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Nat'l Action Plan for employment of women at all levels soon

By Staff Correspondent
A National Action Plan for employment of women at all levels including top management positions is going to be taken up shortly, according to official sources.
The NAP aims at enhancing management role and capacity of women and will provide for 'lateral entry' at senior levels from within the government and on contract service from outside.
All other ministries and government agencies concerned would bear the responsibility for women's development and the role of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs would be focused on communication, coordination, monitoring and implementation of the plan, the sources said.
The plan emphasises the

New chairman elected: 3 councillors co-opted DSE chairman removed in no-confidence motion

By Staff Correspondent
The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Council yesterday removed its chairman, Imtiyaz Hussain, in a no-confidence motion and elected MA Huq Howlader as new chairman.
The decisions were taken at a meeting of the DSE Council at a local hotel yesterday morning.
Howlader has already taken over as DSE chairman, a DSE press release said last night.
The meeting earlier co-opted three new councillors to fill up the posts which fell vacant after the resignation of council members Raquibur Rahman, MG Azam Chowdhury and DSE

Unscheduled debate over independence of judiciary

By Staff Correspondent
The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday witnessed a lengthy unscheduled debate over the independence of the judiciary and power of the legislature, especially in terms of 'immunity' of the MPs as regards commenting on judgements passed by the High Court.
The debate began when former Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali on a point of order claimed that speeches of some Awami League legislators, delivered in the Sangsad on Saturday, were aspersive of the High Court judges who asked the government to financially compensate four BNP leaders arrested earlier under the Special Powers Act.
Claiming that no MP can criticise the High Court judges except 'on a substantive motion', Razzak Ali said that the ruling party MPs had violated certain provisions of the Con-

It's now South Asia's turn to grow: ADB

FUKUOKA, Japan, May 11: After years of being left behind in the economic race that has vaulted Asia's "tigers" from poverty to riches, it is now South Asia's turn to grow, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said today, reports Reuters.
"It is in South Asia where the promise of growth and improvement in the quality of life over the next 30 years is the greatest," the bank said in a report issued on the opening day of its 30th annual meeting in the southern Japanese city of Fukuoka.
Although the 936 million population of India, the biggest country in South Asia, has been a major factor in the widespread poverty there, in the next few years its people could be the trigger for growth, the bank said.
The report said the time had come for Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and Sri Lankans because the age of their population was right for economic growth.
"In countries where an in-

Govt borrowed over Tk 1167cr from banks in 9 months

Government's net borrowing from the country's banking system was Tk 1167.80 crore as on April 7 this fiscal, parliament was told yesterday, report agencies.
Of the total, Tk 958.88 crore was borrowed from the Bangladesh Bank and Tk 208.92 crore from the scheduled banks, Education Minister ASHK Sadique said in reply to a question from M Fazlul Azim of BNP.
Replying on behalf of the Finance Minister, Sadique said the loan was taken to meet the current expenditure of the government. The amount borrowed this year was less than that of last year.
"Borrowing from the banking system is quite normal and many countries borrow from the banking system to meet their financial requirements," he told the House.
In a written reply to another question, Finance Minister Shah ASM Kibria said the government has waived agricultural credit amounting to Tk 72.62 crore, so far, during the current fiscal year.
An amount of Tk 11.89 crore was waived by Sonali Bank, Tk 1.52 crore by Janata Bank, Tk 33.42 lakh by Agrani Bank, Tk 26.43 crore by Bangladesh Krishi Bank and Tk 32.44 crore by Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank.
Responding to another question, the Education Minister said the government has a plan to privatise the Rupali Bank Limited.
He said the Rupali Bank was in the process of denationalising, but the terms and conditions have not yet been finalised.
Answering another question, the minister said the government has taken up a commercial reorganisation project to modernise the services and management of the nationalised banks. The government

JS snippets

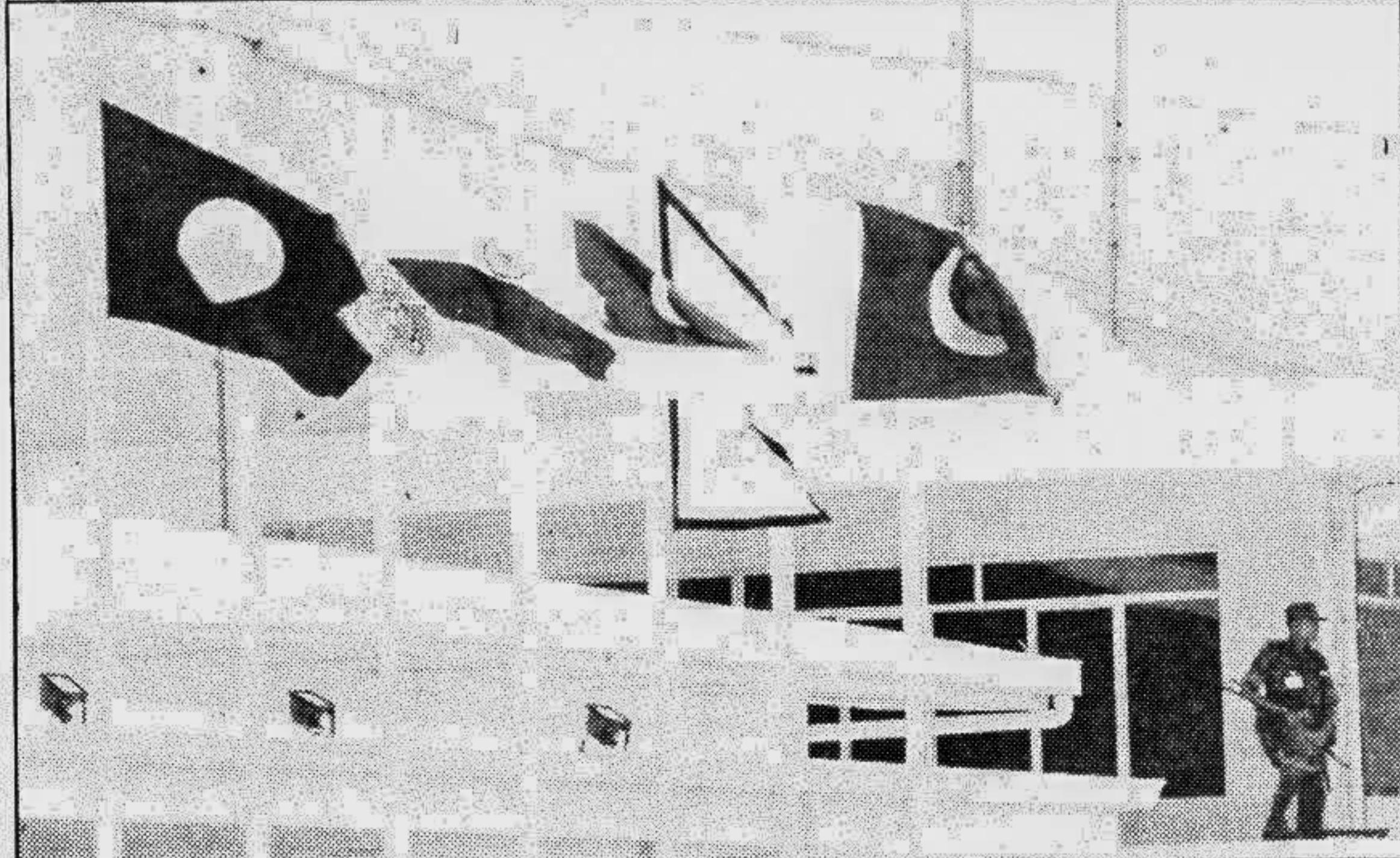
By Nazmul Ashraf
Folders of the Jatiya Sangsad members were once again changed yesterday.
Thin plastic-coated folders were reintroduced in the House, replacing the heavy hardboard made ones as the opposition BNP members used the files to register their protests by hitting those on the desks on Saturday.
The plastic-coated folders were first introduced in the present parliament following a similar situation on the past.
In the face of criticism by the Treasury Bench of Saturday's walkout by his party, former Speaker and BNP MP Shaikh Razzak Ali reminded the ruling Awami League leaders of doing



The Dhaka University campus during the strike yesterday, called by JCD. — Star photo

JCD strike: No classes held at DU

By DU Correspondent
Classes were not held at Dhaka University and offices at the administrative building remained closed yesterday as Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) called a day-long strike on the campus protesting Friday's violence and demanding resignation of the proctor of the university.
No scheduled examination except that of masters course (traditional) was held.
On Friday, activists of JCD and Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) clashed with those of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, student wing of Jatiya Party, leaving ten persons injured.
JCD, the student wing of BNP, is also demanding arrest of those involved in the incident.
JCD brought out a procession on the campus in support of its strike and later it held a rally at the Aparajeo Bangla. The rally was addressed by among others,



A security guard is positioned on a ledge beside the flags of the seven SAARC nations yesterday at Male International Airport. — AFP/UNB photo

SAARC summit opens in Male today Goal is to catch up with ASEAN, EU trading blocs

MALE (Maldives), May 11: The leaders of seven South Asian nations representing one-fifth of the world's population, meet here tomorrow morning to lend impetus to a fledgling campaign to catch up with powerful trading blocs in Southeast Asia and Europe, report agencies.
The heads of government of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) gather on this tiny Indian Ocean island nation for a three-day summit.
The leaders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka began arriving today at a resort on one of the 1,190 small coral islands that make up the tropical archipelago in the Indian Ocean.
The first to arrive was King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan who was followed by Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina Wajed.
Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived later and was followed by Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga, officials said.
In an arrival message, Sharif said he hoped schedule talks with Gujral would enable them to "identify ways and means of addressing meaningfully all outstanding issues" between them.
Their meeting just after the opening of the summit tomorrow is expected to overshadow the 7-nation summit.
But Pakistan's foreign minister today warned against such optimism.
"The ground work for the meeting has not been done and even an agenda has not been set," Gohar Ayub Khan told reporters in Islamabad less than 24 hours before their meeting.
The focus of the summit will be squarely on economics and trade in line with a shift in the

Hasina in Male

MALE, May 11: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived here this afternoon to attend the Ninth SAARC Summit beginning in this Indian ocean island state from tomorrow, reports BSS.
Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom received the Bangladesh leader at the gateway of the Male International Airport.
President Gayoom, who is taking over the stewardship of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) from the Indian Prime Minister I K Gujral, escorted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the tastefully decorated dais. She took salute of a smart contingent drawn from the three services of the Maldives as the national anthems of the two countries were played. Prime Minister Hasina inspected the guard.
President Gayoom then introduced the members of his

Ctg port users call off boycott programme

CHITTAGONG, May 11: The Port Users Forum (PUF) has called off its programme of phase-wise boycott of Chittagong port which was scheduled to begin today.
Talking to The Daily Star over telephone, Convenor of PUF Kamal Uddin Ahmed said "We have postponed our boycott programme for the time being at the request of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during a meeting with the forum members last night". He hoped that the government would soon take steps to ensure use of private equipment at Chittagong port.
He informed that the Prime Minister called the Forum

100 injured in DEPZ clash

SAVAR, May 11: More than 100 people were injured in a clash between garment workers and some hired musclemen in the compound of a garments factory at DEPZ in Savar today, reports UNB.
Police and witnesses said the clash ensued at 10 am when the hired musclemen attacked the garment workers who went to work abstention today.
Some 1,200 workers of the Lany Fashion Ltd went on strike demanding pay hike and appointment letters.
Police rushed to the scene at around 11:30 am and charged batons to bring the situation under control.
Ten women workers were among the injured. The injured were treated in different local clinics.
One shot dead in Chittagong
From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 11: One person was shot dead by his rivals at the Burma colony at Nasirabad in the city this morning, police said.
The victim was identified as Nurul Huq.
Police said, the cause of the killing was a dispute over landed property.

Death toll 2400: Iran appeals for aid 2000 die in Qayen district of Khorasan alone

QAYEN (Iran) May 11: Iran appealed for international assistance today after a powerful earthquake killed nearly 2,400 people in the east of the country and destroyed some 10,000 homes, reports AFP.
The Iranian Red Crescent said 200 villages had been flattened in Khorasan province, the richest and most fertile region of the country, in Saturday's quake, which registered 7.1 degrees on the Richter Scale.
About 130 aftershocks shook what was left standing, forcing tens of thousands to camp in the streets of stricken villages.
By Sunday, thousands of volunteers from unaffected areas had poured into the villages and towns in a convoy of trucks, pickups and buses to help. They dug through the rubble with bare hands to look for bodies. Others distributed relief supplies.
In most villages, streets had disappeared into rows of rubble. Survivors beat their chests and wailed in anguish. Others washed the bodies of their loved ones and buried them in mass graves.
Editorial on page 4
Most of the devastation occurred around the towns of Qayen and Birjand but the Iranian Interior Ministry reported that there had also been 'major damage' across the border in the western Afghan province of Herat.
Hamid Mahalati, the head of the Red Crescent crisis team in Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan province, told the official IRNA news agency that 2,000 people had died in the Qayen district of Khorasan province alone.
He added that 394 people were killed in the town of Birjand and two in Khaf, near the

DMP to have 'dog squad'
By Masud Arif
Bangladesh Police is going to raise a 'dog squad' for special handling of crimes and other related activities.
Initially twenty dogs will be bought for the squad to be placed under Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), according to police sources.
The squad will be trained up for carrying out various duties. Half of the squad will be involved in 'tracking and guard duties' and the rest for detecting narcotics, arms and explosives.
Editorial on page 4
Newsman had to block his way when the gates of the state guest house, Padma, opened to let his flag car go out. Some of the newsmen were waiting on their legs there for more than five hours since the talks began at 4 pm.
According to sources, the PCJSS delegation reiterated its five-point demand which in-

No breakthrough: CHT talks resume today

By Special Correspondent
Peace talks between the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) and the Parbatyia Chhattagram Janasanghati Samaj (PCJSS), the political wing of the Shantibahini resumed in the city yesterday.
"Nobody should expect a breakthrough in a 21 year old national problem just after a day's talk," NCCHT convener Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad told newsmen at about 9 pm last night after four hours of talks.
The talks will resume at 10 am today, he said.
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Rajuk Commercial Plot Auction Notice
Most ideally located commercial Plot Nos 3, 5 and 7 on Road No 2 measuring more or less 652.42 sqr metre (9.75 katha), 679.37 sqr metre (10.15 katha) and 637.91 sqr metre (9.53 katha) respectively at Motijheel (Extension) Commercial Area, Dhaka will be allotted for 99 years lease on open auction land as it is basis.
Applications on prescribed form to be obtained with terms and conditions from Agrani Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk 500/- (Taka five hundred) only in cash for each set (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates) from the intending bidders up to 2-00 PM on 28-5-97.
The auction will be held on 29-5-97 in the Conference Room, 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10-00 AM.
Chairman
Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha
Dhaka.
DFP-11017/7/5
G-1364

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