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**STOCK MARKET**

DSE Index	793.24512
Market capitalisation Tk	44.87 billion
Turnover in volume	98269.25
Turnover in value Tk	22.10 million

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**President assents to one bill**

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday assented to the Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 1995. The bill was passed by the Jatiya Sangsad in its 19th session, said an official handout last night, reports UNB.

**Hartal observed at Raipura**

NARSINGDI, May 3: A half-day hartal, called by a ruling party MP, was observed peacefully in Raipura thana of the district today. Witnesses said the hartal supporters blocked the roads and railways in the thana protesting the attack on the house of Abdul Alim Mridha MP on Sunday, reports UNB.

**B Chy leaves for Saudi Arabia**

Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof A Q-M Badruddoza Chowdhury left Dhaka for Saudi Arabia yesterday to perform holy Hajj as a state guest of the Saudi government. Accompanied by his wife Hasina Warda Chowdhury, son Mahi Chowdhury and daughter Muna Chowdhury, Prof Badruddoza is expected to return home on May 24, reports UNB.

**Convict held after 6 years**

CHITTAGONG, May 3: Police arrested an absconding convict after six years from Reazuddin Bazar area in the port city today. A Special Tribunal court of Cox's Bazar sentenced Alam to 14 years rigorous imprisonment and also fined him Tk 1,000. In default, to suffer another one year in prison, under the Arms Act, reports UNB.

**BDRCS lottery prizes today**

The prizes of the lottery draw of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) will be distributed among the winners at 11:00 am today at the national headquarters of the society, reports BSS.

**SAARC leaders visit Shimla resort**  
**Dhaka-Delhi urgent water talks today**

NEW DELHI, May 3: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had a meeting with Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao here today and discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, reports BSS.

The meeting which lasted for about an hour in the official residence of the Indian Prime Minister, was held in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendliness. Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman told newsmen later.

The issues of sharing of the waters of the Ganges, and repatriation of the Chakma refugees from camps in India, figured prominently in the discussions, the foreign minister said.

As a result of today's meeting, Mostafizur said, foreign secretaries of the two countries will meet here tomorrow on an emergency basis to discuss the water issue.

The Indian Prime Minister assured the Bangladeshi Prime Minister that he would intensify his efforts to resume repatriation of the Chakma refugees.

Mostafizur said, the issue of import of rice from India was discussed and the Indian Prime Minister has instructed his officials to expeditiously complete export of rice to Bangladesh.

Asked whether the 'Shantibahini' issue was discussed at the meeting, the foreign minister answered in the affirmative and said both the prime ministers have reiterated that their territories will not be allowed to be used for

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and new SAARC Chairman Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao in Shimla yesterday.  
—PID photo

**Declaration will call for total N-disarmament**

NEW DELHI, May 3: The draft declaration of the eighth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) will call for total nuclear disarmament under an effective international convention, AFP quoting Press Trust of India said today.

The seven-nation regional grouping will end its three-day meeting tomorrow by calling for a universal and non-discriminatory nuclear control regime, the news agency said.

The draft, finalised by foreign ministers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, trenchantly criticised the arms race, saying peace was the need of the hour.

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**Hasina asks PM to secure share of Ganges water**

SARISHABARI (Jamaipur), May 3: Awami League President Sheikh Hasina today asked Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to secure Bangladesh's legitimate share of the Ganges water from India, reports UNB.

"You better stay back in Delhi, if you fail to realise our just share of the Ganges Water. Please resolve the Farakka problem before returning home," she said.

Hasina was addressing a public meeting at Dighpat this afternoon on the first day of her three-day tour of Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Netrokona and Kishoreganj districts.

The Awami League chief criticised the Prime Minister for not mentioning the Farakka issue in her speech Tuesday at the 8th SAARC Summit in New Delhi.

Hasina said it was the Bangabandhu's government which had brought 44,000 acres of water for Bangladesh.

But this government has sold out the interest of Bangladesh to India, she alleged and said that it failed to settle the Farakka problem even in last four years.

In her scathing remarks, Hasina said during her previous visit to New Delhi, Begum Zia had signed a joint declaration with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao 'sacrificing the country's interest and leading to push-in operation by India.'

On the 25-year Indo-Bangladesh Friendship Treaty, she asked the Prime Minister to make public her government's position on the issue.

After the formation of the SAARC and the accord on the SAPTA, Hasina said there is no need for renewal of the treaty.

"If returned to power, the Awami League will not extend it. But the BNP government must spell out what it will do on completion of the tenure of the treaty."

She was also critical of the BNP government for its failure to check smuggling making Bangladesh a free market of Indian goods.

Presided over by Sarishabari thana Awami League president Abdul Malek, the meeting was also addressed by Mohammad Nasim, Qader Siddiqui, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Syed Natibul Bashar Majibhandari.

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Prayers for rain held

Several hundred people from different walks of life joined prayers for rain at the National Eidgah maidan in the city yesterday morning, reports UNB.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs arranged the *Ishitshkar* prayers in view of the persisting drought and unbearable hot spell across the country.

Islamic Foundation scholar

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**BNP examining issues raised at div confce**

By Staff Correspondent

The central leaders of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) are examining the suggestions and accusations made by the grass-roots level leaders during the Dhaka Divisional Conference of the party this week.

The recorded version of the speeches and a set of recommendations have been given to party chief and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. She is expected to convene a meeting of the Standing Committee of the party to discuss the issues on her return from New Delhi.

Begum Zia returns today after attending the 8th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in the Indian capital.

Some of the BNP stalwarts said that they were not surprised at the speeches of the grass-roots level leaders who criticised central leaders for 'creating factionalism' affecting the party at different levels.

"They expressed their views in front of the party chairperson. It was a rare opportunity for them to inform something to the Prime Minister," one central leader said.

"The mufassil leaders had made similar statements during the closed-door working sessions of the National Council meeting of the party in 1993," the leader added.

The source, who is a Standing Committee member, said most of the party leaders who were not given nomination in the last elections made the common allegation of factionalism saying that party stalwarts had chosen their own men as candidates, who were defeated by the Opposition.

Despite this, he said, the central leaders would take into account the grievances of the mid-level leaders who are often termed the 'driving force' of the party.

Another leader said that the divisional conference in Dhaka had helped identify the problems in different districts, thana and union units of the BNP.

The party high command would take immediate steps to

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**Next budget may correct anomalies in tariff structure**

Further reduction in tariff wall is most unlikely in the national budget for 1995-96 while fine tuning of the tariff structure may get the emphasis.

A well placed official source told UNB yesterday that the budget would rather concentrate on correction of various outstanding anomalies in the tariff structure.

Explaining a possible fiscal framework for 1995-96, the official said that the authorities were giving attention to rationalise duty anomalies between industrial raw materials and finished products.

Private sector often complains that duty rates on a good number of raw materials are still higher than on identical finished products, pushing local products to a disadvantageous position.

An official indicated that there would be less outside interference this time as the government recently refused a World Bank credit (Industrial Sector Adjustment Credit II) which contained stringent conditions on further opening

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Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressed a public meeting at Sarishabari thana in Jamalpur yesterday.

**KAFCO goes into full trial production**  
**Delay in handover costing contractor \$90000 a day**

by S Y Bakht

The Karnaphuli Fertiliser Factory (KAFCO) has finally gone into full-scale trial production, after a number of initial faulty starts because of mechanical problems.

It has already exported some 26,000 metric tonnes (MT) of urea — to India at 230 US dollars per ton — worth some 5.98 million dollars and another 50,000MT of ammonia for 10.6 million dollars.

A top company official, however, says that the plant is not yet ready to be handed over by the general contractor.

The contractor for the turnkey project is liable to pay KAFCO 90,000 US dollars a day for delay in handing over the plant, he adds.

The general contractor for the plant is a consortium of Chiyoda and Marubeni of Japan, and Petrochemical Manufacturers Association of Italy. Both Chiyoda and Marubeni also have equity participation in the 508 million dollar KAFCO project, while the contractor for the plant was worth some 395 million dollars.

The plant is currently running at full capacity for over a month as the contractor's guarantee performance is being conducted to ensure compliance with the contractual specifications.

"We are now hoping that we can sustain the plant at or near design capacity from now on," says Manucher Towhid, managing director of KAFCO, while talking to The Daily Star. The factory is designed to produce 1500 MT of ammonia and another 1725 MT of urea per day.

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**No polls without Ershad: Manju**

Jatiya Party's newly-appointed Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju yesterday said the party would intensify its agitation next month to force the government to release Ershad from jail, reports UNB.

Demanding the release of the JP Chairman, Manju said, "There can be no election without Ershad... we will not let them stay in peace if Ershad is not released immediately."

He was speaking at a reception, accorded to him on his appointment as JP Secretary General at the Diploma Engineers' Institute. The function, organised by JP city unit, was presided over by Col (Retd) M A Malek.

Manju urged the government

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**Multinational begins search for coal**

By Special Correspondent

BHP Minerals, a US-Australia multinational, has started exploration for coal in the northern region of the country.

BHP, the first foreign firm to explore solid minerals in Bangladesh, has been conducting seismic surveys since last month at three sites in Dinajpur and Rangpur districts, official sources said.

The surveys will be followed by drilling in prospective coal deposit bearing locations.

The search for coal is being carried out under an agreement signed in August last year

between BHP Minerals and the Bureau of Mineral Development (BMD) of the Bangladesh government.

The agreement allows the multinational company to work at designated sites outside the areas where coal deposits have already been discovered. The company will also be allowed to extract and market the discovered coal.

BHP has obtained a licence from the BMD to look for coal in three blocks having a total area of 14,000 hectares. The blocks comprise areas in

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**Manzur murder case**  
**Gen Latif's fresh bail prayer rejected**

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 3: The District and Sessions Judge, Chittagong, today rejected a fresh prayer for bail made by Gen Abdul Latif, a co-accused in the Manzur murder case.

After hearing the miscellaneous cause appeal for over an hour Judge Iftekhar Rasul observed: "I am not inclined to enlarge the accused petitioner on bail at this stage of investigation of the case. So his prayer for bail is rejected."

The judge also said that the accused petitioner was an influential man and his retirement from service had not lessened his influence.

During hearing, Gen Latif's lawyer Abul Kalam prayed for bail on social and humanitarian grounds.

He said that Latif was sick and his social image had suffered following his arrest in connection with the present case.

The lawyer argued that

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**53 pc of ADP fund for health sector utilised in 8 months**

By Reaz Ahmed

The two dropped projects are — improvement of Essential Drug Management System and Disaster Preparedness Programme at Banskhal, Chittagong.

The projects which are yet to get fund are: Further Development of the IPGMR, Development of the 250-bed Boga Medical College Hospital, Establishment of 250-bed Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, Establishment of a 31-bed Hospital at Haragachha, Rangpur, Prevention and

Control of AIDS in Bangladesh, Establishment of a 250-bed Hospital at Gazipur, Second Phase of the National Institute of Heart Disease, Establishment of National Institute of Kidney Disease and Urology, School Health Programme, Establishment of 250-bed China-Bangladesh Friendship General Hospital and Extension of the Institute of Chest Disease and Hospital.

The major health sector projects that progressed fast as regards their implementation include construction of 12 nursing training institutes out of the 18 (Project Period or PP: 1980-95), construction of 20 THCs out of the 27 (PP: 1984-96), near-completion of the construction of a 10-bed hospital at Angorapota enclave in Lalmonirhat (PP: 1986-95) and the post-hood rehabilitation of 75 THCs and 20 district hospitals (PP: 1991-95).

Out of '33 packages' of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) assisted Second Health

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Out of '33 packages' of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) assisted Second Health

Cooperation of esteemed consumers/all concerned is solicited for smooth use of electricity available under the present situation & proper implementation of the electricity load management policy.

DPP-10850-29/4  
G-699

**Dhaka Electric Supply Authority**

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**Urgent Notice to Esteemed Power Consumers on Use of Electricity**

Attention of all power consumers & the public is drawn to the following steps in view of ensuring smooth distribution of electricity received from the national grid as per demands of all classes of consumers & implementation of the Govt announced electricity load management policy.

- Irrigation pumps should be kept off during peak hours i.e. 6 pm to 10 pm.
- All kinds of shops & shopping centres except medicine, kutchha bazar, wholesale market of perishables & eating houses, should be kept shut after 8 pm.
- All kinds of illumination shall remain prohibited except on the Govt announced special festival days.
- Use of such high power consuming electrical appliances as iron, heater, cooker, water heater etc shall have to be kept as much possible limited during peak hours i.e. 6 pm to 10 pm.
- Industrial factories running on single shift shall have to operate in day time or remaining time of the night.
- Unnecessary burning of lights and operation of fans & other electrical implements shall have to be discouraged.