

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: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

The Daily Star

**Fingertip
 Convenience**
 Standard Chartered
 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

VOL. V NO. 102 REGD. NO. DA 781 BAISHAKH 20, 1402 BS, DHAKA WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1995 ZILHAJJ 2, 1415 HIJRI

Inside Today
Article

**Only the
 Wearer Knows**
 Column: Another Voice
 by Kazi Fazlur
 Rahman
 Page 4

International

**Fighting flares in
 Chechnya defying
 ceasefire**

**N Korea agrees to hold
 talks with US**
 Page 5

Business

**Cell to wind up Coal
 Directorate to be closed
 by June 30**

**Delay in reaching int'l
 compensation plan:
 BCCI depositors lose
 \$ 100m**
 Pages 6, 7

STOCK MARKET

DSE Index	763.81 (-0.27%)
Market capitalisation Tk	44.70 billion
Turnover in volume	92411
Turnover in value Tk	23.85 million

Feature

**Science &
 Technology**

**Scientists propose the
 ultimate message in a
 bottle; and Waits in
 the wind**
 Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



**Is Using Public
 Transport a Hazard?**
 Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

**Fertiliser crisis:
 Body begins work**

The judicial enquiry commission on the fertiliser crisis began its work yesterday at the first floor of the old High Court building. All concerned have been requested to submit their statements in writing or verbally to the commission from 9 am to 2 pm on all working days, reports BSS.

**RU registrar
 made OSD**

RAJSHAH. May 2. The Registrar of the Rajshahi University, Omar Farook, has been made OSD while three other officials have been suspended for allegedly misappropriating Tk 48 lakh. The other three are: deputy librarian Farook Ahmed, junior librarian Akhtar Jahan and section officer Nazrul Haq. The University Syndicate, at a meeting on Monday, took the action against the four on the basis of a report of an inquiry committee formed in 1991 to probe the scandal, reports UNB.

**Gen Nasim returns
 from Bosnia**

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim Bir Bikram returned home Monday ending his visit to Bosnia. An ISPR press release said. During the visit, the Chief of Army Staff met the members of the Bangladesh battalion in Bihac and saw their activities. He also called on the special representative of the UN Secretary General Yasushi Akashi

JCS leader shot

By Staff Correspondent
 A Jatya Chhatra Samaj (JCS) leader received bullet injuries at Maghbazar area in the city yesterday night. Jahangir Alam, the city unit president of the JCS, student wing of the Jatya Party, was shot near the Maghbazar T&T office at about 8:30 pm.

Accord to ratify SAPTA by Nov 8

NEW DELHI, May 2: Seven South Asian nations starting a summit meeting in New Delhi today have agreed on preferential trade arrangements and are studying setting up a regional free-trade zone, officials said, report Reuters, AP.

They said leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), representing 1.2 billion people, were confident of forging closer economic links despite their political differences.

In the first move toward a regional trading bloc, the seven countries' foreign ministers yesterday approved a draft accord for a regional trade agreement that would begin lowering tariffs on certain goods by Dec 8.

The ministers also proposed gradually lowering tariffs on a broader range of goods and eventually building a trade bloc known as the South Asia Free Trade Area.

Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider said the foreign ministers also agreed to set up a South Asian Development Fund.

The Foreign Ministers agreed today to take steps to

ratify the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) by November 8, so that it would become operational by December 8 — SAARC's 10th anniversary.

SAARC officials said a key objective of the group's meeting was to kick-start the stalled trade pact signed at the last summit in 1993 in Dhaka.

The organisation groups India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

"Given the tardiness of all SAARC countries in translating intent into action, only optimists will believe that SAPTA will actually be in place by the end of this year," the Economic Times said today.

Differences surfaced today in the opening speeches when Pakistan called for a regional accord on nuclear disarmament — a stark India opposes.

"We are hopeful the leadership in South Asia will have the vision to rise above local considerations to ban nuclear weapons," said President Farooq Leghari.

The remark was clearly aimed at India, the only other



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia (R) and her Indian counterpart P V Narasimha Rao during the opening ceremony of the eighth South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit yesterday at New Delhi's Vigyan Bhavan. — AFP/UNB photo.

Strengthen bonds to remove regional sorrows: Khaleda

NEW DELHI, May 2: Outgoing SAARC chairperson and Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here today that the member nations of the association should strengthen their bonds and build up mutual confidence to remove their differences for bringing an end to the sorrows of this region, reports BSS.

"We must cooperate with one another to assist SAARC achieve its aims. We cannot, and must not detract from our purpose," Begum Zia said at the inaugural session of the eighth SAARC summit at the Vigyan Bhavan here.

The SAARC, Begum Zia said, had strengthened the concept that "we in South Asia are a family."

She, however, said that we remain deeply divided and there were ethnic, communal and social divergences between and within states.

Regretting that dark forces had at times taken hold of the

minds and hearts of the people of the region, she said. They had wrought death and destruction. They had plotted to rip apart the fabric of our social unity and fed bigotry and prejudices.

SAARC, the Prime Minister said, was founded to remove sorrows of the people of the South Asian region.

"Let summits such as this provide the spark to light the torch of friendship and amity in our region," Begum Zia said.

Earlier, Begum Zia formally opened the eighth summit.

After the inaugural speech by Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, the meeting adopted the agenda of the summit.

Begum Zia conducted the opening session till the election of Narasimha Rao as the chairman of the eighth SAARC summit.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia steered the seven-nation regional for two

CEC vows to ensure free, fair polls

By Krishna P Roy

The newly appointed Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Justice A K M Sadeque, has expressed his determination to ensure an "unprecedented" free and fair election.

"I know, the next general elections would be very tough. But I will make sure the polls are free, fair and impartial," Justice Sadeque said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star yesterday.

"I have no compulsion to satisfy any quarter since I cannot be terminated by anybody, except a supreme judicial council," before the completion of my five-year tenure.

"In accordance with the Constitution, no body can also re-appoint me to any post of the state. So, why shall I not be neutral since my job is doubly guaranteed," the 65-year old former Judge said. Justice Sadeque retired as a Judge of the High Court Division in January this year.

"The election rules would be enforced strictly to ensure free and fair elections," he said. "And I shall also propose more rules for the sake of impartial and peaceful elections."

The CEC further said, "I shall also try to keep elections free from the influence of arms and black money."

Asked whether it is possible for the Election Commission to hold free and fair polls with the power it now enjoys, he said, "of course, it is possible."

Terminating his new job a 'challenging one', the CEC said. The next election, is not far away. So it is a great respon-

sibility for me to arrange everything within this short time," he said.

"It is a time-consuming matter to register about 60 million voters, collecting all details about them. The EC would start registration of voters from May 25," Justice Sadeque said.

He said a 'full-scale operation' for registration of voters will begin simultaneously in all the thanas and hearing of delimitation of constituencies will begin on May 15.

Leaders firm to attain SAARC goal

NEW DELHI, May 2: The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), launched in Dhaka nearly a decade ago, moved a step further today as the South Asian leaders opened their eighth summit in this historic garden city, pledging their strong commitment to make the forum more purposeful, reports BSS.

The three-day summit being attended by the heads of the state or government of all the seven-member nations, is expected to give fresh impetus to the on-going regional cooperation as the leaders in their speeches in the inaugural session expressed their firm eagerness to take the forum to the cherished objective for the

Manzur murder trial resumes May 17

CHITTAGONG, May 2: The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Chittagong today adjourned the hearing of the case relating to the alleged 1981 murder of Maj Gen Abul Manzur until May 17.

After a 75-minute session of stormy arguments between the defence lawyers and the prosecution, represented by the Assistant Commissioner, Prosecution, CMM Matur Rahman set the fresh date and ordered the three accused former army officials to be sent back to the respective jails where they were being held.

Earlier, after several postponements, the three accused — Maj Gen (ret'd) Abdul Latif, Lt Col (ret'd) Shamsur Rahman and Major Kazi Emdadul Haque — were finally brought to Chittagong from Dhaka, Tangail and Comilla jails respectively for being produced in court.

While Shamsur Rahman and Emdadul Haque were brought to the court, situated atop the Parir Pahar hillock here at 8:45 am Gen Latif was brought from the Dhaka Central Jail in a minibus under extra police escort shortly before noon.

No sooner the court was

India, Pakistan to resume Kashmir talks

NEW DELHI, May 2: India and Pakistan on Tuesday agreed to resume talks on the Kashmir dispute which have made no progress since they were held 18 months ago, reports AP.

"Our outstanding problems need to be resolved through peaceful and not military means," Pakistan's President Farooq Leghari told reporters after a 45-minute meeting with Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao in New Delhi.

The leaders of both nations met for the first time in two years. India accuses Pakistan of training and arming Muslim secessionists in Kashmir, a charge Islamabad denies.

"It is important to talk about Kashmir and other issues with India," Leghari said but clarified that no date has been fixed for future meetings.

Prime Minister Rao said: "We are open to reviving the dialogue. There is no insurmountable barrier to resuming the talks."

Latif signs retraction petition in court

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 2: The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Chittagong today adjourned the hearing of the case relating to the alleged 1981 murder of Maj Gen Abul Manzur until May 17.

After a 75-minute session of stormy arguments between the defence lawyers and the prosecution, represented by the Assistant Commissioner, Prosecution, CMM Matur Rahman set the fresh date and ordered the three accused former army officials to be sent back to the respective jails where they were being held.

Earlier, after several postponements, the three accused — Maj Gen (ret'd) Abdul Latif, Lt Col (ret'd) Shamsur Rahman and Major Kazi Emdadul Haque — were finally brought to Chittagong from Dhaka, Tangail and Comilla jails respectively for being produced in court.

While Shamsur Rahman and Emdadul Haque were brought to the court, situated atop the Parir Pahar hillock here at 8:45 am Gen Latif was brought from the Dhaka Central Jail in a minibus under extra police escort shortly before noon.

No sooner the court was

Companies' Profits Act may be amended

The government is likely to amend the Companies Profits (Workers Participation) Act, 1966 to allow the workers drawing monthly salary of up to Tk 9,000 enjoy the share of a company's profit, reports UNB.

The workers and employees who draw more than Tk 5,500 as monthly salary are not now eligible to enjoy the shares of a company's profit, known as the Workers' Participation Fund.

Under the proposed amendment, an official source said a worker will be defined as an employee whose basic monthly wages do not exceed Tk 9,000 and who has been in the employment of the company for a period of not less than six months.

The Banking Division of the Ministry of Finance has already prepared a proposal in this regard and it is expected to be placed before the Cabinet meeting soon for approval.

The proposal was made in view of the rise in salary in recent years which had deprived many employees and workers from getting the benefit of the fund.

Moreover, different associations, labour trustee councils and organisations requested the authorities to change the worker's definition to conform the age-old act with the changed time.

The Ministry of Labour and Manpower has given its consent for the amendment and the finance minister has recommended it.

May Day observed

By Staff Correspondent

The historic May Day commemorating the sacrifices made by the workers in Chicago city, USA, in 1886 that paved the way for establishing rights of the working class was observed in the country Monday as elsewhere in the world.

Different political, socio-cultural and labour bodies marked the day by holding seminars, symposia and cultural functions which pledged afresh to uphold the dignity and rights of the workers. The contribution of the workers of Chicago in fixing eight-hour working duty for a labourer was recalled on the occasion.

The day was a public holiday. The national dailies brought out special supplements.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressed a public meeting at Lalidighi Maidan in Chittagong on May 1.

US trade ban on Iran

NEW YORK, May 2: President Bill Clinton late on Sunday accused Iran of being the "paymaster to terrorists" and said he was cutting off all US trade and investment with Tehran, including more than 4 billion dollars in oil purchases annually, reports Reuters.

"My decision to impose this embargo should make clear to Iran and to the whole world the unrelenting determination of the United States to do all that we can to arrest the behaviour and ambitions of that nation," Clinton said.

He charged that "Iran has broadened its role as inspiration and paymaster to terrorists, and there is nothing to suggest that further engage-

Hasina starts visit to 4 dists today

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka today on a three-day visit to the Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Netrakona and Kishoreganj districts as part of her country-wide campaign for early general elections under a caretaker government, reports UNB.

Hasina will address several public meetings and wayside rallies during the organisational tour to drum up public support for her current anti-government agitation.

Earlier, the Awami League chief ended a six-day extensive tour of the Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

7 killed in incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

At least four persons were killed, three reportedly committed suicide while another two were injured in separate incidents in the city and Narayanganj during the last two days.

A rickshaw-puller was murdered by one of his relatives at Bandar, Narayanganj Monday. The victim identified as Mohammad Israfil, 32, was attacked by his brother-in-law Golap at about 9 in the morning.

Golap hit Israfil on his head by a piece of wood. Seriously injured Israfil was rushed to the Narayanganj Sadar Hospital and later shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died at 6 pm on the same day.

Relatives told that Israfil had been murdered due to family feud.

A pedestrian aged about 65 was killed when a speeding bus ran over him at Rayerbagh on the Chittagong road Monday night.

The victim was not immediately identified and was sent to the DMCH where the attending doctors declared him dead.

In another incident, a minor boy was killed when he fell from a two-storied building at West Ulun under Gulshan post.

5685 Rohingyas missing from camps

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, May 2: A total of 5685 Rohingya refugees were found missing during the head count Sunday in the camps they were sheltered.

According to official sources here, 54479 Rohingyas refugees were found staying at the nine existing camps in the district. After the repatriation of 190713 refugees to their homeland Myanmar, the number of remaining refugees was supposed to be 60164. The names of 25087 Rohingyas, See Page 12 Col 8

Afzal takes oath as CJ

Justice Abu Taher Mohammad Afzal was sworn in as Chief Justice (CJ) of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh at a simple ceremony Monday, reports UNB.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas administered the oath at Bangabhaban in the morning.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was present on the occasion.

Afzal is the country's eighth Chief Justice, two of whom had the honour of running state affairs as president.

He succeeded Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman, who retired on Sunday.

See Page 12 Col 6

SC bar fetes CJ Afzal, M H Rahman

Newly-appointed Chief Justice Abu Taher Mohammad Afzal yesterday said the people, unlike in the past, now feel hesitant to repose their confidence in the country's judiciary, reports UNB.

"Let us be careful in fulfilling our responsibilities according to our conscience," Justice Afzal told a reception accorded to him by the Supreme Court Bar Association at its auditorium in the afternoon.

The Bar also bid farewell to outgoing chief justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman.

See Page 12 Col 6

Opposition's protest day tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The mainstream opposition political parties, now agitating for an early general election under a non-party caretaker administration, will observe a 'Protest Day' throughout the country tomorrow.

The day will be observed through rallies and processions in protest against the BNP government's non-acceptance of demand.

With the observance of the 'Protest Day', the Opposition's current phase of agitation programmes, announced separately by the Awami League, Jatya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami on April 16 also to protest the price-hike of essentials and the recent fertiliser scandal, will come to a conclusion.

These parties are expected to declare another set of agitation programmes shortly to press for their demand, according to sources.

Int'l Press Freedom Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The International Press Freedom Day will be observed in the country today as elsewhere in the world.

Declared by the United Nations (UN) two years ago, the day's theme this year is "No to silence, No to death."

In 1994, more than 100 media professionals in the world were killed in violence while discharging their professional duties and more than 130 journalists are now being held in jails.

In observance of the day the Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh

CHT ceasefire extended

By Staff Correspondent

Ceasefire in the three districts in the Chittagong Hill Tracts has been extended till May 25, an official announcement said yesterday, reports BSS.

The Parbatya Chattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS) has agreed to extend the ceasefire till May 25.

According to the earlier decision of the Bangladesh government and the PCJSS the current ceasefire period ends on May 5.