

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: 805957, 807363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

The Daily Star

Cash 24hr
 Standard Chartered
 1 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

VOL. V NO. 87 REGD. NO. DA 781

BAISHAKH 4, 1402 BS,

DHAKA MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1995

ZILQAD 16, 1415 HIJRI

1 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

Inside Today

Article

Agitations: Have Farmers Also Joined the Fray?

Column: Along My Way by S B Chaudhuri Page 4

International

Baghdad rejects UN offer

Conference on N-arms opens in New York today Page 5

Business

50 pc industrial units closed down in Nasirabad

EU, Canada reach accord to end fishing row Page 6, 7

STOCK MARKET

DSE Index	782.10 (+0.74%)
Market capitalisation Tk	43.20 billion
Turnover in volume	97426
Turnover in value Tk	17.71 million

Development

BTV can play a wider role in development; What's the flavour of the month? and From housekeeping to shopkeeping Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



A Man's Success Story Abroad Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Prime Bank begins operations today

By Staff Correspondent
 Prime Bank Ltd, a new private sector commercial bank, begins operations today. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will inaugurate the bank at its Adamjee Annex, Dilkusha premises this morning. Former managing director of Sonali Bank Lutful Rahman Sarkar is the MD while Dr. R A Ghani is the chairman.

19 rickshaws seized

By Staff Correspondent
 The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in a joint drive yesterday seized 19 unauthorised rickshaws and realised Taka 561 as fine from 15 rickshawpullers for plying rickshaws without license in English Road crossing area in the city, says a press release.

Boy killed in road mishap

KHULNA, Apr 16: A teenage boy was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus at Gollanari on Khulna-Satkhira road this morning. The boy, identified as Jamal, 18, died on the spot.

Saifur fears significant shortfall Dhaka to seek more food aid at Paris meet

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said the country would seek more food support for next year from donors at the Aid Club meeting in Paris, reports UNB.
 Talking to a group of overseas correspondents based in Dhaka at a local hotel in the afternoon, he said that drought and fertiliser crisis might cause a significant fall in the production of foodgrains.
 "But it will be within a manageable limit... We have enough to cushion ourselves against any shortfall," Saifur said replying to a correspondent.

Referring to what he called 'aid-fatigue' of the donors, the Finance Minister said the country is desperate to reduce its dependence on foreign aid. "You should ask me when we will stop going to Paris for aid," he said in a vein of humour.
 "We'll go to Paris where we'll highlight the redeeming features of our economy," Saifur said adding, "we have done excellent in reforms, exports, imports and in every sectors of our economy."
 The Finance Minister will lead the country's delegation to the World Bank-sponsored

Bangladesh Aid Group meeting due to be held in Paris on April 24-25.
 According to an aid memorandum, approved by the cabinet, Bangladesh will seek disbursement of development aid to the tune of US dollar 1850 million for 1995-96 fiscal year.
 Highlighting the economic achievements, Rahman said the country's actual GDP growth this year will be more than 5 per cent because of 'tremendous improvement' in the informal sectors.
 The country registered 33 per cent export growth and 40 per cent import growth last year. See Page 12 Col 3

Revenue earning exceeds target by 6.7 pc

While the government's fiscal policy aims to make revenue direct tax-dependent, import duties continue to dominate the turnover because of a spurt in imports, reports UNB.
 Revenue earning during the first eight months of the current financial year (July '94-Feb '95) totalled Tk 6365 crore exceeding the target by more than 400 crore or 6.7 per cent, due primarily to an above-the-target collection of Tk 653 crore at the import stage.
 The revenue earning is Tk 840 crore or 15 per cent higher than the income during the corresponding period of the last fiscal. See Page 12 Col 8

Fresh gas explosion in city injures 14

By Staff Correspondent
 Barely five days after a gas stove explosion claimed 11 lives in the city's Rampura area, another gas explosion at Lalbagh yesterday afternoon left at least 14 people seriously burnt and five food and stationery shops totally gutted.
 Fire Brigade and police sources said the accident occurred at around 3 pm when flames from an unauthorised gas pipeline engulfed two restaurants, a confectionery, a grocery and a watch shop at Haji Dewan Chourasta under Lalbagh police station.
 The injured were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). They were identified as Ibrahim, 30, and Selim 25, — both sons of Miru Mian, proprietor of Miru Mian Shahi Biriari House — Kazi Nasir, 45, manager of the restaurant and a son-in-law of Miru, gas pipeline welder Majed, 30, Nasu, 28, Safar Ali, 28, and Nure Alam, 35, Biriari House workers Siddiqur Rahman, 25, a pedestrian, Selim, 28, a rickshaw-puller, Abdul Malek, 25, a garments worker, and Ashraf, 26, a customer.
 According to witnesses, Jamal, a Titas Gas contractor, accompanied by some welding workers, went to the area at noon yesterday to cut off unauthorised gas lines. At one See Page 12 Col 6

MOU signed for another pvt sector power plant

By Staff Correspondent
 The government has signed another memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a foreign company for setting up of a 225 megawatt power generation plant in the country.
 Geopetrol International of Canada proposed to set up a thermal steam generation plant at an estimated cost of 150 million US dollars equivalent Tk 600 crore, near the Mongla port.
 The MOU was earlier approved by a cabinet sub-committee. The Calgary, Alberta- See Page 12 Col 3

Fresh Opposition programmes

By Staff Correspondent
 The mainstream Opposition political parties — the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami — have again announced identical programmes including sit-in in front of the office of the Speaker on April 24.
 The opposition MPs, who had earlier tendered resignations, would take part in the sit-in in the morning to protest the Speaker's ruling on their resignations.
 The next session of Parliament is scheduled to begin on the day.
 Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina announced her party programme at a peasants-workers rally at the Panthapath in the city yesterday while acting chairman of See Page 12 Col 7

Hasina promises subsidy in agriculture sector

By Staff Correspondent
 Awami League president Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that if voted to power, her party would provide subsidy in the agriculture sector and take steps for industrial growth.
 "We can easily do these provided we enjoy the support of the people including the farmers and industrial workers. It does not matter whether the donor organisations like the World Bank and the IMF like it or not," she told a big gathering of the farmers and workers at the Panthapath in the capital yesterday afternoon.
 Citing instances of providing subsidy in the agriculture sector in many countries, the AL chief said that despite antagonism by the donors, her party, if voted to power, would revive the policy of subsidising the agricultural inputs. "And we'll mobilise money for the purpose from domestic resources."
 Turning to the industrial sector, Hasina said they would set up export-oriented industries to raise export earnings and create job opportunities.
 "We'll not shut down any industrial unit and retrench workers without making alternative arrangements for them," she said adding, "Of course, we'll keep our words if we go to power."
 The AL leader blamed the BNP government for what she See Page 12 Col 1



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressed a public meeting at Panthapath in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Permanent fertiliser distribution system, buffer rice stock planned

The government plans to introduce a permanent distribution system of fertiliser and build a buffer stock of rice to avert any crisis in future, ministers concerned said yesterday.
 Officials of the Ministry of Industries are working on a permanent distribution system while the Cabinet would shortly decide the quantity of food stock to meet any apprehended shortfall, some ruling party policy makers told The Daily Star.

By Astuzzaman
 We are on the way to finalise a permanent distribution system of fertiliser in the country," said State Minister for Industries Lutful Rahman Khan.
 He said that because of the present distribution system the farmers had to pay higher price for fertiliser in some parts of the country "but it is not true that they did not at all get fertilisers for the current farming season."
 Declining to give details of the new system being evolved, the state minister said "fertiliser will be demanded again in September and we are fully aware of it."
 He was unwilling to comment on political consequences of the crisis and responsibility of the Agriculture Ministry in this regard.
 Ruling BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar said that the See Page 12 Col 6

Mujibnagar Day today

By Staff Correspondent
 The Mujibnagar day will be observed throughout the country today.
 On this day in 1971, the Provisional Government of Bangladesh was formed with Editorial on Page 4
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as its president at Baidyanathola in Meherpur. The place was later named as Mujibnagar.
 The then cabinet was formed with the close associates of Bangabandhu, including See Page 12 Col 6

AL, JP have reunited to malign democracy: PM

DOHAR, Apr 16: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today sought the people's support to keep continuity of the ongoing development programmes aimed at ensuring welfare of the nation, reports UNB.
 "We need to let the ongoing development process continue to ensure a better future for our children," she said.
 Begum Zia was addressing a large public meeting at the Joypara High School ground in the afternoon.
 Montague the development attained by her government in different sectors, the Prime Minister, however, blamed the Opposition for trying to hinder the progress because of the growing popularity of the BNP.
 The worried opposition parties are creating different crisis and hindering the development activities by resorting to undemocratic activities like hartals and sieges, she alleged.
 In an oblique reference to the Awami League, Begum Zia said: "To stop the development process they have joined hands with the autocratic forces to malign a democratic and people's government."
 She lamented that the necessary cooperation expected of the Opposition political parties to carry forward the development programmes and democracy had been absent.
 The Prime Minister reiterated See Page 12 Col 2



Professor Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director of the Grameen Bank, met Her Majesty Queen Sophia of Spain at the Royal Palace in Madrid on March 4. Professor Yunus invited the queen to visit Bangladesh. She accepted the invitation and may visit Bangladesh some time this year.

JP urges PM to resign over fertiliser crisis

By Staff Correspondent
 Jatiya Party (JP) leaders yesterday said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia should resign taking the full responsibility for her government's failure to resolve the fertiliser crisis in the country.
 "In a parliamentary system, no single minister should be responsible for a failure... It is the failure of the government as a whole," they told a rally in the city.
 The Dhaka city unit of the JP organised a peasant workers rally at Bangabandhu Avenue (near the southern gate of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque) as part of the mainstream Opposition's identical programme to protest the government's alleged failure in solving the food and fertiliser crises.
 Presided over by the city unit president, Col (ret'd) M A Malek, the rally was addressed by acting JP chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, president members, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Shah Moazzem See Page 12 Col 3

English compulsory at all levels

The vice-chancellors of 11 universities of the country held a meeting with Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar at his Secretariat office yesterday, reports BSS.
 The meeting discussed the See Page 12 Col 3

Turn sports into a social movement

The Prime Minister yesterday called for turning sports into a social movement like education for upgrading it to international standard to place the country in a dignified position. See Page 12 Col 7

US cos to help protect Taj

NEW DELHI, Apr 16: More than 200 Indian foundries will learn from American companies how to diminish pollution emissions and thereby prevent damage to the Taj Mahal, Asia's most famous monument, reports AP.
 The pearl-white marble tomb, built by a 17th century Mughal emperor for his wife in the northern town of Agra, is yellowing as toxic sulphur gases from factories around it are corroding the marble, conservationists said.
 On Sunday, the United States Agency for International Development in India signed a memorandum of understanding with the Agra Iron Foundry Association to provide foundry owners state-of-the-art pollution prevention technology.

Kuwait to help set up oil refinery

By Staff Correspondent
 Kuwait will help set up an oil refinery in Bangladesh.
 Disclosing this at a press briefing a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday that the Kuwaiti government had asked Dhaka to come forward with specific proposals for setting up projects in the oil and gas sectors.
 "Kuwait has expressed its interest in extending all required cooperation including providing technical expertise for the exploitation and exploration of energy resources in Bangladesh," the spokesman said.
 During the just concluded visit, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Saad Al-Abdallah Al-Saleh Al-Sabah also assured that his government would lend financial support to Bangladesh against specific projects from the Kuwait Fund.
 Dhaka will also consider granting permission to the national airlines of Kuwait to raise their weekly flight frequency to four in place of three, considering increase in the volume of traffic.
 It was also said at the press briefing that out of Kuwait's population of 18.3 lakhs. See Page 12 Col 6

Dalim asked to return home within 2 weeks

By Staff Correspondent
 Lt. Col (ret'd) Shariful Haq alias Dalim who was serving as the country's High Commissioner to Kenya, has been retired from service with effect from April 12.
 A Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday said that Dalim had been sent on retirement on completion of 25 years of government service.
 A gazette notification to this effect will be published shortly.
 It is also learnt that Dalim has been asked to return home within two weeks.
 A few months back, the name of Dalim was forwarded to the Brazilian government for acceptance of agreement as See Page 12 Col 1

Hearing of Gen Manzur murder case today

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Apr 16: The hearing of the Gen Abul Manzur murder case is due to be held tomorrow in the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate here.
 Court sources said the three arrested retired army officers — Major Gen Abdul Latif, Col Shamsur Rahman and Major Kazi Emdadul Haq — would be produced before the court tomorrow.
 The authorities have taken steps to ensure special security in and around the Chittagong court.
 The three former officers are to be escorted to the court under extra guard from the respective jails where they are being held. Gen Latif is detained in the Dhaka jail, Col Rahman in Tangail jail and Major Emdad in the Comilla jail.
 Earlier, the hearing was fixed for April 11 but the three See Page 12 Col 4

Road mishap kills 4 including 2 BTV staff, PID photographer

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Apr 16: Four people including two BTV staff and a PID photographer were killed this morning in an accident at Chakrasala of Patiya on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Road, police and hospital sources said.
 The dead were identified as A K M Hozzatul Islam, sub-assistant engineer and Abu Taher, camera assistant of the BTV, Monir Hossain Mukul, photographer of PID, Chittagong and Motiur Rahman Gazi, driver of the jeep. They were on way to Cox's Bazar from Chittagong. See Page 12 Col 1

SANYO
 Now Available all over Bangladesh with full After Sales Service

SANYO C-B Series Compressor Incorporating the most advanced Japanese technology

TRANSFIN TRADING LTD.
 (Sole distributor in Bangladesh)
 100, KAZI NAZRUL ISLAM AVENUE
 KARWAN BAZAR
 DHAKA-1215
 TEL: 815306 - 9
 FAX: 880-2-813062

- 87 AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA CHITTAGONG
 TEL: 501082, 503578
 FAX: 880-31-501082
- 58 KHAN-A-SABUR ROAD, KHULNA
 TEL & FAX: 20304
- KAMORE LODGE SHEERPUR ROAD BOGRA
 TEL: 6215
 FAX: 880-51-5499

SR-T43 114 LITERS SR-D73 186 LITERS SR-D183 272 LITERS SF-C95 269 LITERS SF-C65 186 LITERS

■ Saves energy 4-10%
 ■ Noise reduced by 5%