 16, holding of rallies from April 21 to 28, a seminar in Dhaka on April 29, district level rallies and marches on May 4, 5 and 6, peasants rally in Rajshahi on May 7 and observing Farakka Day on May 16.

Shishu Academy award goes to Faye Ahmed

By Staff Correspondent
Faye Ahmed received the Bangladesh Shishu Academy literary award for the Bengali year 1401 for his contribution to child literature.
The award carries a purse of Taka 25,000, says an Academy press release yesterday.
Faye Ahmed has 27 books for children to his credit. Among these, 'Ta dhin ta', 'Putli', 'Ta ta thot thot' are most notable.
The government has finalised the issue of providing financial benefit to the teachers of non-government high schools after their retirement, reports BSS.
This was stated by Education Minister Jamiruddin Sir-car at a condolence meeting of Alhaj Md. Nurullah, Headmaster, New Model High School, Sukhrabad in the capital.
The education minister said that the issue of forming a welfare trust for the teachers was under the consideration of the government.
Nor'wester
From Page 1
from Barisal adds: Two persons were killed and 25 injured when a severe nor'wester lashed Dasha and Sadar thanas of Patuakhali district yesterday.
One Jasmuddin, 16, of Purbalaximpur village under Dasha thana and Ismail, 52, of Chhalibantia under Sadar thana of the district died in house collapse.
More than 300 houses were damaged in the nor'wester.

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The Midnight File

Russian jets bomb Afghan town: 100 killed
ISLAMABAD, Apr 13: Russian jets based in Tajikistan heavily bombed the northern Afghan town of Taloqan today killing 100 people and wounding 200, the official Kabul radio said. The bombing of the town, which is the capital of Takhar province bordering Tajikistan, also destroyed many houses and shops, said the broadcast monitored in Islamabad, reports Reuter.

Ukraine to close down Chernobyl N-plant
KIEV, Apr 13: Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma today pledged to close down the Chernobyl nuclear plant by the year 2000 and replace it by a gas-fired power station, reports AFP.

Prokrichi
From Page 1
Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council had earlier planned their strike across the country from April 16.
Instead, they will now observe a token strike and hold a rally on April 16.
"We do not want to further worsen the condition of the people with our strikes and other programmes," Dr. MA Majed, Chairman of the Action Council, told a press conference at the Engineers' Institution in Dhaka.
"People are already suffering and they are worried about the insufficient supply of fertiliser, the price hike of foodstuff, and lack of irrigation water," he said.
The Prokrichi leaders accused the government of breach of contract and said it had succumbed to a racket in the bureaucracy.
The government is responsible for the present situation in the food, fertiliser and irrigation sectors, they said.


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No feud in JP
From Page 1
government oppression for the last four years, the JP is still a big force in the country's political arena.
"If we have fair and free elections now, the world will be surprised at our party's success", he said confidently.
Quoting figures from the World Bank's latest report, Manju said that the country's economic condition has worsened compared to that during JP rule till December 1990.
As regards the present political crisis over the caretaker government issue, the new JP Secretary General said that the Opposition was forced to take the present tough stance. "But the present times require very bold decision by the leaders in power," he said.

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KUSHUM
Kushum is a delightful new restaurant which promises you traditional Bengali food. It will be at your service for lunch and dinner from the 15th of April 1995. You are cordially invited.
We wish you the best for Pahela Baishakh which heralds the beginning of the Bengali New Year 1402.
Kushum
An exclusive restaurant serving traditional Bengali food
Phone : 889518
37, Kamal Ataturk Avenue
Banani, Dhaka.



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গ্যাস দুর্ঘটনা সংক্রান্ত জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি
গত ১১ এপ্রিল ১৯৯৫ তারিখে রামপুরা উলন রোডে সংঘটিত গ্যাস দুর্ঘটনার প্রতি দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিয়া এই জাতীয় দুর্ঘটনা পরিহারের লক্ষ্যে গ্যাস সংযোগ সংক্রান্ত নিয়মাবলী যথাযথভাবে পালন করিবার জন্য তিতাস গ্যাস কোম্পানী সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ সকলকে পুনরায় অনুরোধ জানাইতেছে। অবৈধভাবে গ্যাস সংযোগ গ্রহণ, যথাযথ সংযোগ সামগ্রী ব্যবহার না করা বা লাইসেন্সবিহীন অনুমোদিত ঠিকাদার দ্বারা গ্যাস সংযোগ গ্রহণ করা এই জাতীয় দুর্ঘটনার প্রধান কারণ।
উক্ত দুর্ঘটনায় নিহত ব্যক্তির জন্য আমরা আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখ প্রকাশ করিতেছি। তবে এই দুর্ঘটনা ঘটনাস্থলে হাট্‌কোর অসতর্কতা/জনিত গ্যাস লিকের কারণে। তদুপর সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ গ্যাস সংযোগ নিয়মাবলীর সামগ্রী দ্বারা ও কোম্পানীর যথাযথ অনুমোদন ব্যতিরেকে নেওয়া হইয়াছে। উল্লেখ্য, দুর্ঘটনার খবর পাওয়ার সাথে সাথে তিতাস গ্যাস কোম্পানীর জরুরী দল উক্ত স্থানে পৌছিয়া গ্যাসের নির্গমন বন্ধ করে এবং পরিষ্কারি আয়ত্তে নিয়া আসে।
তিতাস গ্যাস টি এন্ড ডি কোম্পানী লিমিটেড কর্তৃক সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে সর্বদা রেডিও, টেলিভিশন ও পত্রিকার মাধ্যমে গ্যাসের সঠিক ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করার জন্য বহুবার বিনীতভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো হইয়াছে। দুঃখজনক হইলেও সত্য যে অনেক গ্রাহক জ্ঞাতসারে সারাদিন আবাসিক চুলা জ্বালাইয়া রাখেন শুধুমাত্র একটি ম্যাচের কাঠি বাঁচাইবার জন্য। কিন্তু ইহাতে যে কোন সময় মারাত্মক দুর্ঘটনা ঘটিতে পারে—বিষয়টি বেমালাম ভুলিয়া যান। রাত্না ঘরের চুলাটি অকারণে জ্বালাইয়া রাখা যে কত বিপদজনক হইতে পারে উপলব্ধি করুন। তিতাস গ্যাসের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ নিয়মাবলী যথাযথভাবে পালন করা প্রয়োজন।
জরুরী প্রয়োজনে ঢাকা শহরের জন্য তিতাস গ্যাসের টেলিফোন নাম্বার ৮৬০৫৫০, ৮৬০৫৫১, (২৪ ঘণ্টা) এবং ৮৬০৫৫২, ৮৬০৫৫৩, অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে যোগাযোগ করুন। তাহা ছাড়া ৮১৯৩৭৯ নম্বর টেলিফোনেও অভিযোগ জানানো যাইতে পারে। ঢাকার বাহিরে জরুরী প্রয়োজনে আঞ্চলিক বিতরণ কার্যালয়ে যোগাযোগ করুন। প্রসঙ্গত উল্লেখ্য, তিতাস গ্যাসের সকল লেনদেনে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ মাধ্যমে হইয়া থাকে। তাই কাহাকেও ব্যক্তিগতভাবে কোন টাকা পরিস্রা পদান না করার জন্য আবাবারো অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।
গ্যাস প্রকৃতির অমূল্য দান। গ্যাস অফুরন্ত নয়। ভবিষ্যত প্রজন্মের জন্য ইহার সচা্যবহার ও সংরক্ষণ প্রয়োজন। গ্যাসের সঠিক ব্যবহার আমাদের জীবনের নিরাপত্তা বিধানের সহায়ক।
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