

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
 ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
 BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESHWARI 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

**Moneylink
ATM's**
 Standard Chartered
 12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 5.00

VOL. V NO. 120 REGD. NO. DA 781 JAISHTHA 10, 1402 BS, DHAKA WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1995 ZILHAJJ 23, 1415 HIJRI

BUDGET '95-96
Business leaders speak out
 Today Haji Mohammad Ali, Chairman, Bangladesh Jute Goods Association.
 Tomorrow: Rezaul Rahman, President, Association of Air Cargo Agents of Bangladesh.
 See details on page 6

Inside Today
Article
US Veto Must Not Derail Peace Process
 Column: Spotlight on Middle East by Muslehuddin Ahmad
 Page 4

International
 Rebel Congress faces setback
 Cancel visa for Taiwanese president, China tells US
 Page 5

Business
 Bangladesh-Norway MOU on development cooperation signed
 US to abide by WTO ruling in Japan auto case: Brown
 Pages 6, 7

STOCK MARKET

DSE Index	735.03 (4.57%)
Market capital Tk	43.53 billion
Transactions in volume	281747
Transactions in value Tk	34.79 million

Science & Technology
 The use of algae as potential feed supplement for cattle: Nature or Nurture?; and Ancient remedies employed in war against new illnesses
 Page 8

Metropolitan
Dhaka Day by Day
 Right to Information!
 Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS
Ctg Port employees call strike today

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, May 23: The Chittagong Port Employees' Action Committee has called a four-hour strike tomorrow demanding enhancement of wages and other facilities, port sources said. A rally of the workers will be held at the port premises during strike from 8 am to 12 Noon.

One shot dead
 JHENIDAH, May 23: A young man was shot dead allegedly by his rivals at Bakchua village in Harinakunda thana today. Witnesses said Atiar, an ex-activist of the JSD (Rab), was gunned down while he was returning home from Joradaha bazar at 11 am. The body was sent to sadar hospital for autopsy, reports UNB.

Silver goods seized
From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, May 23: The Chittagong Customs officials seized a consignment of silver goods worth about Taka one crore from the Chittagong port this afternoon. Official sources said the silver goods were imported under a false declaration as ingots. Details were not available immediately.

CCC budget tomorrow
 CHITTAGONG, May 23: The budget of the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) for 1995-96 financial year will be announced on Thursday. Mayor Alhaj ABM Mohiuddin will announce the budget at a press conference in the corporation auditorium, official sources said here today (Tuesday), reports UNB.

Draft MOU on child labour may be revised, says Unicef's Carriere A blatant protectionist act by vested groups in US, say top int'l NGOs

By S Y Bakht

Representatives of some leading international NGOs yesterday charged that the memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the phased elimination of child labour and the threat to boycott Bangladeshi garment by a US organisation is a protectionist move initiated by vested interest groups in the United States.

The representatives of Save the Children Fund (UK) and Oxfam (UK) were also highly critical about the intentions of the US-based Asian-American Free Labour Institute (AAFLI), which was a party in drafting the MOU, and the Child Labour Coalition (CLC), which had earlier announced its plans to launch a campaign in the US for boycotting Bangladeshi garments.

Meanwhile, the Unicef Representative in Dhaka, Rolf C Carriere, yesterday told The Daily Star that a move has been initiated to revise the MOU, which was rejected by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) members earlier last week. The association, instead, unilaterally announced its determination to totally eliminate child labour from the garment factories by October 31, 1995.

US Ambassador David N Merrill, the Unicef Resident Representative and BGMEA President Redwan Ahmed, MP, held a meeting yesterday.

Ahmed, when contacted, said that if an acceptable proposal is made, specifically by Unicef and the US embassy, to revise the MOU then the association's executive committee would place it again before the general members for their consideration.

Talking to The Daily Star, the NGO representatives questioned the actual motive behind the much-vaunted MOU while the BGMEA chief, addressing a meeting with the Overseas Correspondents Association of Bangladesh, also called for restraining the "conspiracy and propaganda" against Bangladesh's garment sector.

The current actions (of boycotting Bangladeshi garments by some US organisations) do not appear to be well meaning. Their agenda appear to be that of protectionism and the US factories are trying to protect their interests," alleged Simon Mollison, Field Director of Save the Children Fund (SCF-UK).

The Country Representative of Oxfam (UK), Belinda Coote, concurred. "This is naked protectionism," she said.

Domestic investment doubles in '93-94: BB

By Staff Correspondent

Domestic investment in industry saw a more than 100 per cent growth last year with the banks and financial institutions allocating Tk 2,212.37 crore, compared to Tk 1,074.67 crore in the previous fiscal.

This was revealed in the annual report of the Bangladesh Bank for the fiscal year 1993-94, released belatedly yesterday.

Increased industrial investment resulted in establishment of 8289 new industrial units in the country during 1993-94, creating some 126,941 jobs, the report claims.

However, the report admits that the growth of credit disbursement by the scheduled banks plummeted to 0.6 per cent in 1993-94 from the previous year's 7.9 per cent.

Credit supply during the year grew by only Tk 153.70 crore compared to Tk 1752.20 crore in the year under review.

The report blames the slide in the credit disbursement situation to debt liquidation for the jute sector by the nationalised banks and by Uttara and Pubali banks.

The reports has also estimated a 4.6 per cent growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the year against 4.5 per cent in fiscal 1992-93.

The annualised rate of inflation would be around four per cent in the current fiscal, for which credit goes to steps like the open market sale of rice from government godowns and

Body to settle forest land disputes soon

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has directed to form a high-powered committee to recommend settlement of land ownership dispute between the forest department and individuals, reports BSS.

The directive was given when Forest and Environment Minister Akbar Hossain, Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah, State Minister for Industries Lutfar Rahman Khan, State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain and Sangsad members of the greater Mymensingh Alhaj Aman Ullah Chowdhury, Shahjahan Siraj, Abdus Salam Pintu and Khandaker Badaruddin met the Prime Minister recently to discuss various problems that had arisen during survey of the land.

The committee will give



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressed a huge public meeting at Kachua in Chondpur district yesterday. — PID photo

Govt policies adopted as per people's will: PM

KACHUA (Chandpur), May 23: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said all the policies of the BNP government are adopted according to the people's will and not at the dictate of anyone, reports UNB.

She called upon the patriotic people to strengthen the hands of the BNP for continuing this process of people-dictated policy making for maintaining the country's sovereignty, flourishing democracy and smooth development.

Begum Zia was addressing a huge public meeting at the Kachua Government High School premises in the afternoon.

The Prime Minister said her government ensured the people's rights to food and vote as well as freedom of opinion.

"My democratic govern-

BNP's bid to address factionalism

By Special Correspondent

Recently held Dhaka divisional conference of the BNP brought home to the top echelon of BNP the extent and depth of the factionalism within the ruling party.

The accounts given by the district leaders at the conference had stunned Prime Minister Khaleda Zia who has given directives to party's secretary general to address the issue of factionalism immediately. On the eve of Eid holidays, she also summoned the party MPs available in Dhaka and advised them to gear up organisational activities in their respective constituencies and prepare for the coming polls.

With the election staring in the face, the party leadership has also launched a flurry of activities to streamline the organisation.

The main complaint from the party's lower tier was that almost all the prominent

Writ against CEC's appointment: HC issues rule

The High Court yesterday issued a rule nisi asking Justice AKM Sadek to show cause under what authority he has been holding the office of Chief Election Commissioner, reports UNB.

The rule is returnable within two weeks, said a High Court division bench comprising Justice Ismailuddin Sarkar and Justice Abu Sayeed Ahmed after accepting a writ petition for hearing.

The writ was filed on Sunday by one Advocate Salimullah challenging the appointment of Justice AKM Sadek as the Chief Election Commissioner.

The other respondents of the petition are the Secretary of the Election Commission, as representative of the corporate body, and the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, as representative of the republic.

The petitioner contended

BSF dig trenches, take position along border

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 23: India has freshly deployed about 200 Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in Tripura across the border with Khagrachhari hill district.

The para-military forces have been deployed along a 13-kilometre stretch in the Asalong sector of Khagrachhari.

They have also dug 20 trenches around the Ferichhara river catchment.

BDR sources in Khagrachhari confirmed the report.

To defuse the tension created by the Indian deployment, a commander-level flag meeting between the Bangladesh Rifles and the BSF will be held on Thursday at Jalia, a border village in Tripura, official sources said.

The BSF proposed the flag meeting yesterday when some Indian farmers ploughing near the Ferichhara catchment were driven back by Bangladeshi people, official sources said.

They seized the ploughs and draught animals from the Indian farmers who encroached into the disputed land breaching the status quo, supposed to be maintained as per an agreement reached between the border guard officials of India and Bangladesh in a flag meeting held at Rangarh on May 8, sources said.

Hasina pledges to re-introduce agri subsidy

From Our Roving Correspondent

NATORE, May 23: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today pledged that if her party returns to power it will set up an agro-based economic structure and salvage the country's 'ruined' agriculture sector.

"We will re-introduce subsidy in the agriculture sector and ensure supply of farming inputs at fair prices and resolve problems facing the farmers," Sheikh Hasina told several public meetings today.

Hasina, now on a four-day organisational tour of four northern districts, addressed public rallies at Niamatpur and

Shrimp sector suffers Tk 410 cr loss due to high tide, storm

By Staff Correspondent

The country's shrimp industry has suffered a loss of Tk 410 crore due to high tide and storm that battered the coastal belt and off-shore islands last week.

At least 16,911 shrimp beds were washed away in Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat districts and another 1,614 in Cox's Bazar Zone by the high tide on May 15 and 16 causing estimated loss of Taka 314.51 crore and Taka 94.93 crore respectively.

Giving details of the loss incurred by the second most vital export earning sector, the president of the Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association (BFFEA) Dr. Aftabuzzaman urged the government to take up short and long terms programmes immediately to address the situation.

Aftabuzzaman, also the president of Shrimp Cultivators Association told newsmen in city yesterday that they have already made an appeal to the Prime Minister for taking

CEC addresses nation tonight

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice AKM Sadeque will address the nation tonight on the eve of beginning the preparation for voter list by registering each voter separately, reports BSS.

According to an Election Commission press release yesterday Justice AKM Sadeque's address to the nation will be broadcast and telecast at 8:25 pm by Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television simultaneously.



Buyers crowd a handicraft stall at the fair organised at the Shilpakala Academy yesterday as part of a three-day celebration of the 96th birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, which is tomorrow. — Star photo

Corruption case against Aziz Mohammad

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption Monday filed a case against businessman Aziz Mohammad Bhai with the Gulshan thana for earning wealth beyond known sources of income a bureau press release said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

An officer of the bureau investigating into the wealth of Aziz Mohammad Bhai a leading businessman belonging to the country's Ismailia community, has found that his movable and immovable property including industries established by him would be worth Taka 90.70 crore under current prices.

Besides, the press release

Peace talks with LTTE dead, says Chandrika

COLOMBO, May 23: Sri Lanka's president, in her first televised speech since rebels scrapped a truce a month ago, formally pronounced peace talks dead on Monday and warned the guerrillas the government had the firepower to defeat them, reports Reuter.

President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga said it was no longer necessary to talk to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels in trying to find a peaceful solution to 12 years of war.

The LTTE has unilaterally decided to call off the truce and they are against our political solution. Therefore it is not necessary to talk to them about it," she said.

The rebels, fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east, have stepped up attacks on security forces since they scuttled a ceasefire on April 19 by sinking two navy gunboats in the eastern Trincomalee port.

Kumaratunga said the armed forces had the "manpower and capability to fight the tigers, adding that they were in a 'better position' than the LTTE.

The 40-strong patrol was searching for land mines along roads when rebels attacked them with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns at Vakara in the Batticaloa district.

The troops returned gunfire and military spokesman Lt Col S Handapangoda said 20 rebels were also killed. However, five rebels bodies have so far been recovered.

In another development, the military has started distributing gas masks to soldiers and stockpiling drugs to treat chemical warfare victims, following intelligence reports that rebels may attack its northern bases with poison gas, officials said today.

The guerrillas haven't used toxic gas since they ineffectively attacked a military base with it in 1990.

Opens 25 May '95

A Bank with Vision

SOUTHEAST BANK - an emerging name in banking, with a pledge to usher in a new horizon in the country's financial sector.

With our expertise, commitment and computerized banking operations, we promise the best full-range banking facilities, management of finance/investment and any other services that you may visualise.

With your support, we will advance and grow into an economic force in times to come.

S
 সাউথইস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
Southeast Bank Limited
 1, Dikusha Commercial Area, Dhaka