Transcom Electronics Limited

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The two-day Bangladesh De-

velopment Forum in Paris

praised the government "for

dealing with the massive

floods" of last year but

"expressed serious concerns"

The Forum, formerly known

"The development partners

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MRANGS GROUP

Atrai murders CID to submit charge-sheet

The CID will submit the chargesheet in Atrai killing

inal Investigation Department (CID) said that the investigation into the killing of Atrai thana Awami League President Siddiqur Rahman alias Raja and League Arun Kumar Sarkar has already been completed. The CID is now preparing the

people including Alamgir Kabir, MP, for their alleged involvement in the killing. Most of the arrested have confessed their guilt to police and the magistrate under Section 161 and 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)," the official said preferring anonymity. See Page 12 Col 1

Dr Kamal says Caretaker govt not enough for fair polls

By Staff Correspondent Forum believes that a caretaker government is not a complete answer to the problems of holding free and fair elections in the country.

Dr Kamal made the observations while deliberating on "Evaluation of Democracy in Bangladesh" in the city yester-day. American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh organised the talk.

Analysing various phases of the evolution of democratic process in the country since the See Page 12 Col 7

Opposition may defer April 29 programme

The opposition is likely to defer the mass procession programme from April 29 to May 3 due to public holiday. The liaison committee will

finalise the fresh date in a couple of days. BNP sources told UNB last

night that they have decided to shift the mass procession to May 3 as April 29 is a government holiday on account of Bouddha Purnima.

Mass procession in the capital, cities and district headquarters was planned to protest the power-water-gas crises, terrorism, deteriorating law and order, high price of essentials, unemployment, declining production in mills and factories and overall failure of the government.

Inside Today — Article

A Fresh Dawn in Algeria

Column: The Horizon This Week by Arshad-uz Zaman Page 4

Focus

invented memories Page 5

Agro-processors call for cutting tariffs on capital machinery, raw materials

US team heads to China to strike trade deal this week

> DSE, CSE price quotations Pages 6, 7 & 8

Prayer Timings

| April 21 | | |
|----------|-------|--------|
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-30 | 4-35 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-20 |
| Asr | 4-45 | 4-55 |
| Maghrib | 6-25 | 6-30 |
| Esha | 7-30 | 7-35 |

INTERNET: http://www.dailystarnews.com

BAISAKH 8, 1406 BS

speed up the process of decen-

tralisation, reduce corruption,

and improve further the law

political consensus for acceler-

ating the pace of reforms in

general, and for improving gov-

ernance in particular, was un-

push ahead reforms in all areas

- administration, judiciary, fi-

nancial sector, banking system,

local government, education

and health, said Bangladesh

"The critical importance of

The government promised to

and order situation.

derlined.

Donors at Paris agree to continue 'normal flow' of aid

Slow pace of reforms

Star Report

however stressed that im-

provements in governance

would be the key to most of the

required reforms," said a news

release from the World Bank,

the co-ordinator of the annual

unified in views that the devel-

opment effectiveness of aid in

Bangladesh is dependent on

good governance that in turn

depends on effectively man-

aged, transparent and account-

"More needs to be done to

"Development partners were

meeting.

able institutions.

DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 21, 1999

MUHARRAM 4, 1420 HIJRI

16 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 6.00

BSF firing

Dhaka lodges

protest-with

Delhi

a protest with India over the

killing of six people in BSF fir-ing along Jamalpur Border Ob-servation Post (BOP) in Kushtia

district on Monday, reports

a BDR personnel, were killed

and several others injured in

the incident as BSF opened fire on Bangladesh nationals along

A spokesman of the Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

told reporters yesterday that

the Deputy High Commissioner

of India, Pinaki R Chakraborty.

was called in to the foreign

ministry yesterday and Bangladesh's protest over the

Deputy High Commissioner in

See Page 12 Col 8

Alimul Haq, Bangladesh

incident was lodged.

Jamalpur BOP on Monday.

At least six people, including

Bangladesh yesterday lodged

by next week

VOL. IX NO. 87 REGD. NO. DA 781

case by next week, official sources said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

faces strong criticism A senior official of the Crim-Convenor of Jatiya Sramik chargesheet of the case.

"We have so far arrested nine about the slow pace of policy and institutional reforms. as Bangladesh Aid Group Meeting, ended yesterday with pledges to help the country speed up reforms "in order to achieve further progress in reducing the massive poverty".

Dr. Kamal Hossain of Gano

Stressing the need for electoral reforms, he says the nation has to stop the influence of money and muscle in the polling process.

"Just a caretaker government is not the answer to the problems of holding free and fair elections. We need an electoral reform to make sure that money and muscle do not play any decisive role in the polling process," he told a select audi-

Sonia invited to form govt

meeting at her residence in New Delhi yesterday.

NEW DELHI, Apr 20: Indian President KR Narayanan today invited Sonia Gandhi, leader of the main opposition Congress Party, for talks on the formation of a new government, re-

ports Reuters. "The President's consultations with political personalities and parties on the subject of an alternative government will commence with a meeting proposed to be held tomorrow, April 21, with Sonia Gandhi ...'

a presidential statement said. The statement said the president would meet leaders of concerned parties, groups and individuals "over the next couple of days in order to secure a viable alternative, consistent with established constitutional practice and norms of parlia-

mentary democracy" It said the President, after the fall of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government last week, had consulted legal and constitutional experts.

"He also received suggestions in the form of letters from individuals, political parties and groups including the BJP and its alliance partners," the statement said.

Earlier, the Congress Party today started getting letters of support from different political parties in its efforts to form an alternative government led by Sonia Gandhi, according to

The Congress received a shot in the arm when a Telegu Desam Party (TDP) member of Lok Sabha, S Vijayarama Raju, told newsmen at the Congress headvote for the confidence motion

Congress President Sonia Gandhi (R) chats with CPI-M senior leader Jyoti Basu during a

supporting the BJP-led coali-

ters, Buta Singh and Kalpanath Rai, had separate meetings with Sonia and they extended support to the Congress move to form an alternative govern-

tant meetings with former See Page 12 Col 2

morning. The dead was identified as Kiran Rani Das, 40, wife of Upendra Chandra Das, a resident of city's Rayerbazar area. Kiron Rani was injured along with ten others when a group of young men hurled bombs on a passenger bus at Tikatoli in the city Saturday night.

were admitted to DMCH where she succumbed to her injuries.

Four major power plants need

immediate overhauling

As per schedule, Ashuganj

plants needed to be shut down

for overhauling in a synchro-

nised manner after each of the

units operated for 50,000 hours.

But these are now running for

ating nearly 80 per cent of their

production capacity because the

German-built machinery are

very dependable," said one

source. "But that does not make

them invulnerable. In fact, they

Raozan 210 MW first unit is the

worst power plant ever built in

the country, the source pointed

out. Built by China, it could

never reach optimum produc-

tion level as it had over 475

technical flaws when handed

over to the Power Development

Board in 1992. It also has a

record of frequent shut downs

due to technical flaws. With all

its problems, the plant now

needs overhauling as per sched-

On the other hand, the

are at a very risky state now."

"These units are still gener-

over 90,000 hours each.

By Sharier Khan

held on April 28

Star Report AB Bank lawyer Barrister

Rokonuddin Mahmud yesterday

delegation leader Finance Min-

ister S A M S Kibria at a WB-

sponsored video press confer-

ment, "reassured donors that

the government remains com-

mitted to the pursuit of the re-

form agenda and will make all

efforts to build up broad public

consensus and support to guar-

Dhaka that he had received

"general assurance" from

See Page 12 Col 3

Beximco directors

have lost their

seats on bank

boards, court told

Kibria told journalists in

antee durable reforms."

Kibria, said the WB state-

ence from Paris.

told a High Court division bench that four Beximco directors had already lost their seats on the boards of AB and IFIC banks through the application of Articles of Association and Bank Companies Act. The four Beximco directors

- Sohel F Rahman, Salman F Rahman, MA Quashem and Iqbal Ahmed — two of whom are directors of AB Bank and two of IFIC Bank- had been served with notices under the banking law after they had failed to repay the loans. They had been told that they would lose their seats on the board if they did not clear the debts. The Beximco directors had

filed a writ petition challenging See Page 12 Col 7

Helmet wasn't bullet-proof and mortars didn't work From Our Correspondent

Larma may take charge

of RC next month

KUSHTIA, Apr 20: Naik Lakitullah died of bullet wound in his head because the helmet he used was not bullet-proof. Six people, including a BDR member were killed when BSF opened fire at Jamalpur under Daulatpur thana here yester-

spot today saw the helmet. It was pierced by the bullet. The commanding officer admitted that the helmet was not bullet-It was also revealed that

Journalists who visited the

most of the mortar shells which the BDR fired did not work, because those were very old.

BDR sources said BSF has sent a protest note and both the sides are on high alert. Both BSF and BDR have agreed to hold a flag meeting at 10 am

By Shehab Ahmed

Larma, Chairman of the Par-

battya Chattagram Jana Sang-

hati Samity (PCJSS), is likely

to take charge of the interim

Regional Council (RC) sometime

tions tour of the CHT districts

to assess the minds of his sup-

porters, sources close to him

interim Chairman of the 22-

member RC, he had earlier de-

clined to take charge accusing

the government of deviating

from certain understanding

with him before the signing of

CHT peace accord in December

there had been any understand-

dissatisfaction over the delay

in the passage of hill district

ing other than the agreement.

The government denied that

Larma, however, expressed

See Page 12 Col 1

He is now on a public rela-

Despite his nomination as

next month.

Jyotirindriya Bodhipriya

tomorrow. BDR earlier sent a protest note to Indian side, they

Meanwhile, women and children of the bordering village who left their villages last night started coming back to their respective homes, according to Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia, who visited the Jamalpur village and BOP this morning.

Injured persons admitted in Kushtia General Hospital were undergoing treatment and recovering, according to hospital sources. Two of the critically injured have been shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital today.

About 40 others were released from Daulatpur Thana Health complex today after ur-See Page 12 Col 8

Khaleda concerned at Kushtia killings by BSF

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed deep con-cern over the killing of six people by BSF in Kushtia and blamed government's 'subservient' policy towards India for encouraging such provocative acts, reports UNB.

She in a statement said after assumption of power by this government, such killings and repression along the border are on the rise. "BSF activities indicate that

they give a damn to the sovereignty of Bangladesh and its people," said the BNP chairperson about attitude of the neighbours.

In past few years, she alleged the Indian Border Security Force had kidnapped and killed a number of Bangladeshi nationals, but the government failed to lodge strong protests against such incidents. "Present government has

opened the border. Indian smuggled goods and drugs have flooded the country. Indian phensidyl has destroyed the lives of lakhs of Bangladeshi

NA move to strip Benazir of her membership

ISLAMABAD, Apr 20: Parliament today began a formal process to unseat former Pak-İstani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her husband after they were found guilty of corruption, AFP quoting officials

Benazir currently in London, is the leader of the Opposition in the 217-member National Assembly or lower house while her jailed husband Asif Ali Zardari is a member of the 87-

member Senate. A special court last week sentenced both to five years' imprisonment, fined them 8.6 million dollars and disqualified them from holding any public office.

Formal notice of the verdict was received today by the Speaker of the National Assembly Ilahi Bakhsh Soomro and Senate chairman Wasim Under the rules they are re-

quired to pass the notice to the chief election commissioner, who will then strip the couple of their membership of parlia-A two-judge accountability bench of the Lahore High Court

convicted the two on charges of receiving millions of dollars in kickbacks from a Swiss firm for a 1994 pre-shipment trade cargo inspection contract. Benazir has denied any wrongdoing and described her conviction as politically moti-

vated, accusing Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of a witchhunt to eliminate her from politics. The government has refuted the allegations. Demonstrations were planned across the country

later today by Benazir's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) to protest the conviction.

AP adds: Hundreds of policemen guarded the grand white marble Parliament buildings here today stopping supporters of Benazir from holding anti-government demonstra-In frontier provincial capi-

tal of Peshawar, police fired tear gas at several hundred of Benazir's protesting supporters. At least 22 people were arrested, said police some of whom attacked the demonstra-



sight" orders. In Karachi's poor Lyari neighbourhood, a stronghold of Benazir's party shops were shuttered

tors with iron-tipped sticks.

hometown of Karachi.

But it was business as usual

However, police in this teem-

in most parts of Benazir's

ing city of 14 million people,

the country's largest, were tak-

ing no chances. There were un-

confirmed reports that the po-

lice had been issued "shoot on

In the Punjab provincial capital of Lahore police in full riot gear patrolled outside the provincial Parliament buildings and in major shopping districts. But a few shops that shut down in Lahore, the hometown

of Prime Minister Sharif.

J B Larma

Contractor shot dead, 2 held in city

By Staff Correspondent A contractor was gunned down in the city's Naya Paltan area late Monday night.

The dead was identified as Kamal Hossain Patwari, 30, son of Abul Patwari, a resident of Shantinagar area, police and hospital sources said. Police suspected that Kamal was murdered as a sequel to previous enmity with some of his

Hospital sources said, the incident took place when Kamal, a contractor of Public Health Engineering Department was entering a business firm in Naya Paltan area at about 10.30 pm.

Police arrested two FIRnamed accused identified as Shamim and Sentu. See Page 12 Col 6

Caution Notice for Intending **Buyers of Flats**

Through Finance Act, 1997 Land Development Firms & Building Construction Firms (So.10.00) have been included in the jurisdiction of VAT. Due to this inclusion it is mandatory for all land development & building construction firms to be registered at

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purchased flat is registered under VAT Act or not If necessary, collect its registration number & verify from the nearest VAT office. It may be noted that at the time of purchasing flat, the firms are realising the VAT payable to govt account on sale price from your paid advance or instalment amounts. But, to ensure whether this VAT is deposited to proper govt account or not, you as a conscious citizen must demand the VAT challan from the selling firm at the time of payment. Otherwise, the responsibility of paying VAT will rest with you.

regard the undermentioned address & telephone nos may be contacted.

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National Board of Revenue

DFP-7870-15/4

Saving history from the patriotic diatribes and

Business

The power sector is 'facing the risk of a massive disruption' as four major plants generating one fourth of the country's total power production badly need overhauling, sources concerned

Three of the power plants needed overhauling 3 to 4 years ago and the other needs now. But due to acute shortage of funds and chronic power crisis, the plants are not getting due at-

tention, the sources added. The three 150 MW Ashuganj plants, built in the mid-eight-ies, are operating at a risk of total breakdown. The other one is the first 210 MW Raozan power plant built in 1992. The government requires about Tk 500 crore to overhaul

the Ashuganj plants and Tk 200 crore for the Raozan plant. Although very late, the government is now discussing with German lending agency KFW the issue of funds for overhauling Ashuganj plants. A meeting in this regard is likely to be

quarters here that he would

moved by Sonia. Efforts were also underway to secure the support of other TDP MPs which were so long

tion government. Two former Union minis-

Sonia Gandhi had impor-

Woman succumbs to bomb injuries

By Staff Correspondent A middle-aged woman succumbed to her bomb injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday

The young men intercepted the bus returning from Gazipur at about 10 pm. They hurled petrol bomb on the bus and set

fire to it. Kiran Rani and ten others

Shafi murder Judicial statement of SI Shajahan

- AFP photo

not recorded By Staff Correspondent SI Shajahan, one of the arrested in the Jalal Ahmed Shafi murder case, was sent to the

Dhaka Central Jail yesterday. Meanwhile, CID yesterday interrogated three Sub Inspectors - Jahid, Akbar and Musibur - of transferred AC Baten's team.

CID was also interrogating the remanded three - Inspector Zia, havilder Belal and constable Rob till last night.

CID has so far arrested five See Page 12 Col 8 Eyes of absconding

accused gouged

out in Munshiganj From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Apr 20: Some unidentified persons gouged out eyes of an absconding accused wanted in connection with the killing of a Jatiya Party leader at Kalinagar under Serajdikhan police station of

Munshiganj today. According to witnesses, a group of youths went to the village home of Ali Hossain and beat him mercilessly and at one stage they gouged out his eyes. Later, the victim was brought to the Islamia Eye Hospital in the

Ali Hossain was accused of killing JP leader Abdul Halim who was stabbed to death on Monday.

Despite the grim power sup-

ply situation in the country

from 1995-96, both the previous

and the present governments ignored the overhauling sched-

ules of Ashuganj plants. Only

recently the government asked

KFW to finance Ashuganj

plants' overhauling. "But the

government is not pursuing it

with the seriousness the project

that the government must 'cor-

poratise' Ashuganj plants to get the Tk 500 crore loan. It argued

that, if corporatised, the power

plants would be able to finance

grammes from their own

earnings. Besides, their per-

formance would improve that

principle agreed to the condi-

tion and has already completed

paper works to corporatise

See Page 12 Col 7

these plants, sources said.

The government has in

way.

maintenance pro-

KFW had placed a condition

deserves," the source said.

1996 scamsters blamed Stock prices hit new lows

By M Shamsur Rahman tagong bourse to an all time low

Dhaka and Chittagong share price indexes plummeted to new depths generating widespread apprehension among the brokers and causing some of them to shut business till the stock markets revived.

Most market operators believed that the accused in the 1996 share scam were pulling the strings. DSE All Shares Price Index plunged to an astounding 63-

month low.

The DSE index declined to 484 points at 1:00pm equalling that on January 20, 1994. The index later recovered 2.62 points to close at 486.62 points yesterday. The index lost a total of 11.77 points from the previous day's closing.

The declining share prices pulled the index of the Chitof 209.46 points yesterday from 214.29 points on the previous Brokers and traders are attributing the slide to scamsters of 1996 who, according to them,

are bringing down the market by performing syndicate operations. "Their intention is to create pressure on the government to withdraw cases against "They are making more money than that in 1996," said one. "They are taking advan-

tage of the loopholes which

were not amended when auto-

mated trading was launched." He added that four to five of the members form a syndicate and transact among themselves on a particular day a certain See Page 12 Col 1

respective area basis VAT Department Office.

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