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More BNP MPs  
favour returning  
to parliament

By Nazmul Ashraf  
The major opposition party in Jatiya Sangsad, BNP, seems inching towards a positive step as regards its participation in JS session with a larger number of party lawmakers favouring it.

Out of 13 party legislators, addressing the on-going meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) yesterday, 12 spoke for taking part in the JS session while only one opposed it, according to meeting sources.

The BNPPP meeting that resumed at 6:50 pm debated the issue for about three hours.

The discussion ended inconclusively at 9:40 and is due to resume at 6:30 this evening.

The BNPPP meeting, which began Tuesday evening, heard

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India should do  
more to narrow  
trade gap: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday praised India for lowering tariff on some imports from Bangladesh, but noted that New Delhi has still more to do to narrow the trade gap against Dhaka, reports UNB.

"Your initiative to lower tariff restrictions... helped move our trade relations ahead. Some more efforts are needed in this area to properly balance our trade," she told Indian Prime Minister IK Gujral.

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New climate of  
cooperation has  
to emerge: Gujral

Indian Prime Minister IK Gujral has said that an enlightened political leadership and a long-term vision are needed for expansion of trade and commerce between Bangladesh and India, reports UNB.

The scope for bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and India is immense and encompasses the entire range of human activity...," he said in his banquet speech at Bangabhaban last night.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hosted the banquet in honour of the Indian Prime

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TOMORROW



Even considering the exceptional performances of the national team in the ICC Trophy last year and near-consolatory performances in the Independence Cup, it is time we take a categorical and objective view of where Bangladeshi cricket is headed, taking into account our strengths and weaknesses. Read Star Weekend's cover story this week Cricket in Bangladesh: Caught Behind?

Inside Today

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The three-nation summit

Towards a New Beginning  
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### Business

Let politics take a back seat, let it all be business, chamber chiefs say

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A two-page supplement on 'Three-Nation Business Summit'  
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Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Jan	Sehri	Iftar
15	15	5-20	5-36
16	16	5-21	5-37
17	17	5-21	5-37

# First ever 3-nation Business Summit begins today

By Diplomatic Correspondent

The eyes of the region will be focused on Dhaka today as Bangladesh plays host to the first ever Three-Nation Business Summit.

Three prime ministers — India's IK Gujral, Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif and Bangladesh's Sheikh Hasina — meet on a common turf, accompanied by delegations of leading businessmen of the three countries.

The day-long event begins at noon at Sonargaon Hotel. The inaugural session will be televised live by Bangladesh Television.

The Summit, initiated by

Dhaka, promises to be a turning point for the three countries of South Asia.

Foreign Minister of the host country Abdus Samad Azad says that the Summit is expected to bring about a climate of change and accelerate the pace of economic development and expand trade among the participating countries as well as in the region.

"I am confident that the Summit will be a new leaf in the annals of cooperative efforts on the Sub-continent and also be an epoch-making event in South Asia," he said.

There will be one working session from 2-30 pm lasting three hours. The visiting ministers of the three countries will attend it. Leaders of the business delegations will also make statements at the session.

The ministers will give their response to these papers and will also be free to make additional points they may consider relevant. There will be discussions, questions and answers between the government delegations and the business teams.

The Investors and business delegations will present papers. Around 120 business-

men from the three countries are expected to be present on the occasion.

The business delegations will present theme papers. Bangladesh will present a paper on 'Infrastructure,' Pakistan on 'Trade' and India on 'Energy'.

The ministers will give their response to these papers and will also be free to make additional points they may consider relevant. There will be discussions, questions and answers between the government delegations and the business teams.

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