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ANNOUNCEMENT

'Save Dhaka' Campaign

The Daily Star will launch a 'Save Dhaka Campaign' beginning April 23, as part of our Agenda '95. The campaign will focus on different aspects of the capital which is seized with numerous problems affecting civic life. Among the broad themes to be covered are problems of Urbanisation and Housing, Traffic and Transport, Civic Amenities, Health, Pollution and lack of recreation facilities. Stories on different aspects will be printed on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our aim would be to highlight some of the problems faced by the city dwellers. On the days in between, except Fridays, pictures or photo reports depicting problems of living in Dhaka would be featured. We look forward to readers' response and solicit their contributions and suggestions.

— Editor

Inside Today

Article

Democracy, Good Governance and Development in the post-Cold War Era
 by M Saifur Rahman
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Malaysia, Egypt reject indefinite extension of NPT
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Business

Agrani Bank representative office in Malaysia shortly
"Efforts can help Dhaka Check replace Muslin"
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STOCK MARKET

DSE Index	775.00 (+0.56%)
Market capitalization Tk	42.80 billion
Turnover in volume	79914
Turnover in value Tk	13.10 million

Weekend Magazine

Singapore: A city of superlatives; The media gets the message; Shahabuddin: A continuous journey to creation; Entertainment—; and Rising Stars: Teens and Twenties; Living
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NEWS BRIEFS

Nor'wester hits Barisal

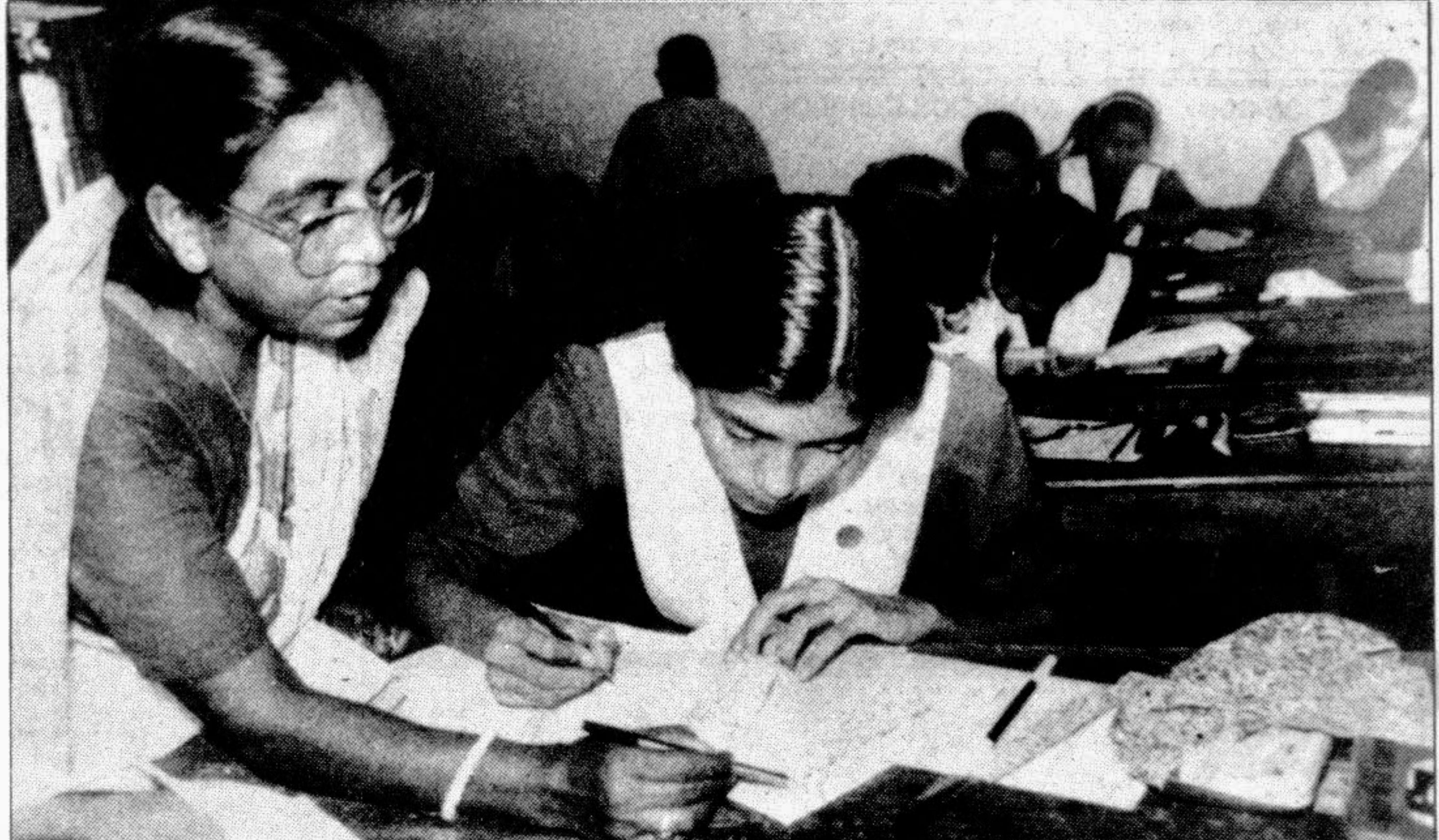
From Staff Correspondent
 BARISAL, Apr 20: A nor-wester that hit Sadar and Hizla thana areas this evening damaged crops, and uprooted trees. Three hundred thatched houses were razed to the ground.

Oklahoma blast: Hasina shocked

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock over the loss of life and property in the car bomb explosion in the American city of Oklahoma on Wednesday. "I am deeply concerned at the casualties in this deadly explosion," she said in a message sent to US President Bill Clinton, reports UNB.

Salam Talukder tells The Daily Star Elections next winter

By Asiuzzaman
 Ruling party Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder said yesterday that general elections would be held in the coming winter. "November-December is the appropriate time for holding the elections and we are getting ready for that," the BNP leader told The Daily Star in an exclusive interview. Salam Talukder hoped that all political parties would participate in the coming elections since "We expect to reach a consensus with the agitating opposition parties." Asked about the way to reach a negotiated settlement, he said "everything is possible through dialogue." He, however, did not elaborate. Talukder also said that election campaign has already been started informally and development works carried out by Begum Zia's government would be the main campaign issue of the BNP. The BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister said he would contact his Awami League counterpart, Zillur Rahman, for a dialogue within the next few days. The interview was taken on his way to Kaliakoir where he laid the foundation stone of the second bridge over the river Turag at Chhabagan point, some 40 km from the capital. Later, he addressed a big public meeting at the Kazi Saidul Alam School ground. Salam Talukder said he had started trying to contact his AL counterpart over phone since April 15 and finally got him on the 17th. "I told him that we should get rid of the present political situation for the sake of the country and the people," Talukder said, adding, "he agreed with me but said I will let you know after consultation with our party chief." The ruling party leader said "His telephonic call was a follow up of the repeated offers made by BNP Chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for a dialogue." "When we waited for their response they alleged we did not follow up the Prime Minister's offer, made in Parliament, and when we contact them they misinterpret it," he said. Talukder said the Prime Minister mentioned his telephonic contact with Zillur Rahman as a reference to our latest move for a negotiated settlement. He regretted the press statement the AL General Secretary issued Wednesday in response of the PM's speech in Chittagong. Later, at the public meeting, Salam Talukder accused the opposition parties of creating anarchy in the name of agitation for a caretaker government. He said the government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was not a 'caretaker government,' rather, it was a 'constituent' government. See Page 8 Col 7



A teacher explains to a student how to fill the computerised answer script form on the first day of this year's SSC examinations at a city school yesterday. — Star photo

Many sit without admit cards: 580 expelled Cocktail attack, arson mark first day of SSC exams

By Staff Correspondent
 At least 580 students were expelled for cheating, some cocktails exploded near a few examination centres while angry students even set fire to at least one centre on the first day of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations throughout the country yesterday, according to reports available in the city. However, the examinations were, by and large, held peacefully. The untoward incidents happened in Comilla district and in Sreepur under Gazipur district. Hartal calls by agitating students who didn't get their admit cards in Barisal, Bhola and Jessore were ignored. In some centres, a number of students sat for the examinations without any admit card. Over 7.50 lakh students are appearing in the examinations under Dhaka, Comilla, Rajshahi and Jessore Boards. There are some 754 centres including five abroad. In Dhaka Board, 111 students were expelled for adopting unfair means. Of them, 6 are from Narsingdi district, 3 each from Munshiganj and Gazipur, 10 from Manikganj, 11 from Tangail, 3 from Faridpur, 4 from Madaripur, 2 from Shariatpur, 3 from Kaptai, 21 from Mymensingh, 5 from Jamalpur, 13 from Kishoreganj, 9 from Netrokona and 18 from Sherpur. Some students, who failed to appear at the examinations for not getting admit cards, set fire to the Balragirchala centre in Sreepur. Examinations, however, were held peacefully. More than 200 students were expelled from the centres under Comilla Board. Of them, 141 are from Chittagong district, 19 from Cox's Bazar, 39 from Comilla, 9 from Laxmipur, 5 from Habiganj, 5 from Khagrachhari and one from Rangamati. Our Comilla Correspondent says, angry students charged cocktails at the Talagram High School centre in Barura thana as some 740 students of Barahata High School were not allowed to sit for the examinations due to their faulty registration. See Page 8 Col 6

Car bomb rips apart US Fed bldg: 31 die

OKLAHOMA CITY (Oklahoma), Apr 20: The death toll from a powerful car bomb that devastated a federal government building here Wednesday has risen to 31, with an estimated 200 injured and 300 missing, officials said reports AFP. The nine-storey building, which was virtually sheared in half, housed a day-care centre and at least 17 children were among those reported dead. Attorney General Janet Reno said that some 550 people were assigned to the downtown building and that 300 people were unaccounted for, including 20 of the 40 children that were in the day-care centre. Carl Spengler, one of the first physicians to arrive at the scene, said 31 people died. See Page 8 Col 7

AL ready for peaceful dialogue: Hasina Steps taken to strengthen economy: PM

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her party is ready to "search for a peaceful and negotiated solution" to the current political impasse, reports UNB. But she made it clear that she would not be a party to any plan in which the democratic rights of the people will not be supreme. "That is a pledge I am determined to uphold," Hasina told foreign diplomats at a luncheon hosted by Italian Ambassador Claudio Pacifico on behalf of the European Union at his residence. About the Prime Minister's offer for dialogue with her, Hasina said, "She should speak to me if she felt it was necessary." Although the Prime Minister admitted that a crisis is prevailing, "Until today she (PM) has not found it necessary," she told the function. "So, that is where the matter rests... Let there be no mistake on this point, the ball is in her court," Hasina said. On the proposed caretaker government, the Awami League Chief told the envoys from European countries that all the opposition parties were convinced that "This government cannot be trusted to hold a fair election... So, our movement for a neutral government during the election period will continue until our goal is attained." Hasina gave a resume on events and developments in politics since Prime Minister Begum Zia took over in 1991 against the backdrop of anti-autocracy movement. She said the opposition had cooperated with the government so that parliamentary democracy was restored. See Page 8 Col 2

Workers assault garments factory owner PM leaves for Pakistan Monday 2 trade, investment accords likely

By Staff Correspondent
 Agitated workers of a garments factory yesterday dragged out and paraded its owner in the city streets, garlanding him with a wreath of shoes, witnesses said, reports UNB. The outrageous "punishment" was prompted by the reported failure of the management of Flint Garments, located at Shantinagar, to pay its 450 workers for the last six months. After repeated appeals went unheeded, the workers resorted to such action, said one worker. "We were forced to work for 12 to 14 hours a day, which we accepted because we have no alternative. But even then, we were not getting our dues for the last six months," he said without giving his name. The Managing Director and General Manager of the factory were marched to the Press Club in the afternoon by the workers. See Page 8 Col 1

By Staff Correspondent
 Bangladesh and Pakistan are expected to sign two bilateral agreements for boosting trade and investment during the forthcoming official visit of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to Islamabad. One of the agreements will be on promotion of investment while the other will be related to agricultural cooperation, sources indicated yesterday. Both the agreements are expected to be signed under the auspices of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) of the two countries. The last meeting of the JEC was held in July, 1993. Begum Zia goes to Pakistan on April 24 on a two-day visit as the SAARC Chairperson. Pakistan will be the last SAARC country to be visited by Begum Zia before the SAARC summit with the exception of India where she made an official trip in May, 1992. During her trip to Pakistan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Begum Zia will hold official talks on bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern. The two leaders are also expected to discuss the progress of the decade old regional body. Although Pakistan has hinted that President Farooq Ahmed Leghari would be representing Islamabad at the SAARC summit, Begum Zia is likely to request Benazir Bhutto to attend the New Delhi summit. Begum Zia's entourage will include Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan and other high officials.

SAARC leaders may visit Simla during summit

By Staff Correspondent
 The official programme of the next SAARC summit in New Delhi is likely to include a visit to Simla. The retreat to Simla has been planned for May 3, the second day of the three-day summit, a source said yesterday. The leaders of the seven-nation regional organisation are likely to be flown to Simla by special aircraft on the morning of May 3, be back to New Delhi in the evening. Simla, which had served as the summer capital of British India, is likely to be the venue of the summit. See Page 8 Col 4

Donors' political motive also to blame for aid fatigue: Saifur

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday cautioned that any cut in aid flow from the affluent societies to developing countries would be "a serious blow to their growth". reports UNB. At a high-profile seminar in the UK, he said most developing countries still required external resources for minimum physical and social infrastructure and basic healthcare facilities. "To contain population growth and provide minimum healthcare facilities, expenditures on health alone in developing countries require to be raised by four times," Rahman said. He charged the donors with using aid as a weapon for protecting their political and commercial interests. Tied aid, he pointed out, constitutes about two-thirds of all bilateral assistance that forces the recipients to buy goods and services from donor countries at a non-competitive price. The finance minister was delivering the key-note speech on "Democracy, Good Governance and Development in the Post-Cold War Era" at the seminar at Overseas Development Institute in London yesterday afternoon. See also Page 4

A selected audience including intellectuals and scholars of the UK and other Western countries, attended the seminar, according to a message received in Dhaka. Rahman said disparity between the rich and the poor in the post-cold war world continued to widen threatening the society with outburst of extremism deadlier than that of the Cold War era. Rahman cited rate of unemployment in developing countries like Bangladesh (37 per cent) far exceeds the "catastrophic" heights of 18 per cent joblessness in the USA during the great depression. He criticised the developed countries for continuously denying technology for raising productivity to the poorer countries which has been the root of disparity between the North and the South. "The widening gap between these societies (affluent and poor) was not produced alone by economic exploitation of imperial powers. The disequilibrium of underdevelopment arose mainly from the incomplete transfer of technology of the North to South", he said. Rahman, while recognising that inefficient use of aid contributed to the current 'aid fatigue' in the affluent societies, said donors' political motive is also to blame for reducing the efficacy of aid. See Page 8 Col 8

S Arabia repeats warning to pilgrims Passport offices to be set up in 3 dists

DUBAI, Apr 20: Saudi Arabia repeated its warning today to pilgrims not to carry banned political books, distribute leaflets or stage rallies during the Hajj, the official Saudi news agency SPA reported, says Reuter. The pilgrimage ministry said in a statement that Muslims will be banned from carrying out political activities, including holding seminars and rallies. SPA reported. Saudi Arabia, which hosts more than two million pilgrims a year, issues the same warning before each Hajj. It issued a similar message earlier this month. The latest message comes after Libya began sending plane-loads of pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, including at least one flight that diplomats said violated UN sanctions by using a Libyan plane to fly to the Saudi airport in Jeddah. Libya is barred from international flights under UN sanctions imposed for its refusal to hand over two suspects wanted in the West in connection with the Lockerbie plane bombing. See Page 8 Col 2

Star Report
 The government plans to set up three more passport offices in different parts of the country to meet the increasing demands for passports, sources at the Passport and Immigration Department said. The new offices are likely to be opened in Jessore, Faridpur and Noakhali, the sources said. With the new additions, the total number of passport offices in the country will stand at 12. The demands for passports are rising so rapidly that the existing nine offices find it extremely difficult to cope with, the sources pointed out. An official of the Passport and Immigration Department said its Dhaka office is the busiest in the country. Initially, the office was set up to issue about 350 passports a day. But more than 1,200 passports are issued from the office every day, he added. Plans are also at a very advanced stage to build new premises for the Dhaka office on a three-acre plot near the Radio station in Agargaon in the city, it was pointed out. The official said that the new premises will have all facilities for a modern office including a bank. Moreover, it will house all the sections of the Passport and Immigration Department. At present the passport office is housed in a two-storied building at New Eskaton Road, which is grossly short of any standard. The projected arrangements in Jessore, Noakhali and Faridpur, once implemented, will help reduce pressure on the capital's overcrowded office. The department now charges Tk 3,000 for issuance of a passport in 72 hours, which is known as 'urgent'; Tk 1,200 for 'urgent' and it takes one month to issue and the 'ordinary' may take six months or more to be issued for a charge of Tk 600.

Mother repeats message of love

By Staff Correspondent
 The visiting Nobel laureate Mother Teresa has appealed to the people to maintain family and social ties and love each other because "love is the most beautiful gift of God who loves all of us." "We've been created to live together and love each other. Love begins at home. Therefore, love your own people first and then love your next-door neighbours," she told a reception accorded to her by the Rotary Club at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday evening. Speaking on the role of her Calcutta-based Missionaries of Charity, the 85-year-old Albanian-born nun said, all of us must bring the presence of God into the families for peace and joy in a world now beset with poverty, misery and hatred. Mother Teresa, who is in Bangladesh on a five-day visit, also narrated her experiences in serving the suffering humanity. She appealed to the people to fight poverty and serve the poor, the unloved and the uncared for in the society. Addressing the function as chief guest, Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury highly praised Mother Teresa for her service to the down-trodden. "Serving mankind, the greatest creation of Allah, is also a teaching of the Holy Quran," he pointed out. Prof Chowdhury described Mother Teresa as a symbol of hope for the suffering humanity. Earlier, the Nobel laureate, who was honoured with bouquets, distributed certificates among the Rotary Club units and individual Rotarians for their outstanding social services. Four girl students of the Bangladesh International Tutorial of Gulshan Avenue presented a scrapbook to Mother Teresa. The scrapbook is a research work on Mother Teresa. The reception was also addressed by Rotary International District 3280 Bangladesh Governor M Mosharrar Hossain and programme coordinator M Ali Mahub. Ministers, diplomats and other distinguished persons attended the function. UNB adds, Mother Teresa yesterday inaugurated a service to the down-trodden. See Page 8 Col 3



Mother Teresa

Badruddoza Chowdhury highly praised Mother Teresa for her service to the down-trodden. "Serving mankind, the greatest creation of Allah, is also a teaching of the Holy Quran," he pointed out.