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Computer database to be created containing all cabinet decisions
By Staff Correspondent

The government has taken a decision to create a computer database containing all cabinet decisions since 1972, according to highly-placed official sources.
The system is expected to be installed within three months and it will take one and a half years to store all the previous decisions.
The project will cost Tk 50 lakh. The system will be developed by computer scientists of the BUET. Latest computer technology will be used in the system.
See Page 12 Col 3

CRF facilities from 20 importable items withdrawn

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday said the decision to withdraw facilities of clean report of finding (CRF) from 20 importable items was aimed at protecting local industries and increasing national revenue income, reports BSS.
In a statement, it said the locally produced items were facing unequal competition as these items were being imported under CRF facilities at a much lower price than the international ruling price. On the other hand, the government was being deprived of the due revenue income.

Bangladesh Tariff Commission, Industries Ministry, Federation of Bangladesh Chamber
See Page 12 Col 7

Inside Today

Article

Banking and its Achilles' Heels

by Mohammad Nurunnabi Chowdhury
Page 4

Focus

Sonia Gandhi in politics: Impact on Indian scene
Page 5

Business

ADB aid recipients react sceptically over Japanese proposal for intermediary role

Trading at DSE continues to rise
Pages 6, 7

SAARC leaders endorse proposals on micro-credit, other issues



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held talks with Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at the VVIP Lounge at the Kurumba Village Resort in the Maldives on Monday. — PID photo

Hasina attends banquet

KURUMBA (Maldives), May 13: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night attended a banquet hosted by the chairman of the Ninth SAARC Summit Maumoon Abdul Gayoom at the Kurumba village resort here, reports BSS.

Leaders and delegates of the SAARC nations attended the banquet.
President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and the Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga spoke on the occasion.

SAARC leaders urged to take steps against child, women trafficking

From A Correspondent

Male (Maldives), May 13: A delegation of women's and human rights groups from Bangladesh, India and Nepal today called on the prime ministers of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan and drew their attention to the regional problem of child and women trafficking.

The delegation includes Farida Akter of UBINIG and Salma Ali of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, Madhu Bhushan of Asian
See Page 12 Col 5

Sharif's call to pull out troops from Kashmir

MALE (Maldives), May 13: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said today he was confident India would agree to discuss the future of divided Kashmir in bilateral talks, and urged India to withdraw troops from the Himalayan region.

Sharif told Reuters television before leaving the SAARC summit that he was satisfied with face-to-face talks on Monday with his Indian counterpart, Inder Kumar Gujral.

"I think the situation has taken a good turn. We have held talks yesterday after a deadlock of four years. The talks were very constructive, very meaningful, and we've agreed to talk more," Sharif said before boarding a plane.

Sharif said the Pakistani and Indian foreign secretaries would meet in Islamabad next month and hoped they would form working groups to discuss outstanding issues dividing the neighbouring countries.

Asked if one of the working groups should be devoted to Kashmir, the Pakistani leader said: "Certainly, because Kashmir is the core issue, and we have to address this issue very seriously."

Sharif was asked what would happen if India refused to discuss Kashmir in a working group. "I think they will listen to us," he said.

Sharif left the summit this morning to attend a meeting of the Economic Cooperation Or-

ganisation grouping Pakistan, Iran and the newly independent Central Asian states being held in Turkmenistan.

The SAARC summit opened in the Maldivian capital on Monday with calls to address bilateral problems that have frustrated efforts to pull the region out of poverty.

Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, SAARC's new chairman, has said the bloc should start a separate but parallel political dialogue to overcome the mistrust in the region that has slowed progress towards economic integration.

"Such a process would also make more effective the role of SAARC as a confidence building mechanism," he said on Monday.

The association's charter prohibits the discussion at its official forums of contentious issues.
See Page 12 Col 3

Evicted inmates of Kandupatti brothel demand rehabilitation

Dozens of evicted inmates of a city brothel came out on the streets yesterday to register their protest, reports UNB.

But it all went in vain due to a clash between two rival student groups.

The women gathered in front of the Jatiya Press Club at about noon and were taking preparation for a protest against their eviction from Kandupatti on Monday without any alternative and rehabilitation for them.

At that time a meeting of the Islami Chhatra Shibir demanding withdrawal of police forces from Shamsuzzohra Hall of Rajshahi University was in progress. A procession of left-leaning Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya came there from the Dhaka University campus.

The Chhatra Oikya activists
See Page 12 Col 8

ADB to increase loan for Bangladesh

President of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Mitsuo Sato is expected to visit Bangladesh soon, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Sato expressed the intention of responding to an invitation extended to him by Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria during a meeting between them at Fukuoka, Japan yesterday.

Kibria is leading a four-member Bangladesh delegation to the 30th annual meeting of the board of governors of ADB at Fukuoka.

During the meeting they discussed ADB's assistance to different development projects in Bangladesh. Increase of ADB loan, ADB's assistance to develop
See Page 12 Col 3

Dhaka, Yangon to clear mines along border

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, May 13: Bangladesh and Myanmar have agreed to launch a joint operation to remove mines planted along the border, officials concerned said.

Both the countries reached a decision to this effect in a sector commander level meeting of border security forces held recently at Mongdong township of Myanmar. Officials said dates would be fixed soon to initiate the joint operation along the border.
The move was taken against

MALE, May 13: The leaders attending the SAARC summit met privately today in a resort hotel to discuss how they can advance an economic alliance for their impoverished countries, report agencies.

Heavy rain and high waves forced the leaders to cancel their retreat to a secluded tropical island. They met instead at the Kurumba Resort near Male, the capital of this Indian Ocean archipelago.

After a conciliatory meeting with India's leader, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif left the seven-nation summit a day early to attend a conference of Central Asian nations in Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan.

Among a number of proposals discussed, the leaders endorsed a proposal by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made on the basis of recommendations of the micro-credit summit held in Washington.

The SAARC leaders agreed to support the target of providing credit facilities to the world's poorest 100 million families by the year 2000, Bangladesh For-
See Page 12 Col 4

JS snippets

By Nazmul Ashraf

Battered by Opposition lawmakers' criticism on fertiliser distribution, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that his government was just continuing its predecessor's policy concerning formation of committees to distribute fertiliser.

Receiving desk-thumping from both the sides in the House, he drew the Chair's attention to say, "You've seen a consensus on the issue."

In reply, Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid in the chair remarked, "The Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Prof B Choudhury) has worn a nice cap. There will be a nice consensus if you (Tofael) also wear such a cap."

See Page 12 Col 4

'Impasse' in CHT peace talks
PCJSS seeks PM's intervention

By Special Correspondent

The PCJSS delegation, now holding talks with the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in the city have sought the Prime Minister's "intervention to break the impasse in the talks," according to sources concerned.

They have also sought an audience with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the sources said.

There was no official briefing on the third days talks yesterday.

New electricity rate effective from Mar 1

By Staff Correspondent

The government has no plan to increase the rate of electricity for the time being, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Nooruddin Khan told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

The minister however said that five per cent increase has
See Page 12 Col 1

But the sources told this correspondent that negotiations between the National Committee and the Parbaty Chhatra Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS) sailed into rough waters again on the issues of settlers, hill councils and land rights for tribespeople.

Negotiators headed by the National Committee convenor Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad, and PCJSS chief Jyotirindro Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma picked up the unresolved issues when they resumed talks yesterday morning.

But the talks were adjourned at 8:30 pm last night. Abdullah eluded newsmen, exiting through a backdoor of state guest house Padma while his flag car rolled out of its main entrance empty. There was no briefing on talks yesterday.

Sources concerned said the PCJSS delegation would spend another night at Padma, and talks would continue today.
See Page 12 Col 7

Gas exploration in Block 10
No contract signed yet with UNOCAL, JS told

By Staff Correspondent

Identifying shortage of gas supply as a major hurdle in accelerating the country's power production, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Md Nooruddin Khan told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that some immediate steps were being taken by the government to improve the situation.

The minister said a new gas well would be dug soon in the Bakhrabad gas field, while preparatory measures were being taken to bring southern and northern zones of the country under the gas supply network.

Referring to the latest discovery of a gas field at Shabazpur with an expected stock of one trillion cubic feet of gas, the minister said, from
See Page 12 Col 1

there, gas would be supplied to southern parts of the country.

He also informed the House that with an aim to supplying gas to the northern region after completion of the Jamuna Bridge, pipeline have already been extended up to Alenga in Tangail.

Out of 23 gas-reserve blocks in the country, exploration contracts have already been signed for eight, the minister said adding that bidding for the remaining 15 blocks would begin after July 15, the last date of submission of tenders.

As a lawmaker from the Opposition Bench drew his attention to reported signing of a contract with a US company,
See Page 12 Col 1

Opposition MPs set unique example on Private Members' Day

By Staff Correspondent

With no departure from the order of the day, the members of Jatiya Sangsad set an example of holding an ideal session on the Private Members' Day yesterday.

Yesterday's session was also unusual on another account: The opposition members withdrew their resolutions following assurances of the ministers concerned that they would try to resolve the problems raised by the resolutions.

Deputy Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid who was presiding over the session thanked all the MPs for cooperating with
See Page 12 Col 7

35 mortars, 2 shells of rocket launcher found in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, May 13: A huge quantity of mortars and two shells of rocket launcher were found while workers were re-excavating a pond at East Nasirabad in the port city today, reports UNB.

The workers felt the presence of ammunition as they started digging the pond at the residence of Arif Islam, editor of the Chittagong-based Daily Life, at about 9:30 am.

As Islam notified police, a squad, led by DC (North) of CMP Ikhtederuddin Ahmed, rushed to the spot and recovered 35 mortars and two shells of rocket launcher, and took those to Panchlaish thana.

When contacted, a CMP official told UNB that they sought the help of army experts to examine the years-old mortars and shells of rocket launcher.

PM leaves for Spain May 18

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is due to leave Dhaka on May 18 on a four-day visit to Spain, it was learnt yesterday.

An official of the Foreign Ministry said, the Prime Minister would speak at a number of meetings and seminars on investments in Bangladesh. A large number of businessmen will accompany Sheikh Hasina during the visit.

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HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT ENSURES HEALTHY LIVING

WARNING

This is for information of all owners and drivers of motor vehicles and the public at large that, vehicular emission and loud noise of horns are extremely harmful for human health and the environment.

Due to the effects of Carbon Monoxide, Nitrogen Oxides, Sulphur Dioxide, Lead Particles, Hydrocarbons, etc. emitting from vehicular exhaust, cases of eye burning, lungs diseases, nausea, asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, among people are on the increase. As an effect of loud noise from certain vehicular horns, problems of nervous breakdowns, high blood pressure and heart diseases are becoming acute. In other words, harmful smoke and loud noise of horns have made human life and environment miserable in Dhaka and other major cities.

Unfortunately, even after repeated notices and requests from the Department of Environment to control harmful smoke emission and stop using horns, which create loud noise, vehicle owners and drivers are not taking any appropriate measures. As such in order to protect human health and environment, the Government, has decided to take strong legal measures against the defaulters.

Therefore, all vehicle owners and drivers are directed to take corrective measures, to ensure emission free engines, within 30 (thirty) days of issuance of this notice and then only ply the vehicles on the road. After this time limit, the Department of Environment will take strong legal measures against the vehicles emitting harmful smoke and using horns which create loud noise.

Saiyid Musharraf Husain

Director General

Department of Environment &

Additional Secretary

Government of Bangladesh

DFP-11269-14/5

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10 killed in Gopalganj road accident

By Staff Correspondent

At least 15 people were killed and 66 others injured in road accidents across the country yesterday.

Of the 15, two were killed in Gopalganj, ten in Manikganj and three in and around the city.

Our Gopalganj correspondent writes: At least 10 persons were killed and 40 others injured in a road accident at Jalilpur under Sadar thana yesterday, said police and witnesses.

The accident happened when a bus of Rupshi Paribahan bound for Gopalganj from Muk-sudpur fell into a ditch. Eight persons died on the spot and two others succumbed to their
See Page 12 Col 8

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