

**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: 805957, 807363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

**Moneylink  
ATM's**  
 Standard Chartered

**Inside Today**

**Article**  
 Pak foreign policy  
 Suggestions for  
 Going Somewhere?  
 Column: As I See It  
 by Ikram Sehgal  
 Page 4

**International**

PLO demands Israeli  
 withdrawal from West  
 Bank before full accord  
 Massive manhunt for  
 Tamil jail breakers  
 Page 5

**Business**

Concerted efforts must to  
 enhance productivity in  
 industries, says Lutfor  
 China, Myanmar to  
 increase bilateral  
 border trade  
 Pages 6, 7

**STOCK MARKET**

DSE price index	783.24 (+0.07%)
Market capital Tk	48.51 billion
Transactions in volume	110489
Transactions in value Tk	19.79 million

**Supplement**

Today's issue of The Daily  
 Star contains a 2-page  
 supplement on National  
 Day of Indonesia  
 Pages 8 & 9

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**

Teasing or  
 Torture  
 Page 3

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Biswas' donation  
 to Bosnia fund**  
 President Abdur Rahman  
 Biswas has decided to donate  
 his one month's salary to the  
 Prime Minister's Bosnian  
 Muslim Solidarity Fund. The  
 fund has been set up to help  
 the Bosnian Muslims, reports  
 UNB.

**Half-day hartal in  
 Patuakhali today**  
 From Our Correspondent  
 PATUAKHALI, Aug 16: Patuakhali district unit of the Awami League has called a half-day hartal in the town tomorrow protesting the arrest of Sultan Ahmed Mridha, Chairman of the Patuakhali Pourashava. Police arrested Mridha on Monday following a clash between the activists of the BNP and Awami League.

**Hartal at Rangpur  
 today**  
 RANGPUR, Aug 16: Supporters of Rangpur Pourashava Chairman called a half-day hartal in the town tomorrow protesting attack on his office today. Witnesses said, a group of people, allegedly led by Ward Commissioner Rana Hossain, attacked the office of the Pourashava Chairman Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhanu in the morning, reports UNB.

**26 Rohingyas  
 repatriated**  
 From Our Correspondent  
 COX'S BAZAR, Aug 16: Twenty-six members of five Rohingya families have been repatriated to Myanmar this morning. With this, 1,92,738 refugees went back to their homeland so far as many as 57,139 Rohingyas refugees in eight camps are now waiting for their turn to be repatriated.

## Opposition announces 32-hr hartal Sept 2-3

**Star Report**  
 The major opposition political parties yesterday announced fresh agitation programmes, including an identical 32-hour nationwide hartal September 2-3, to gear up their movement demanding the dissolution of Parliament and holding of general elections under a caretaker government.  
 The programmes were announced simultaneously from separate public meetings by Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, Jatiya Party acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami.  
 At the AL meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue, Sheikh Hasina also issued an ultimatum demanding announcement of the schedule for general elections by August 30.  
 The three parties will observe the identical non-stop hartal programme from 6am September 2 till 2pm the next day. In addition, Awami League will stage demonstrations across the country to protest the price-hike of essentials and corruption while on August 27 stage protest against the Election Commission decision to defer by-elections to the vacated parliamentary seats.  
 Jatiya Party will organise demonstrations throughout the country from August 18 to press for holding elections under a caretaker government and the release of jailed party Chairman HM Ershad, the former president. The party will also gherao the Election Commission on August 28.  
 Jamaat will start a mass contact programme from tomorrow and stage country-wide demonstrations on August 26 to press for the caretaker government issue.

## Sino-Bangla talks focus on joint venture, investment

Bangladesh and China in the city yesterday began talks aimed at devising new areas of cooperation, particularly in investment, joint venture and other economic fields, reports UNB.  
 The two sides focused on strong political relationship between the two countries, said an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.  
 He said the two-hour deliberation, covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common concern.  
 "Some specific matters, which will help to further strengthen the bilateral relation, are being prominently discussed in the meeting," he added.  
 The one-day meeting has been extended to discuss See Page 12 Col 1

## PM opens Fish Fortnight '95 Jalmahal lease system abolished

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday declared the open waterbody lease system abolished and also offered some incentives to fishermen and fish-farmers, reports UNB.  
 The package of incentives was announced at the start of a fortnight-long nation-wide fisheries development campaign aiming to alleviate the plight of fishermen and free them from the exploitation by middlemen as well as encourage extensive pisciculture in the country.  
 The package provides that water tax would not be re-allocated from fishing nets or boats, excepting trawlers and mechanised boats engaged in fishing in open jalmahal, excluding the enclosed waterbodies which are reserved or under projects.  
 Besides, Begum Zia said, land development tax on fish landing centres, *bhasan mahal* and salted as well as land upto 25 bighas have already been waived.  
 The Prime Minister announced the incentives to encourage increased production of fish, an important sub-sector of the national economy, while inaugurating the Fish Fortnight 1995, an annual drive highlighting the fisheries sub-sector, at a function at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council premises.  
 Some 11.2 million people are engaged in fisheries sector while fish accounts for the second largest quantum of export earning — 12 per cent of total exports.  
 See Page 12 Col 7

## Launch capsized: Eight bodies recovered

Eight bodies — five children and three women — were recovered yesterday from the hull of ML 'Basanti' which capsized Tuesday afternoon in the river Chitra, about 16 kilometres off Narail town, police said, reports UNB.  
 However, the identities of the victims could not be known immediately.  
 The launch was salvaged yesterday morning with the help of a crane sent from Jessore Cantonment.  
 Divers are still searching for possible victims in and around the spot where the launch capsized with about 150-200 passengers in a depth of some 40 feet water.  
 When contacted by telephone yesterday morning, Narail police could not say how many of the passengers could reach safety after the launch had capsized.  
 However, a police official See Page 12 Col 3



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. — Star photo



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia going round different stalls of the fish fair after inaugurating the Fish Fortnight '95 in Dhaka yesterday. Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman is also seen. — PID photo

## Students gherao VC's office for reopening RU

From Our Correspondent  
 RAJSHAHI, Aug 16: More than 200 students of Rajshahi University brought out a procession with books in hands and gheraoed the Vice-Chancellor at his office today demanding reopening of the university.  
 The students handed over their books to Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Yusuf Ali.  
 "Sadharan Chhatra-Chhatra Parishad" (a committee of general students) organised the book-procession and gheraoes programme.  
 The VC received the books from the students and assured them that the university would be reopened as soon as possible.  
 The Parishad leaders at a See Page 12 Col 6

## Hasina demands polls schedule by Aug 30

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday termed the present Parliament an 'unconstitutional and illegal' one and called for announcement by August 30, the schedule for next general elections.  
 Addressing a rally in the city yesterday evening, she announced a series of programmes, including a 32-hour hartal on September 2 and 3, to press home her party's demands for polls under a neutral caretaker government and to protest price hike of essentials and "corruption of the government".  
 "We resigned on December 28 last year. As per the Constitution, there should have been a fresh election within 90 days, in March, after the dissolution of Parliament," Sheikh Hasina told the rally at Bangabandhu Avenue.  
 "But the Prime Minister resorted to tricks to delay elections. She wants to enjoy power for a longer period so that her party can raise a lot of money for the next elections, through corruption," the AL chief said.  
 "As per Article 67(2), of the Constitution, our resignation letters were given to the Speaker. This article says, when the Speaker or Deputy Speaker receives a resignation letter of an MP, his seat automatically becomes vacant," Hasina argued, holding a copy of the Constitution in her hand.  
 But, she added, at first the Speaker delayed decision about the vacant seats. Then the matter was taken to the Supreme Court to make further delays. In addition, the Chief Election Commissioner deferred by-elections allowing the BNP government to continue in power, she noted.  
 See Page 12 Col 4

## BNP has closed door for talks, says Mizan

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Acting chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has accused the ruling BNP of 'closing all doors for discussion with the Opposition' by raising the plea that everything should be done within the framework of the Constitution.  
 "Was not the Constitution violated when Ershad resigned without considering constitutional provisions? If so, is the present government illegal?" Mizan asked, addressing a public meeting at Shapla Chattar in the city.  
 See Page 12 Col 6

## HC orders release of Ovi

**By SC Correspondent**  
 The High Court Division yesterday ordered release of ex-student leader Golam Farooque Ovi who had been detained under the Special Powers Act.  
 The division bench comprising Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman and Justice M. Mahfuzur Rahman, upon a writ petition, also declared the detention of Ovi illegal.  
 It will take two more days to free Ovi as the court office will remain closed today and tomorrow.  
 See Page 12 Col 3

## Accept demands, or quit: Jamaat

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The ruling BNP will be forced out of office if it does not accept the demand for free and fair elections under a neutral caretaker government, said Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami at a public meeting in the city yesterday.  
 "The Constitution has been amended 12 times for petty party interest. It could be amended again to protect the voting right of the people," he said at the meeting.  
 See Page 12 Col 4

## Manzur murder case: Hearing begins Aug 28 Ershad, four co-accused produced in court

Deposed President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and four other retired army officers, accused in the murder of Major General Abul Manzur, were produced before the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's court yesterday, reports BSS.  
 This is for the first time that all the five accused persons appeared together before a court since the first information report (FIR) was filed by Barrister Abul Mansoor, elder brother of late Manzur, the former GOC of Chittagong Division.  
 Manzur was killed in a mysterious condition within Chittagong cantonment on June 2, 1981. The FIR was lodged with Panchlaish police station, Chittagong on February 28 last.  
 After nearly two hour-long proceedings Abul Manzur, the District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, fixed August 28 for the start of the hearing charges and take up bail matter.  
 Wednesday was earlier scheduled for producing of the accused persons and issuance of necessary orders.  
 Besides Ershad, the principal accused, the four others produced before the court yesterday with Major General (ret'd) Abdul Latif, Lt Col (ret'd) Shamsur Rahman Shams, Lt Col (ret'd) Mostafa Kamaluddin Bhuyian and Major (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Haq.  
 The case was earlier transferred from the Chittagong District and Sessions Judge's court to its counterpart in Dhaka under an order of the government on August 3 for 'convenience' of trial. Ershad was earlier produced before the court of Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate on July 16.  
 Soon after the court proceedings began, counsels for the accused each separately prayed for making available to See Page 12 Col 1

## News Analysis An initiative that reflects our concern

**By Mahfuz Anam**  
 For someone whose record of initiatives on foreign affairs is nothing much to write home about, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's call for an OIC emergency summit on Bosnia is bold and timely. The positive fallout of such a move on the domestic political situation, and among the Muslim countries, was obviously not lost on the government. No doubt, this consideration played a significant role in moving the otherwise inertia laden, and action-shy government that we have.  
 Bangladesh's proposal to hold a summit carries a few concrete suggestions that deserves special mention. Creating six battalions, and offering one ourselves speaks of a definite commitment, both in terms of resources and lives of our soldiers. We have already committed more than 1,200 troops about whose safety and security the nation is ever concerned.  
 The summit call is vague as to where it will be held. Customarily an offer to host accompanies such calls. Sources in our Foreign Office say that it was deliberately done to enable the decision to emerge as a consensus. However a willingness to host it, if so desired by members, could have been contained in the PM's letter. While all OIC envoys in Dhaka was handed over the letter simultaneously, some sort of a special gesture should have been made for Morocco, the current chairman of the Islamic body. The OIC Secretary General should have also been written to simultaneously. Yes, member states are more important than the head of the Secretariat, yet both courtesy and the wish to move things fast demand that he be approached.  
 Bangladesh's involvement in the Bosnian issue increased after the fall of Srebrenica and Zepa, following which our Foreign Office alerted the international community of our extreme anxiety about the fate of the Bosnian Muslims. From then on, we started working for this major initiative.  
 Because of its leading role Bangladesh along with Turkey, were the only two OIC countries to get invited to the London meeting of the UN, NATO and some Western countries. The London meeting gave some teeth to NATO's threat, and allowed its field commanders to call for air strikes without the fumbling and questionable intervention of the UN Secretary General and his special representative, Akashi.  
 The London meeting bypassed the UN Security Council, where strong collective decisions against the Serbs and its allies were likely to face Russian veto. Bangladesh argued for a strong NATO role, and pointed out that without it there will be serious erosion of its credibility. NATO's role in 'Desert Storm' operation against Iraq showed the world what it can do if it wants. What was lacking was the political will to act. In the OIC contact group meeting in Geneva, Bangladesh briefed delegates about the outcome of the London deliberations and what the OIC could, and could not expect from NATO countries.  
 See Page 12 Col 7

## Najibul Bashar Majbhandari joins BNP

Syed Najibul Bashar Majbhandari, a former Awami League MP, joined the BNP yesterday expressing allegiance to the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia, reports UNB.  
 Majbhandari was elected from Chittagang-4 (Fatikchhari) constituency in the 1991 election with the Awami League ticket. His seat fell vacant along with those of other Opposition MPs recently.  
 He met with BNP Chairperson Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday afternoon and formally See Page 12 Col 6

## Woman murdered in city

**By DMCH Correspondent**  
 A young woman was murdered while another person, injured in a clash at Gulshan Tuesday, succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.  
 Police picked up one person for interrogation in connection with the murder of the woman and arrested three others allegedly involved in the incident at Gulshan.  
 Ramna police recovered the body of the woman, identified as Montaz Begum, 25, from Anandabazar area near Chankharpul in the city yesterday morning.  
 Kotwali police, however, said that she was murdered somewhere else and the body See Page 12 Col 7

## Janmashtami today

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The Hindu community will observe their holy Janmashtami today with due religious fervor and gaiety. The occasion marks the birth of Sri Krishna.  
 Different organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day.  
 Mohanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee and Kendrio Janmashtami Utsab Committee begins a two-day programme. Today's programme include 'Geetajagga' at Dhakeshwari temple, Janmashtami procession in the city at 3 pm and Puja at midnight tonight. Tomorrow's programmes include a cultural function at 6 in the evening.  
 In separate messages yesterday, President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League chief See Page 12 Col 6

## Flood situation worsens in northern dists

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The overall flood situation in Rajshahi, Chapai Nawabganj, Naogaon, Gaibandha and Sirajganj districts further deteriorated with inundation of more areas yesterday following rains and onrush of waters from upstream areas.  
 The situation improved in Cox's Bazar as flood waters started receding. The flood situation in the greater Sylhet districts remained unchanged with all major rivers flowing above the danger level.  
 Three children drowned, two in Rajshahi and one in Cox's Bazar yesterday while at least 70,000 people were marooned as major rivers continued to rise. The rivers in the affected districts are likely to rise further and cross danger marks today, according to the Flood Information Centre here yesterday.  
 According to our correspondent's reports, over 50,000 people were marooned in char areas in Sirajganj, about 10,000 in Gaibandha and another over 10,000 in Rajshahi.  
 Our Correspondent reports from Rajshahi: Overall flood situation further deteriorated in Rajshahi, Chapai Nawabganj and Naogaon districts as the Padma, the Mahananda, Atrai, Chata, Jamuna and Baranai continued to swell. The Padma continued to erode more areas in Chapai Nawabganj and Rajshahi rendering more 100 families homeless. Relief materials did not reach the affected areas till yesterday.  
 At Rajshahi, the Padma See Page 12 Col 4

## BDRCS lottery draw held

The eleventh lottery draw of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) was held in the nursing school auditorium of the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital yesterday, reports BSS.  
 A four-member panel of judges headed by Dr Shamsur Ali, Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh Open University conducted the draw. Other members of the panel were Obaidul Haq, former Editor of the Bangladesh Observer, Poet Jahanara Arju and noted film personality Serajul Islam.  
 The lottery carried a sum of Taka 40 lakh for the first prize and Taka ten lakh for second prize.