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

1. PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

MOU signed

for another

pvt sector

power plant

By Staff Correspondent

another memorandum of un-

derstanding (MOU) with a for-

eign company for setting up of

a 225 megawatt power genera-

Canada proposed to set up a

thermal steam generation

plant at an estimated cost of

150 million US dollars equiva-

lent Tk 600 crore, near the

Geopetrol International of

tion plant in the country.

The government has signed

- 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

**Business** 

Page 5

50 pc industrial units closed down in Nasirabad

EU. Canada reach accord to end fishing Pages 6, 7

STOCK MARKE

DSE Index 782.10 (+0.74%) Market capitalisation Tk Turnover in volume 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



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 Annexe, Dilkusha premises this morning Former managing director of Sonali Bank Lutfar Rahman

## A Ghant is the chairman. 19 rickshaws

Sarker is the MD while Dr. R

By Staff Correspondent The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in a joint drive vesterday seized 19 unauthorised rickshaws and realised Taka 581 as fine from 15 rickshawpullers for plying rickshows without license in English Road crossing area in the city, says a press release.

### Boy killed in road mishap

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

# The Baily Star BAISHAKH 4, 1402 BS,

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

Rahman vesterday 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." Saffur said replying to a correspon-

Fresh Opposition

programmes

By Staff Correspondent

political parties - the Awami

League, the Jatiya Party and

the Jamaat-e-Islami - have

again announced identical pro-

grammes including sit-in in

front of the office of the

had earlier tendered resigna-

tions, would take part in the

sit-in in the morning to

protest the Speaker's ruling

Parliament is scheduled to be-

Hasina announced her party

programme at a peasants-

workers rally at the

Pan hapath in the city yester-

day while acting chairman of

The government plans to

introduce à permanent distri

bution system of fertiliser and

build a buffer stock of rice to

avert any crisis in future, min-

isters concerned said yester-

Industries are working on a

permanent distribution system

while the Cabinet would

shortly decide the quantity of

food stock to meet any appre-

hended shortfall, some ruling

party policy makers fold The rent farming season.

Officials of the Ministry of

See Page 12 Col 7

Awami League chief Sheikh

The next session of

The opposition MPs, who

Speaker on April 24.

on their resignations.

gin on the day.

The mainstream Opposition

'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 hu-

features of our economy." Salfur 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

we'll highlight the redeeming

We'll go to Paris where

due to be held in Paris on April According to an aid memo-

randum, 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 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

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

The revenue earning is Tk 840 crore or 15 per cent higher than the income during the corresponding period of the last fiscal mention in the second Sec 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 Hospitall DMCH).

THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN

They were identified as

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressed a public meeting at Panthapath in the city

DOHAR. Apr. 16: Prime

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia

today sought the people's sup-

port to keep continuity of the

ongoing development pro-

grammes aimed at ensuring

welfare of the nation, reports

ing development process con-

for our children," she said.

tinue to ensure a better future

large public meeting at the

We need to let the ongo-

Begum Zia was addressing a

Meninging The develop-

meins attained by her govern-

ment in different sectors, the

Prime Minister, however,

blamed the Opposition for try-

ing to hinder the progress be-

cause of the growing popularity

parties are creating different

crisis and hindering the devel-

opment activities by resorting

to undemocratic activities like

The worried opposition

of the BNP.

Ibrahim. 30, and Selim 25,"both sons of Miru Mian, proprietor of 'Miru Mian Shahi Biriani House - Kazi Nasir, 45. manager of the restaurant and a son-in-law of Miru, gas pipeline welders Majed, 30, Nasu, 28, Safar Ali, 28, and Nure Alam, 35, Biriani 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

- Star photo

hartals and sieges, she alleged.

the Awami League, Begrim Zia

said: "To stop the develop-

ment process they have joined

hands with the autocratic

forces to malign a democratic

She lamented that the nec-

essary cooperation expected of

the Opposition political parties

to carry forward the develop-

ment programmes and democ-

Sec Page 12 Col 2

a social

movement

day called for turning sports

into a social movement like

education for upgrading it to

international standard to place

See Page 12 Col 7

the country in a dignified posi-

The Prime Minister vester-

Turn sports into

The Prime Minister reiter

racy had been absent.

and people's government."

In an oblique reference to

The MOU was earlier approved by a cabinet sub-committee. The Calgary, Alberta-See Page 12 Col 3

Mongla port.

# return home within 2 weeks

alias Dalim who was serving as from April 12.

had been sent on retirement

shortly. It is also learnt that Dalim

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

istrate here.

ficers - 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 Chitlagong court.

fixed for April 11 but the three See Page 12 Col 4

# Kuwait to help set up oil refinery

AL, JP have reunited to

malign democracy: PM

By Staff Correspondent

**SANYO C-B Series Compressor** 

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Kuwait will help set up an oil retinery in Bangladesh. Disclosing this at a press

briefing à Foreign Ministry spokesman said vesterday 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 During the just concluded

visit. Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Saad Al-Abdallah Al-Salem 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 By Staff Correspondent Lt. Col (reid) Shariful Huq

the country's High Commissioner to Kenya, has been retired from service with effect A Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday said that Dalim

on completion of 25 years of government service. A gazette notification to this effect will be published

has been asked to return home within two weeks.

hearing of the Gen Abul Manzur murder case is due to be held tomorrow in the court of the Chief Metropolitan Mag-

Court sources said the three arrested retired army of-

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

# 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 acciident 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

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

# 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 vesterday afternoon.

Citing instances of providing subsidy in the agriculture sector in many countries, the AL chief said that despite an

Permanent fertiliser distribution

system, buffer rice stock planned

We are on the way to fi-

He said that because of the

By Asiuzzaman

nalise a permanent distribu-

tion system of fertiliser in the

country", said State Minister

for Industries Lutfar Rahman

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 cur-

Khan.

tagonism 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 re-

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, well keep our words if we go to power' The AL leader blamed the

BNP government for what she See Page 12 Col 1

Declining to give details of

the new system being evolved,

the state minister said

"lertiliser will be demanded

again in September and we are

ment on political conse-

quences' of the crisis and re-

sponsibility of the Agriculture

eral and LGRD Minister Abdus

Salam Talukdar said that the

See Page 12 Col 6

JP urges PM to

resign over

fertiliser crisis

By Staff Correspondent

yesterday said Prime Minister

Khaleda Zia should resign tak-

ing the full responsibility for

her government's failure to re-

solve the fertiliser crisis in the

no single minister should be

responsible for a failure .... It is

the failure of the government

as a whole, they told a rally in

JP organised a peasant work

ers rally at Bangabandhu Av

of the Baitul Mukarram

Mosque) as part of the main-

stream Opposition's identical

programme to protest the gov-

ernment's alleged failure in

The Dhaka city unit of the

"In a parliamentary system.

country

Jatiya Party (JP) leaders

Ruling BNP Secretary Gen

Ministry in this regard.

He was unwilling to com-

fully aware of it.

# Mujibnagar Day today By Staff Correspondent

yesterday.

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 Baidyanathtola 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

# 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

# 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, reenue (near the southern gate

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, con-

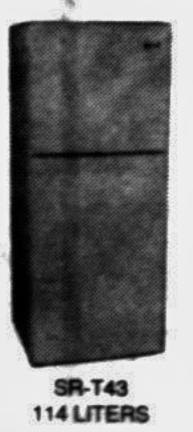
States Agency for International Development in India signed a memorandum of understanding with the Agra Iron Foundry Association to provide foundry owners state-of-the-art pollution prevention technology.

# solving the food and fertiliser servationists said. On Sunday, the United

### crises. Presided over by the city unit president, Col (retd) M A A acting JP chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, presidmembers Barrister

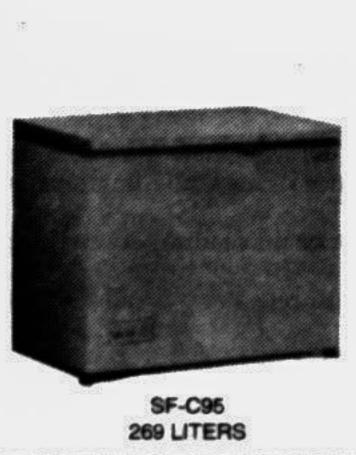
# Malek, the rally was addressed Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Shah Moazzem Sec Page 12 Col 3









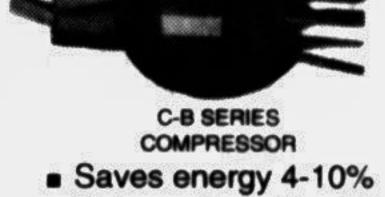




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