

OUR FAMILY Offering 2,3 and 4 nights package stay at Dubai in a 4 Star Hotel with attractive guided trips. Please check out for AIR TICKETS.

PACKAGE 1 **MUHARRAM JAFARI**

For details contact: **EASTWIND TOURS AND TRAVELS** 6, North Gulshan, Gulshan - 2. Phone: 872007, 9884652. Fax: 861108.

The Daily Star

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: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

9th SAARC summit opens

MALE, May 12: Seven South Asian leaders today began a three-day summit in this Indian Ocean atoll republic of the Maldives in a bid to boost trade, report agencies.

The summit, the ninth for the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), opened at the four-storeyed Dharubaaruge Conference Hall on the eastern edge of this tiny capital island of Male.

The three-day summit, being attended by the heads of state or government, is expected to give a fresh impetus to the on-going regional cooperation as the leaders in their speeches in the inaugural session expressed the firm eagerness to take the forum to the cherished objective for the benefit of the vast multitude, living in the populous Asian region.

The summit began with Indian Prime Minister and outgoing chairman of the SAARC I K Gujral conducting the opening session.

I K Gujral opened the session by inviting the president of the Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom to deliver his inaugural address.

See Page 12 Col 2

Hasina addresses SAARC summit in Male Dhaka proposes SAEC for rapid regional growth



Sheikh Hasina addressing the summit yesterday.

MALE, May 12: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina mooted a proposal for creating South Asian Economic Community for attaining a rapid economic growth in the region through intensive cooperation, reports UNB.

She proposed the setting up of SAEC as the ninth SAARC Summit began at the SAARC Hall in the Maldives capital today to chart the next course of cooperation among the seven member nations.

It is necessary in today's context, she told South Asian leaders, to clearly spell out the benefits of expanded trade and economic cooperation among the member countries.

"We believe that this Summit should authorise a group of eminent persons from South Asia to prepare a report on accelerating and strengthening regional cooperation and suggesting specific steps which would facili-

tate the creation of a South Asian Economic Community," stated Hasina.

She favoured promotion of regional trade among South Asian nations through SAPTA, saying "we have made progress", but "much more needs to be done".

"We must also address the question of investments in the relatively less developed member states, promote trade creating joint ventures, easy flow of capital, services and technology and speedy dissemination of trade information," Hasina said admitting the difference in the relative size of the economies, levels of development and degree of diversities in the countries.

Micro-credit

"We need more effective tools to fight destitution and more appropriate policies to enable the poor to work their way out

of poverty," Hasina suggested, adding one of the tools for combating poverty, which has been tested around the world in more than fifty years, is micro-credit.

Mentioning the Micro-Credit Summit in Washington DC in February this year, she said the Summit had launched a campaign to ensure that 100 million poorest families of the world, particularly women, received credit for self-employment and other financial and business services by the year 2005.

The Prime Minister said governments could play a crucial role in fostering an enabling environment for the development of micro-credit institutions.

Hasina further called for involvement of organised private sector in the SAARC process as it can accelerate the promotion

See page 2

Distorted TV coverage alleged Govt violating 4-pt accord: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has accused the government of violating its 4-point accord with the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad, particularly the one on neutral coverage of the Sangsad proceedings by Bangladesh Television.

Speaking on the issue, BNP lawmaker Maj (ret) Hafizuddin Ahmed alleged that BTV covered the proceedings in the last two days in a partial and distorted manner. He also demanded that BTV broadcast live the whole proceedings of the Sangsad, as done by the Radio.

Rising on a point of order, BNP lawmaker also alleged imbalanced coverage of the proceedings by BTV in the last two days when the Treasury Bench as covered for 125 minutes against only 55 minutes for the Opposition. Besides, some of the BNP MPs were covered partially omitting key points in their deliberations while others were totally blacked out, he added.

About leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia's speech Sunday, Hafiz charged

that she was not heard clearly through BTV but the sound was clear when Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman spoke after her.

"It's better not to cover at all than covering in this distorted and motivated way," he commented.

See Page 12 Col 7

JS snippets

By Nazmul Ashraf

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid felt yesterday that a mental hospital should be set up somewhere around the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Responding to BNP lawmaker Joyntal Abedin Faruk's remarks about the Mental Hospital at Pabna during the question-hour, the Deputy Speaker

See page 2

Japan to give 15.2b yen loan for 3 projects

Japan has agreed to provide 15.2 billion yen (US\$ 962 crore) as loan to Bangladesh for three projects in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Japanese Finance Minister H Mitsuoka informed Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria of the decision during a meeting with him in the city of Fukuoka yesterday.

The loan will be in addition to the projects being financed under Japanese assistance, according to a message received here.

Mitsuoka also told the Bangladesh Finance Minister

See Page 12 Col 1

Charge sheet in Jail Killing Case this month likely

By Staff Correspondent

The charge sheet in the case of murder of four national leaders inside Dhaka Central Jail is likely to be submitted by the end of this month, official sources said.

The four Awami League stalwarts — Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Kamruzzaman and Mansur Ali — were killed on November 3, 1975. CID took up the case with the return of Awami League to power after nearly 21 years.

Talking to The Daily Star about the case lodged in this regard with Labagh Thana, officials said that investigation into it was the final stage, and was expected to be completed by the end of this month.

See Page 12 Col 5

New chairman for Ctg port soon

The Shipping Minister told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that a permanent chairman will be appointed soon for the Chittagong port, reports UNB.

Responding to a series of questions in the House, Shipping Minister A S M Abdur Rab said the appointment of a new chairman of the largest sea port would be announced within a few days.

Mirza Azam of the treasury bench termed the chairman in charge of the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Capt Zahuruddin Mahmud corrupt and inefficient, and wanted to know if he would be removed.

Azam referred to a written reply by the minister where he mentioned the "inefficiency and misconduct" of Mahmud who was also punished for that in a departmental case against him.

See Page 12 Col 4

Iranian tremor: Death toll rises to 4000

QAYEN, Iran, May 12: More than 4,000 people were killed in the powerful earthquake which struck eastern Iran on Saturday, the evening newspaper Ressalat reported today, says AFP.

"According to the very latest information from the quake-hit zone, the quake killed more than 4,000 people," the conservative newspaper said in a front-page story.

The Iranian authorities had said previously that around 2,400 people died in the 7.1-degree tremor in Khorasan province and 6,000 were injured.

BNP protests case against JCD activists

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday protested the filing of case against more than 300 leaders and workers of Jatiyatibadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), reports UNB.

In a statement, he said terrorists of the fallen autocratic regime in cooperation with the ruling party's student wing had attacked a JCD procession on the Dhaka University campus on Friday, but the government filed "a conspiratorial case" against the JCD leaders and workers.

Police filed a case against some 300 JCD members, including its general secretary Habibur Nabi Sohel, central leaders Abdul Khaleque, Monzur-Elahi and Monwar Hossain Rana.

Bhuiyan said the so-called consensus government has been resorting to "consensus terrorism" and trying to fish in the troubled water by blaming such terrorism on JCD.

Hot line soon: Prisoners to be freed Gujral, Sharif agree to wipe the slate clean

MALE, May 12: The leaders of India and Pakistan met today for the first time in four years, agreeing to wipe the slate clean after 50 years of hostility, reports AP.

Speaking with uncommon congeniality, Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif agreed to set up a hot line, arranged a release of prisoners and decided to set up working committees to discuss the issues that led them to war three times since 1947.

"We have both agreed to have a clean slate," said Gujral after the 90-minute luncheon meeting, held on the sidelines of a seven-nation regional summit.

Although short on practical results, the meeting was significant for the optimism it lent to the impoverished South Asia region, which is trapped in a costly arms race.

"We had a very good meeting. Very warm and friendly," Gujral said. "Both sides tried to talk of prospects and desirability of good relations between the two."

Sharif said the foreign secretaries — the highest ranking diplomats of their countries — would meet to continue the talks. Calling his meeting with Gujral constructive and meaningful, Sharif said, "I intend to continue with these talks. These occasions do not come every day."

The two men appeared to find good chemistry. Both are newly installed as prime minister, and come from the same region Punjab that was divided in 1947 when British India was partitioned into Muslim Pakistan and India, which is mostly Hindu.

"I like the man very much," Gujral said of Sharif.

Earlier, the Pakistani leader sounded cheerful as he headed into the meeting with Gujral on a tropical resort island ringed by coral reefs and palm-shaded beaches.

"We will find ways and means of cooperation with each other and resolving outstanding conflicts and issues," Sharif told reporters.

Sharif's foreign minister



(From left) Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bhutanese King Jime Singye Wangchuck, Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, Nepali Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, and Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga at the inaugural ceremony of the ninth SAARC Summit that began in Male yesterday.

Hasina holds talks with Sharif, Kumaratunga

MALE, May 12: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif stressed the need for enhancing trade between the two countries and promoting the private sector, reports BSS.

The two leaders during their meeting held at the Kurumba village resort this evening exchanged views on bilateral issues of mutual interest including the economic issues.

Hasina suggested that Pakistan could import tea, betel leaf, cheese and other commodities from Bangladesh. She also referred to a proposal for convention of businessmen from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in a round-table to be held in Dhaka in November this year. Nawaz Sharif endorsed the proposal.

Hasina also suggested that there should be more exchange of visits for forging better economic relations between the two countries.

Sri Lanka today assured Bangladesh of buying jute wrapping bags and jute goods from Bangladesh.

See page 2

CHT peace talks continue Govt, PCJSS hopeful of a settlement

By Special Correspondent

Peace talks between the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Parbatya Chattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS) continued for the second day in the city yesterday.

"We are hopeful of resolving the problem through understanding soon," Convener of the National Committee and Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah told journalists at 8:30 last night, after the second day of fifth round of current series of negotiations, the third in the city since January.

PCJSS chief Jyotindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma, who posed for photographers with Abdullah on the porch of state guest house Padma, nodded in approval when the Chief Whip gave a two-sentence resume of the day's business.

"There had been progress during the talks which would continue. We are hopeful about the developments for a settlement soon," said the brief statement read out to newsmen by Abdullah. But he declined to say anything more. Shantu Larma, insisted by newsmen for his comments, said, "I have the same opinion. Everything is going well." Asked how long it would take to reach a permanent settlement, he just shrugged his shoulders and followed Abdullah into the guest house. Insiders' however, said that the talks which resumed in the forenoon yesterday would continue today. The PCJSS delegation is likely to leave the city later in the day unless there is substantial progress.

According to sources concerned, the PCJSS delegation reiterated its five-point demand

See Page 12 Col 8

Day-long clash at SSMC: 50 hurt

Classes at the Sir Salimullah Medical College (SSMC) could not be held yesterday due to a day-long clash between students and employees that left some 50 people injured, reports UNB.

Regular activities of the SSMC Hospital were also hampered as its class four employees kept several offices, including the academic building, under lock and key.

Most of the resident female students meanwhile left their dormitories as tension was mounting on the campus. The new ladies hostel is now almost vacant.

The clash ensued in the morning when the employees and their hired goons attacked the SSMC Students' Union VP and Chhatra League leader Ripon.

Campus sources said the clash was a sequel to last two days' trouble between the students and the employees that ensued when some employees teased a girl student. The employees also assaulted the college GS when he protested the incident.

Both the feuding groups used sticks and other lethal weapons, and blasted dozens of handmade crude bombs creating panic among the patients and their attendants.

Police, who were staying on the campus since Sunday night, lobbed at least a dozen of tear gas canisters to disperse the rioting employees and students.

At one stage of the clash, the employees attacked the ladies hostel, but police dispersed them.

But students accused the police of siding with the employees and pelting stones on them.

See Page 12 Col 4

Tk 20cr DCC project to ease traffic jam

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has taken up a massive project as part of its programme to ease traffic jam and ensure safe movement of pedestrians in the metropolis, reports UNB.

The project has been submitted for the consideration of the government.

After government approval, the project works which include construction of more 22 steel-structured foot bridges and a link road at a cost of Tk 20 crore will begin from next fiscal year commencing in July and are likely to be completed by July 1998, said a DCC release yesterday.

A three-lane steel-structured foot bridge will be constructed at Syedabad intersection, while four-lane footover bridges will be constructed near Golap Shah Mazar at Gulistan, near Science Laboratory on Mirpur Road, at Mirpur crossing No-1 and at Sattrasta crossing on Tongi diversion road.

Overbridges will also be constructed at the crossing of Johnson Road at Nawabpur, near Suritola School at North-South Road, near Fakirpur Bazar, near Babupura Market at Nilkhet, near Basabo crossing, on Kakral Road crossing, near Dhanmondi Boys High School, on Mohammadpur Town Hall Road, on Old Airport Road near Shaheen School, near Kalyanpur bus stand, near Sheorapara bus stand, at Progoti Sarani, at Joarsahara crossing near Nikunju, near Rajkumari crossing at Uttara, near Motijheel Shapla crossing and near WAPDA building at Motijheel.

Besides, at a cost of Tk 1 crore a link road will be constructed from near Nagar Bhaban to Secretariat through Osmani Udyan.

The DCC also decided to extend the footover bridge near Shahbagh upto PG Hospital on one side while upto Diabetic Hospital on the other side.

Govt handout Newspaper Wage Board to be announced soon

The government is attentive and sincere enough to announce the Fifth Wage Board Award for newspaper and news agency employees as soon as possible, an official handout said yesterday, reports BSS.

Giving an assurance to all those who are engaged in the newspaper industry about the announcement of the Wage Board Award very soon, the government urged all concerned to rise above all political differences and lend their cooperation to it for the welfare of the industry as a whole.

The handout said the attention of the government has been drawn to the statements given by leaders of different unions and federations about the Fifth Wage Board Award and their programmes thereto.

It said that the government of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had promulgated Newspaper Employees (Condition of Services) Act in

See Page 12 Col 4

Inmates evicted from brothel in city

Several hundred sex workers were evicted from country's one of the oldest brothels at Kandupatti in old Dhaka by a section of local people, reports UNB.

The women started leaving the red light district in the early hours yesterday as the locals Sunday threatened an attack if they found anyone after 10 am yesterday.

Some 1,000 people chanting slogans against prostitution and carrying lethal weapons stormed the brothel at about 11 in the morning and started dismantling establishments inside.

Inmates of the brothel were not there when the attack was launched in the century-old sex trade centre, said the duty officer of Kotwali Thana.

He said police rushed to the scene and brought the situation

See Page 12 Col 6



Inmates leaving Kandupatti brothel in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Lessons in Macro-economic Management

Column: Window on Asia by Shahed Latif Page 4

International

Iran launches relief efforts for quake victims Chandrika to voice opposition to sub-regional groupings Page 5

Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a two-page special supplement on 'Women in Technical Education and Profession' Pages 8, 9

Business

Dhaka firm to maintain macro-economic balances, Kibria tells ADB meeting Share prices rise following removal of DSE chairman Pages 6, 7