

**MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE**  
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF  
 ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO, SICILIA,  
 PORTOFINO, 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

Standard Chartered  
**Fingertip Convenience**  
 Standard Chartered

VOL 3 NO 178 REGD NO DA 781 SHRABON 7, 1402 BS, DHAKA SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1995 SAFAR 23, 1416 HIJRI 12 PAGES PRICE TAKA 5.00

**CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS**

**In search of a way out**



In today's instalment of The Daily Star interview series on current political deadlock, National Professor Muhammad Shamsul Huq has suggested formation of a coalition-cabinet for the election period.

**Details on page 5.**  
 We request our readers to send in their own suggestions towards solving the crisis.

**Inside Today**

**Article**  
**Drug Economy: The Debt-driven Drugs**  
 Column: Beneath the Surface by Abdul Bayes Page 4

**Focus**  
 Reflections on the brain drain; Making urban planning pro-poor; and Complex legal issues surround women in combating HIV virus Page 5

**International**

**Kashmiri Hindus clash with police**

**Chirac proposes pact of stability across the Mediterranean** Page 8

**Business**

**World Bank launches new initiative to fight poverty in Third World**

**Global oil prices hit lowest mark for 32 weeks** Pages 6, 7

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**



**For Women it's First Step Here** Page 3

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Independent MP joins BNP**  
 Mahmudul Huq Rubel, an independent MP from Sherpur-3 parliamentary seat last night joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Mahmudul Huq called on Begum Zia at 30 Hare Road and announced his formal joining the party, reports BSS.

**Mostafiz leaves London for Geneva**  
 LONDON, July 21: Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman who delivered his speech at the international conference on Bosnia here today, left for Geneva to attend the Bosnia contact group meeting of the OIC. He will brief the OIC leaders about the London meet, reports BSS.

**Saifur in Jeddah**  
 JEDDAH, July 21: Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman arrived here today on a four-day visit to attend the annual meeting of the IDB board of governors. President of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Osama Zafar Faquih received him at Jeddah King Abdul Aziz Airport, reports UNB.

## 20 nations join Bosnia talks in London

### US, UK, France may use air power against Serbs

LONDON, July 21: The United States, Britain and France have agreed to defend the "safe area" of Gorazde with air power and are seeking backing from other countries at crisis talks in London, a French defence official said today. The official told reporters the three allies were seeking a final declaration which would "make clear our will to defend Gorazde at any cost and with all necessary means", report Reuter, AFP.

The allies had agreed they should set up an "exclusion zone" around the town in eastern Bosnia and if Serb forces enter it would be hit from the air.

If that did not work, a French plan to airlift troops into Gorazde with US helicopter support would then be put into effect.

The official said it was not yet clear whether Russia and other countries would sign up to the declaration.

In Washington, US Senate Republican leader Bob Dole yesterday delayed a Senate vote on Bosnia at President Bill Clinton's request.

Dole delayed further action on the bill until next Tuesday.

Earlier, French premier Alain Juppe said today he was "ready to study" US proposals for massive air strikes to deter Bosnian Serbs from attacking UN-declared 'safe areas'.

But he warned that a French proposal to send in 1,000 extra troops to the Muslim enclave of Gorazde, posed a number of problems.

He told reporters in Monte-de-Marsan, France, that the proposal contained "an element of risk", referring specifically to the possibility of a new wave of hostage-taking UN-declared 'safe areas'.

See Page 12 Col 7

### Dhaka for negotiated settlement

LONDON, July 21: Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman said here today that Bangladesh wanted a negotiated settlement in Bosnia on the basis of UN contact group's peace plan, reports BSS.

He at the same time said "But, Bosnian Serbs will not negotiate unless peace".

See page 12 Col 4



British Prime Minister John Major (R) opens the London international conference on Bosnia at Cancaster House in UK yesterday, as American delegation headed by Secretary of State Warren Christopher (L) and Defence Secretary William Perry (2L) with Chief of Staff John Shalikashvili (C) listen. Major is flanked by British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkin. — AFP/PID photo

## Railway station, fish firms damaged

### Chandpur town embankment devoured



Chandpur Main Railway Station (top), railway fish shed (middle) and Natun Bazar (bottom) were partially devoured by the Meghna yesterday. — Star photo by Shirin Akhter

From Shirin Akhter

CHANDPUR, July 21: The mighty Meghna has eroded a nearly 200-foot stretch of the Chandpur Town Protection Embankment at Natun Bazar, threatening the existence of the river port.

The erosion that started late last night has already damaged about 50 fish firms while about 100 others are being dismantled by panicked people.

The existence of the Chandpur main railway station, established in 1886, is also at stake. Half of the Railway fish shed and part of the station area have been devoured.

Railway officials were seen busy shifting railway lines, electric poles and other facilities. Train engines and wagons, have already been removed to safer places.

Chandpur main railway station, steamer ghat, IWTA launch terminal, Railway colony and Railway High School are also threatened with erosion.

Many breaches have developed in the town protection embankment due to heavy pressure of flood waters coming down from the upstream.

High officials of the Water Development Board (WDB) visited the affected area. WDB personnel have started dumping boulders and cement blocks to prevent further erosion.

WDB engineers told this correspondent that they had already dumped about 1000 cement blocks and had a stock of 27 thousands blocks to meet the emergency. But they were facing shortage of fund and needed permission from the higher authorities to continue the operation, they added.

Some 50 thousand blocks were required to tackle the present situation.

Fish merchants in the area alleged that the embankment had not been properly maintained. WDB officials, however, said that inadequate allocation of fund was mainly to be blamed for this.

Meanwhile, Prof Mohammad Abdullah, MP, the Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong and the Deputy Commissioner of Chandpur visited the affected areas this morning.

See Page 12 Col 8

## Overdue loans : 50 pc bank directors risk positions

At least 50 per cent sponsor directors of different private banks risk losing their position, in the wake of stern action by the Bangladesh Bank on insider lending.

Private bank owners have been served with a two-month ultimatum to pay back overdue loans or lose directorship.

The ultimatum under Section 17 of the Bank Companies Act was served by the Bangladesh Bank some 12 days back.

A highly placed source told UNB on Thursday that between 50 and 60 per cent of the directors of private banks have overdue loans in one or more than one bank.

The amount of overdue loans, taken or guaranteed by the directors, might total "several hundred crores", said the source.

While a significant recovery of overdue loans in the private banking sector is expected because of the notice, the Bangladesh Bank is simultaneously suspecting that many a director will lose their ownership failing to meet the deadline.

Legal provision is in the offing allowing the authorities to recover default loans from a director even after he loses the directorship. Overdue loans will then be adjusted against the default director's share in the bank.

Private banks have long been dogged by complaints of rampant insider lending.

Law in Bangladesh permits directors of a bank to take maximum 10 per cent of the total lending. But owners in most of the private banks had made best use of once-weak supervision capacity of the central bank and drawn huge loans, both in own names and in 'benami' (fictitious names).

At one stage in the early 1990s, fictitious loans rose up to 50 per cent of the total private bank lending portfolio. However, the Bangladesh Bank now claims that the percentage has come down to 20.

"We are now serious about eliminating insider lending", said a senior official of the Bangladesh Bank.

Legal provisions are in the offing to extend more power to the managing directors of private banks so that they can

See page 12 Col 2

## Jamaat may persuade Shakhawat again

By Nazmul Ashraf

The Jamaat-e-Islami may make yet another bid to get Maulana Shakhawat Hossain MP back to the party once he is "freed from captivity".

Ameer of Jamaat Prof Golam Azam and some central leaders may persuade Shakhawat to change his decision, well-placed party sources said.

Shakhawat joined the ruling BNP on July 12 but Jamaat sources said he did not resign from Jamaat.

"We've not yet abandoned the hope of getting him back and we're just waiting for his release from BNP's captivity", a central leader of the Jamaat told The Daily Star.

See page 12 Col 3

## Constitution can be changed for cause of people

A group of intellectuals yesterday said the Constitution can be changed for the cause of people and democracy, not for any party interests, reports UNB.

"When the Constitution is changed for the people, it reflects the will of the people and ensure their welfare, but when it is for political or personal purposes, it only destroys democratic process," Justice KM Sobhan told a function of the Bangabandhu Parishad at the ICMA auditorium in the city.

The Bangabandhu Parishad organised the discussion on the occasion of its Dhaka City convention. Prof Kabir

See Page 12 Col 7

## 10 arrested, arms recovered in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested 10 young men in separate raids in different parts of the city yesterday and recovered some arms and ammunition.

Lalbagh police, during a 13-hour raid which ended at 3:30 am yesterday, arrested five persons and recovered a foreign-made rifle, two revolvers, 12 rounds of bullet and raw materials used for manufacturing fire arms.

The five were arrested from different parts of Lalbagh and Ramna thanas.

The arms manufacturing materials were recovered from a polythene factory at Harnath Ghosh Lane.

See page 12 Col 2

## DSE sees yet another stagnant week

By Sharier Khan

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) witnessed yet another stagnant week of trading although it gained Tk 26 crore in market capitalisation and 1.32 points in the all share price index.

The average volume and value of trading of shares last week remained close to the figure of the previous week, indicating a static situation.

"Small investors have become more cautious about buying shares. Big players remained almost inactive for the last two weeks," a market operator noted. "That is why trading is not booming."

While the market was dominated by shares of different Beximco issues, investors were leaning towards different insurance and textile issues which entered the secondary market offering reasonable prices.

The daily average number of shares and debentures traded last week slightly decreased to 1.07 lakh from the previous weeks' 1.22 lakh. The daily average value of trading also decreased to Tk 1.70 crore from previous weeks' Tk 1.73 crore.

Although the average number of issues marking gains increased to 40.83 from previous week's 34.5, random sampling of share prices of frequently traded issues revealed that most share prices declined.

The share price of Eastern Housing declined to Tk 142 at the close last week from Tk 146 in the previous week. Beximco Pharmaceutical declined to Tk 83.92 from Tk 86.23. Mag Paper to Tk 152 from Tk 153. Shine Pukur of Beximco to Tk 65.25 from Tk 68.36. Ashraf Textiles to Tk 33.63 from Tk 37.15, and Beximco Textiles to Tk 125 from Tk 130, among many others.

The share price of BOC Bangladesh remained at Tk 174 for the last two weeks but that of Bangladesh Lamps rose to Tk 3621 last week from Tk 3500 in the previous week.

Debentures continued to be sold at prices much lower than their face values (FVs) last week. Of the nine debentures issued, mostly by different Beximco industries, seven were sold below the FV.

The index stood at 763.04 at the close of the week Thursday marking over 0.17 per cent increase from previous week's 761.72 points.

The index swung between 756 and 759 points for five days of the six-day week indicating a static market situation for the second consecutive week.

A total of 6,46,998 shares and debentures worth Tk 10,22,55,764.75 were traded last week against 7,37,019 shares and debentures worth Tk 10,39,74,305 of the previous week. The market capitalisation increased to Tk 4718 crore from the previous week's Tk 4692 crore.

The number of total issues traded last week was 539 having 245 gainers and 208 losers as against 538 issues having 207 gainers and 229 losers in the previous week.

The daily average of issues incurring loss decreased to 34.66 from previous week's 38.16.

The volume leader of the week was Beximco Pharma with 1,11,600 shares followed by Ashraf Textiles 75,250 shares, Beximco Textiles 45,804, BOC 24,658, Apex Weaving 23,035, Dandy Dyeing over 18,792, Confidence Cement and Zeal Bangla Sugar over 15,000.

## Writ to be filed in HC tomorrow

### Govt stand violation of human rights : Danis

Canadian lawyer Marcel Danis hired to defend former President HM Ershad in the Gen Manzur murder case yesterday criticised the government for not allowing him to meet Ershad in jail for consultation, reports UNB.

The Home Secretary on Thursday informed Danis about government's inability to allow him to meet Ershad in the Dhaka Central Jail for consultation.

Addressing a press conference at hotel Sundarban yesterday afternoon, Danis termed the government's denial as violation of basic human and fundamental rights of Ershad.

Quoting Article 33 of the Bangladesh Constitution, which he said similar to the

See page 12 Col 4

## Youths ransack BIRDEM

By Staff Correspondent

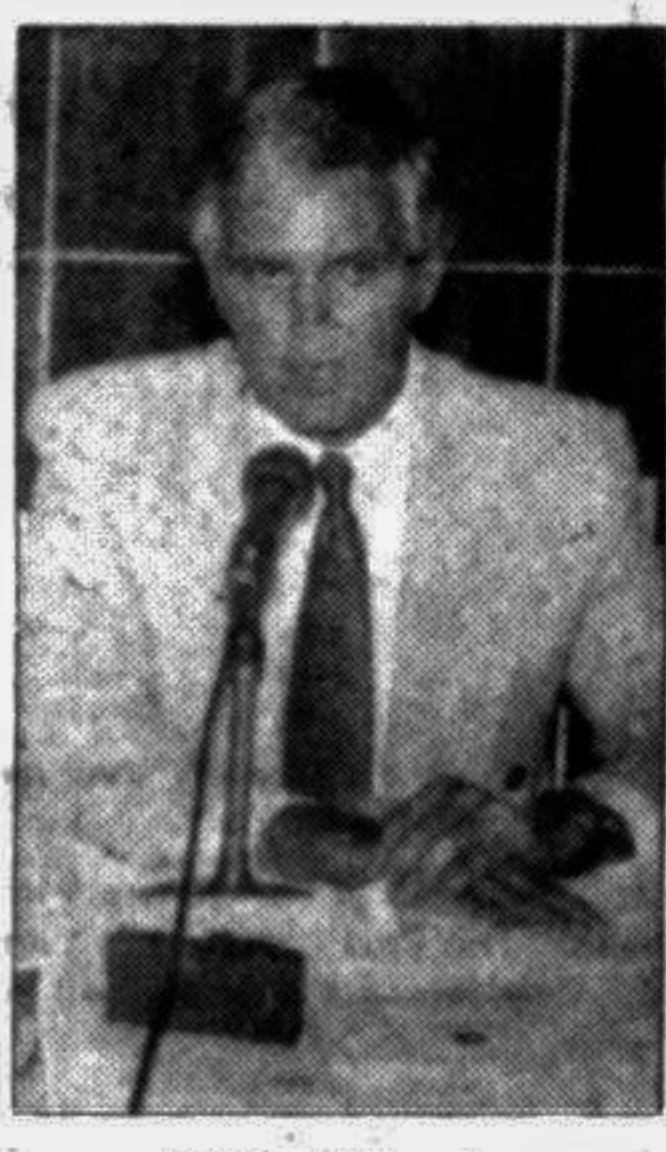
A group of young men ransacked the outdoor unit of the Diabetic Hospital (BIRDEM) at Shahbagh in the city yesterday.

Some window panes and glass door of the hospital and a car parked inside were damaged in the incident that followed an altercation between a liftman and some youths who had reportedly accompanied ruling party MP Major (ret'd) Akhteruzzaman there, senior official of the hospital claimed.

The young men became angry when the liftman asked them to wait for sometime as the lift was loaded.

The hospital employees

See page 12 Col 6



Marcel Danis