



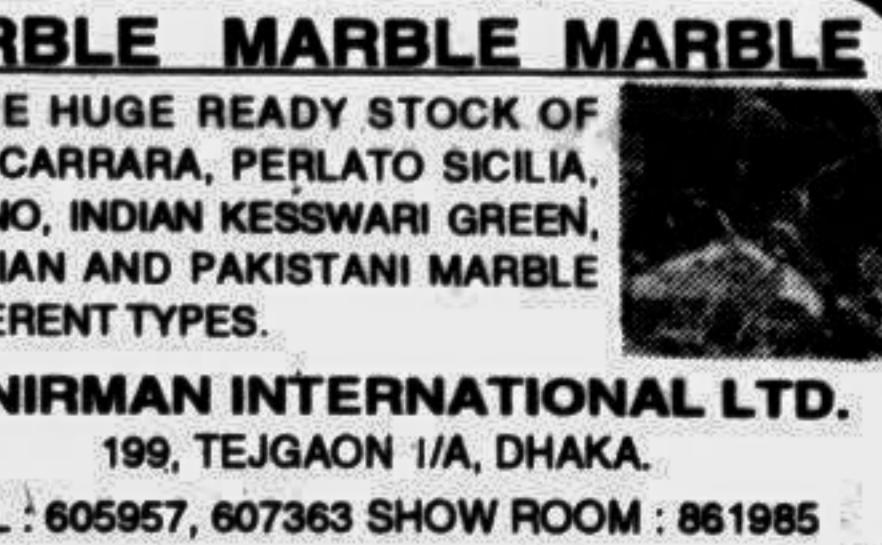
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# The Daily Star

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DSE price index continues to rise  
DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1193.62  
Market capital Tk 8210.07 cr  
Transactions in volume 6,631,16  
Transactions in value Tk 10,57 cr

### Metropolitan

#### Dhaka Day by Day



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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### PM exchanges views with journalists

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had an informal exchange of views with senior journalists from news agencies and national dailies at Ganobhaban yesterday. During the meeting, Hasina discussed various national issues, including political, economic and law and order situation in the country. State Minister of Information Prof Abu Sayeed was present on the occasion, reports UNB.

#### House adjourned till 10 am today

The House was adjourned till 10 am today. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury announced the adjournment at 11:10 pm yesterday, reports UNB.

#### Sudhin Das hospitalised

Sudhin Das, an eminent vocalist of Nazrul-Rabindra songs, was admitted to Suhrawardi Hospital following a heart attack on Monday. He is now undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit of the hospital. Attending physicians said the condition of Sudhin Das was improving, reports UNB.

#### Saudi envoy meets Speaker

Saudi Ambassador in Bangladesh Abdullah Omar Barry called on Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury at his office yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed the matters of mutual interests, said a PID handout, reports UNB.

#### 158 arms seized in a week

Police recovered 158 unauthorised firearms and 387 ammunition from different parts of the country in seven days till Tuesday. The seized firearms were local and foreign made rifles, single and double barrel guns, revolvers, pistols, pipe-guns, shotguns and LGs, said a press release. During the period, police arrested 97 people from across the country on charge of possessing illegal firearms and explosives, reports UNB.

## Rice price to remain high: IRBD Agri sector growth declines in 5 years

By RM Titumir

The agriculture sector witnessed a negative growth of 1.29 per cent during the last five years (1990-91 to 1994-95) compared to a growth of 2.19 per cent during the last one decade (1984-85 to 1994-95), according to an independent review.

Rice production in 1994-95 declined by 1.21 million tonnes from that in the previous year, requiring foodgrains import of more than 2.5 million tonnes as against less than one million tonnes in 1993-94, the review estimated.

The Independent Review of Bangladesh's Development (IRBD), an annual economic stock-taking by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), attributed this production fall to a decline in both Aman and Boro production due to severe drought during the Aman season and adverse impact on mi-

nor irrigation due to lower water levels, and crisis in fertiliser distribution during the Boro season.

Even if the rice production target of 17.97 million tonnes is realised in 1995-96, the production would hardly register any growth, requiring a similar level of foodgrains import totalling 2.46 million tonnes, the review pointed out.

Commenting on this trend, the two reviewers — Abu Abdullah, Director General of BIDS and Quazi Shahabuddin, Senior Research Fellow of BIDS — cautioned that high cereal prices are likely to continue adversely affecting the people until domestic foodgrain production improved significantly.

Elaborating, they said that although the government's present foodgrains stock of about one million tonnes might seem

adequate, the stocks held by farmers and traders were likely to be severely depleted by successive poor harvests.

They however, said that much would depend on the government's effort in making timely arrangements for import and distribution of foodgrains in the wake of declining food aid and uncertain prospects for foodgrains import by private traders.

A significant decline in the growth rate of HYV Boro production was mainly attributed by them to the deceleration in rice production, which stood at only 0.90 per cent during the last five years compared to 12.85 per cent during the decade commencing from 1984-85. The decline in growth in HYV Aman production also contributed to such a decline.

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A clerk from Charles' lawyers delivered the application by hand to the court beside the River Thames, where it was checked by a court official and then stamped with the words 'decree absolute' at 10.27 am 1527 BST.

The royal family made no statement about the divorce, merely telephoning the news to a domestic news agency. The 'quickie' divorce was granted on the grounds of two years of separation.

Diana is reported to have accepted a 17-million-pound (26.5 million dollars) divorce settlement but she loses the title, "Her Royal Highness." She will

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## An appeal by father of a victim

By Reaz Ahmad, back from Bogra

Zahurul Haq, a pharmacist of Mohammad Ali Hospital at Bogra, who lost his school-going son in the recent police firing in the town, has demanded trial of the killers and appealed to politicians not to reap political dividends at the cost of innocent peoples lives.

Reazul Karim Ratan, 14, student of class ten at Bogra Pre-Cadet High School, died from bullet injuries during a clash between protesters and police at Chandibazar area in the town on August 24, following the August 22 incident in which a student of Azizul Haq Government University College died when run over by a bus near the college.

During this correspondent's recent visit to Chelopara residence of the victim at Bogra

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

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