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ON BOARD COURIER EACH DAY EVERY DAY TO INDIA



Artistes of 'Surer Dhara' presenting a dance drama by Rabindranath Tagore at the Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University yesterday. — Star photo

One arrested

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 Police interrogated one of them who resided with Shamim.
 Besides, police have identified the people involved in the killing, said a senior police official adding all of them were in hiding.
 Mamun's uncle Gazi Obaidur Rahman Nanna, reportedly a PWD enlisted contractor, filed a case with Tejaog thana in connection with the killing. He, however, did not name anyone as accused in the case, police said earlier.

4 get bail

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 spondent said the court fixed Sunday for hearing the bail petitions.
 Deputy Attorney General Nihilsh Datta opposed this saying that as per normal practice, these petitions should first come in the daily cause list and then be heard on the basis of the serial.
 Our Staff Correspondents visiting the CMM's court yesterday found that the normally busy place was being visited by certain persons arriving in flashy cars, some representing their friends accused in the cases.
 They were busily collecting copies of the charges made against the accused.
 Top lawyers were seen there with their juniors collecting the copies for their clients, locking the crowded records room of the court.
 A clerk said a good number of lawyers thronged the room since the court opened in the morning to prepare their briefs to defend their clients, the accused in the cases, and move bail petitions.
 Some of the visitors carrying cellular phones were heard relaying the proceedings to unknown callers, drawing curious glances from other visitors.
 Police said they continued their search for the accused. Twenty warrants of arrest against them were sent to Motijheel police station and 12 more to Dhanmondi police station.

Moopnar

From Page 1
 though he himself would like to head the government. It looks as if the choice may fall on a person other than Deve Gowda and Kesri. And he may well be G K Moopnar, heading a break-away Congress group in Tamil Nadu. This solves the crisis but provides no answer to the problem to the long term stability.

PM: New laws

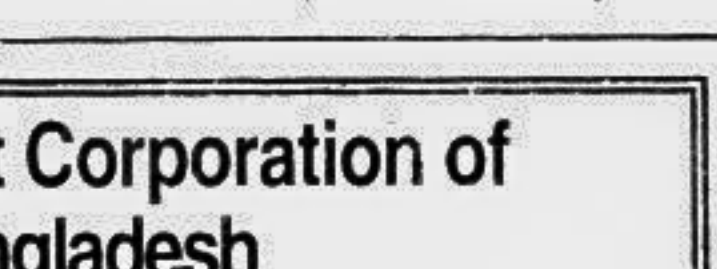
From Page 1
 "Because, we believe in transparency at all levels. We did not take any mischievous move to suppress any incident like the Yasmeen murder in Dhanmondi."
 The Prime Minister renewed the government's commitment to free the women community from the present situation and make them an efficient, well-educated section of the society.
 Responding to a demand from the Mohila Parishad, Hasina said she would look into some of the sections and sub-sections of CEDAW, which are yet to be implemented in Bangladesh.
 Recalling the contribution of women at various stages of social reformation and movements, she said, "There was always a woman behind the success of any man or of any movement."
 The inaugural session of the two-day conference was presided over by Parishad president Begum Sufia Kamal and was addressed, among others, by Dr Anisuzzaman, Ayesha Khanam, Munira Khan and Bela Nabi.
 Begum Sufia Kamal urged the women community to face life with courage and also encourage "your husbands and sons" to meet the challenges they face.
 She also called for removing all sorts of discriminations between man and woman.

2 held with arms from Spl PP office in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent
 SYLHET, Apr 3: Two persons were arrested from the office room of the special Public Prosecutor here this afternoon.
 Police said they were taken into custody following a case lodged by the special PP, Misbah Uddin Siraj. In his case, he alleged a group of 4 to 5 young men, armed with deadly weapons, entered his office chamber at about 1 pm and tried to kill him. He was rescued by some lawyers. Immediately police arrived and arrested Aroz and Habib and recovered one LG and one pistol.
 However, according to some people present, Aroz and Habib who are two brothers had an altercation with the PP over the bail petition of their brother now in jail in connection with a murder case. There was also a scuffle over the payment of legal fees.
 Siraj is also the Education and Cultural Secretary of the Sylhet district Awami League.

Panic sale : DSE

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 Among the senior officials of the DSE only its honorary secretary Shahi Khan was present at the office yesterday.
 The DSE All Share Price Index nose-dived by 89.40 points to 1138.09 points from 1225.45 points at the end of the previous day's trading.
 DSE market capitalisation lost Tk 454.53 crore closing at Tk 9,207.98 crore from Tk 9,657.61 crore.
 Prices of 100 companies suffered losses and only 10 gained while 3 remained unchanged out of total 113 traded issues.
 Trading in volume and value also fell by 21 and 24 per cent respectively as 2.09 lakh shares and debentures worth Tk 4.36 crore changed hands against transaction of 2.62 lakh shares valued at Tk 5.76 crore on the previous day.
 According to the DSE sources, the leading brokers and high officials of the DSE including its chairman Imtiaz Hossain and vice chairman Ahmed Iqbal Hasan did not attend office yesterday. They were not available over telephone despite repeated attempts by this correspondent.
 In yesterday's trading, accused companies, Olympic Industries lost Tk 66 per share, Apex Food Tk 224, Amam Sea Food Tk 259, Beximco Pharma Tk 12.50, Shine Pukur Holdings Tk 16.79, Chic Text Tk 1.18 and Chittagong Cement Tk 133.
 Singer (Bangladesh) Ltd against whom allegation of forward trading was reported to the enquiry committee, shed a massive Tk 2812 per share in just one day's trading.



Zobaida Rashid, one of the accused in Bangabandhu murder case, was released on bail yesterday. — Star photo

Stage set for opening talks with LTTE
Lankan govt, opposition agree to UK-brokered deal

COLOMBO, Apr 3: Britain brokered a landmark agreement aimed at ending Sri Lanka's drawn out Tamil separatist war which has claimed 50,000 lives, political sources here said today, reports AFP.
 Liam Fox, Britain's Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Wednesday clinched an agreement between President Chandrika Kumaratunga's government and the main opposition to cooperate on their approach to the ethnic war, the sources said.
 The deal would be aimed at bringing the government into talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which is leading a drawn out campaign for independence in the north and northeast of Sri Lanka.
 "The main thrust of the deal is that there will in future be a bi-partisan approach to the ethnic conflict," a government official said. "The deal sets the stage for the government to open talks with Tigers."
 There was no immediate reaction from the LTTE, which maintains offices in London as well as in some 40 other countries.
 Political analysts here said the agreement will clear the way for direct talks between Colombo and the LTTE since President Kumaratunga has won the backing of the opposition United National Party (UNP).
 There was no immediate word about possible dates for opening talks with Tiger guerrillas.
 Official sources said the president and opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe, a former prime minister, exchanged letters today agreeing to abide by the deal and honour subsequent agreements.
 The agreement "will restore peace in Sri Lanka and lead to the development, progress and prosperity of the country and its people," the letters stated.

Girl's body found in manhole

By Staff Correspondent
 The body of an unidentified girl aged about 10 years, was found in a manhole in the old part of the city yesterday afternoon.
 Police say the body might have been dumped in the sewer pit on Utsav Poddar Lane a couple of days ago.
 Kotwail police sent the body to the Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

President

From Page 1
 students to try for more practical and pragmatic approaches to education rather than running after certificates only.
 President Shahabuddin said the certificate-oriented education fails to make room for employment opportunities. So, for practical reasons, he said, "we have to opt for career-oriented mode of education."
 He mentioned the bad practices of copying for passing examinations and said the practice has "gone too far" as the students sometimes protest for not allowing them to copy in the examination halls.
 Referring to his own schooling days, the President said there was a very few instances of "private tuitions" and only less meritorious students used to take lessons from the private tutors.

South Asian Growth

From Page 1
 take sectoral studies in one or two thrust areas.
 A meeting of Expert Committee will meet in July to deal with the aspect of sectoral studies.
 The meet decided that each of the countries will arrange financing for further detailed feasibility study of projects.
 Although the Indian representatives attending the meeting suggested mobilisation of domestic and regional resources for feasibility studies, the three other delegations insisted that funds from multilateral agencies could be sought for more comprehensive studies in identifying mega projects, the sources pointed out.
 A director of the Asian Development Bank presented a concept paper on the potential of sub-regional cooperation and the Bank expressed its willingness to fund the entire first phase of the sub-regional programme.
 Among the ideas presented at the Kathmandu meet, it was suggested that the existing capacity of Chittagong Port could be increased four-fold by raising its management and handling efficiency. Development of a deep sea port near Chittagong for acting as a gateway to the south Asian sub-region was also suggested.
 The ADB was reportedly told that its offer of first phase study of the areas of sub-regional cooperation would be considered seriously and the decision in this regard would be conveyed to it later. However, the meeting reached a consensus that external participation involving financing would only be required on a large-scale in the second phase while undertaking mega projects.
 The moot also decided that sub-regional efforts should not be construed to be actions against the spirit of SAARC.
 The Kathmandu meeting was attended by Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Indian External Affairs Secretary Salman Haider, Acting Foreign Secretary of Nepal Kumar Prasad Gwyaland and the Foreign Secretary of Bhutan.
 The meeting decided that the foreign secretaries would brief their respective foreign ministers on its outcome. The foreign ministers of the four countries concerned are due to meet separately at a "break fast meeting" in New Delhi on April 6 to review and endorse the decisions while they are in the Indian capital to attend the NAM foreign ministers meeting, the diplomatic sources said.
 PTI adds, Indian Foreign Secretary Tulman Haider said there was no contradiction between the quadrilateral body and SAARC.
 Pakistan is said to have reservation about the grouping.
 Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan said the quadrilateral cooperation is to be pursued outside the framework of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) as per Pakistan's wishes.
 "We are aware of the views expressed by certain parties of Bangladesh. It is a matter of determining what is the best interest of Bangladesh," Farooq Sobhan told reporters here, says AFP.

Alleged dacoit beaten to death in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 3: An alleged dacoit was killed and another critically injured when a mob beat them up at Afsjanagar in Sankania thana early today, reports UNB.
 The dead was identified as Sona Mia, 28, of South Damsha village.
 Police said villagers caught two of a group of 14 dacoits who were fleeing the village after committing robbery at about 1 am and beat them severely.
 The injured was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Mirza Abbas sick

Detailed Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal president and former city mayor Mirza Abbas fell sick in the Dhaka Central Jail, said a Jubo Dal press release yesterday, reports UNB.
 It said doctors at the jail have recommended to shift Abbas to P G Hospital as he was suffering from various complications, including fever.
 The government have not yet taken any step despite recommendation by the doctors, the press release said.

MCCI

From Page 1
 They also hoped that adequate monitoring would be done by the Securities and Exchange Commission. "We are of the view that the crisis could have been avoided if the SEC had effectively played its monitoring role and dealt with the issues decisively," they added.
 In this regard they felt the "need for immediate reorganisation of the SEC" and "completion of the reorganisation of the Dhaka Stock Exchange including automation of its share trading system."

SEC to conduct

From Page 1
 involvement of some influential stock brokers in the massive fraud unearthed by committee headed by Prof Amirul Islam.
 SEC has charged 32 persons for their involvement in the scam. But cases were not filed against a number of other persons whose names cropped up during the investigations by the committee.
 ICC Trophy
 From Page 1
 hapless Ireland in their penultimate group league match for a virtual passage into the semifinal before the sky opened up. But unfortunately elements upset the Bangladesh's appeal much to the delight of Ireland, who with that priceless point from the abandoned match are now leading the group along with Bangladesh. Both have collected three points from two outings.
 Bangladesh, in their previous three ICC clashes against today's foes, won only once in 1982. Holland, who played in the last World Cup, won in 1990 and 1993. (Details on page 10)

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Convening body of city BNP meets today

An emergency meeting of the convening committee of Dhaka city BNP will be held at the party central office today at 7 pm, reports UNB.
 BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will attend the meeting.
 Meanwhile, Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday condemned and protested 'false cases' filed against former speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali and former whip Ashraf Hossain.

Ctg BNP warns of greater agitation

A joint meeting of the BNP parliament members and its central leaders from Chittagong division was held at 29 Mintu Road in the city yesterday, reports UNB.
 Party central joint secretary Abdullah Al Noman presided.
 The meeting expressed deep concern at the deterioration of law and order situation and the killing of party activists in different parts of the division, including Tushar and Nasir in Feni and Muslim Uddin in Mirsarai.
 The BNP leaders of Chittagong alleged that police were not taking action against the culprits and trying to bluff the people by arresting one or two in the name of action.
 They warned of launching greater action programme in the division if the killers were not arrested immediately.

MCCI

From Page 1
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Five killed, 22 hurt in road accidents

At least five people were killed and 22 others injured in three separate road accidents in Savar, Chittagong and Kushtia yesterday, reports UNB.
 Three of them died in a fatal road mishap on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar.
 The accident that also left 20 others injured occurred when a Dhaka-bound coach collided with a bulldozer near BPATC in the morning.
 Two of the dead were identified as Sentu, 30, and Delwar Hossain, 30.

8-member Bangladesh team to join 32nd ICC world congress

An eight-member delegation of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Bangladesh, will join the 32nd ICC World Congress April 8-10 in Shanghai, reports UNB.
 "Through the congress, we'll be able to promote and project Bangladesh in the international arena," ICC-Bangladesh president Mahbubur Rahman told newsmen at a briefing yesterday.
 He said ICC-Bangladesh seeks to attract foreign direct investment into the country through interaction with the other member countries and the ICC headquarters.
 Replying to a question, he said the recent share-market scam could temporarily affect the image of Bangladesh abroad. But that would not be the main reason for investment not coming in future.
 ICC vice-president Latifur Rahman said: "It's an alleged scam. We cannot call them guilty only because their names have come on the list. Action should be taken as per law."
 Both Mahbubur Rahman and Latifur Rahman are members of the Bangladesh delegation to participate in the ICC World Congress.
 Other members are: ICC vice-president A Rob Chowdhury, DCCI president A S M Quasen, MCCI president Samson H Chowdhury and secretary general C K Hyder, former DCCI president Rashed M Khan, and Director of Beximco Group Iqbal Ahmed.
 Chinese Premier Li Peng is expected to inaugurate the congress, a high-profile event which is convened every three years. This year's theme is "Asia in the global economy."

Beximco

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 In a press release, Beximco added, "is amazing that the SEC could have proceeded not only to file cases but also to obtain arrest warrants on the basis of such flimsy and unreal charges."
 The Beximco Group would like to assure that the Group intends to vigorously defend these allegations as per the laws of the land and is confident that it will be able to clear its name through the due process of law, the release said.
 N'ganj fire
 From Page 1
 tails.
 A source in the CID quoting their investigation report, submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday said, godowns were set on fire by people inside the company premises.
 Of the nine godowns four were mortgaged to the Agrani Bank. A bank official, when asked about alleged irregularities in maintaining its godowns, said the Bank was conducting two separate investigations into the matter.

CHEHLUM
 The Chehlum of late Mrs. Sharifun Nessa, w/o. Late Sadat Ali Bhuiyan (popularly known in the Scouts World as Bhuiyan Bhai) will be held on April 4 Friday after Asar Prayer at 66 Laboratory Road, Dhanmondi. All relatives, well wishers and friends are requested to join the 'Milad Mahfil' and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.
 Fazilatun Nessa Huq
 Dr. Afzalun Nessa Alam
 Late Shamsun Nessa Haroon
 Lutfun Nessa Huq
 A.K. Nozrul Islam
 Badrun Nessa Mansur
 Dr. Anwarul Islam
 Meherun Nessa Afsar

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 Investors' Department
 Shipba Bank Building (15th Floor)
 Dated : 31.3.97

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Investors interested to buy Right Share of National Bank Ltd. through their accounts are requested to contact ICB offices and submit their written purchase instruction along with deposits (if any) by 13-04-1997.

Assistant General Manager
 Investors' Department

Strong & timely SEC action

From Page 1
 fairs of the DSE should be handled by a Chief Executive Officer and the tenure of the Member or Councillors in the DSE Council should not be for more than one year. It suggested that for the one-year period they may also be barred from engaging in floor trading.
 The committee also recommended that there should be an electronic display board in the DSE to show instantly the changes in the prices of listed securities. The trading system should be fully computerised.
 The DSE and Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) should have separate cells for constant monitoring of the DVP traders and for taking punitive actions in case of default, it said.
 In case of local DVPs, only institutional investors should be allowed to participate and all transactions should be settled through banks, so that the scope for fictitious traders are eliminated.
 The listing rules of the stock exchanges should be revised because these do not conform to international standards.
 The report further recommended that the number of membership of the DSE should be raised immediately to an acceptable level.
 The stock dealers should not be allowed to act as stock brokers, it observed. This is because there is often conflict of interest between stock-dealing and stock-brokering. "In most cases, a member as a stock-dealer puts his own interest above the interest of clients, when acting as a broker," the report said.
 The DSE and the CSE do not have effective and strong surveillance mechanism, the reports pointed out. "In case of unusual movement in the prices of securities, it is necessary to ascertain the causes thereof to detect if there is any manipulation or any other kind of fraudulent activity."
 The four-member enquiry committee also found that sponsors of a number of listed companies have sold significant position of their holdings during the October-November '96 period. "Therefore, the sponsors of listed companies should be prohibited from unloading their shares for at least two years from listing of the concerned security in the stock exchange," the report recommended.
 The SEC should discourage

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC)

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