

NIKASH
Accounting Package
Designed & Developed by a
Chartered Accountant
Successful Computing Since 1983

দি কম্পিউটার লিমিটেড
THE COMPUTERS LIMITED

Dhaka Metropolitan South Bhaban, 54 Inner Circular
Road, Purana Paltan Line, Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh
Tel: 839091, 833616, 837357, Fax: 880-2-833616
E-Mail: atgci@dhaka.agni.com

Keeping accounts
made as easy as
child's play

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 I/A, DHAKA.
TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

VOL. VIII NO. 55 REGD. NO. DA 781 INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> FALGOON 29, 1404 BS DHAKA FRIDAY MARCH 13, 1998 ZILQAD 13, 1418 HIJRI 12 PAGES REGULAR PLUS MAGAZINE: PRICE TAKA 9.00

Muggers stab one, snatch Tk 2 lakh in city

By Staff Correspondent
Muggers stabbed an office assistant of a company and snatched Tk 2 lakh from him at Kakrail crossing in the city yesterday afternoon.
Police said a gang of about four muggers on board an auto-rickshaw waylaid another auto-rickshaw in which Anwar Karim alias Munna, 28, the office assistant of Naz Group of Companies was travelling. He was going to Motijheel from his office at Chairman Bari in Banani for official purposes with the money at about 1:30 pm.
The snatchers asked Anwar to give them the money. As Munna denied to do so they stabbed him in his left hand and took away Tk 2 lakh from him, hospital sources said.
The injured Anwar taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was released after first aid.
However, none was arrested in this connection till filing of this report last night. A case was lodged with Ramna thana in this regard.

F-28 to rejoin domestic fleet Sunday

By Special Correspondent
Bangladesh Biman is expecting its F-28 aircraft, which went to Amsterdam for D-check and overhauling on January 4, to rejoin its domestic fleet on Sunday.
Biman sources said the aircraft is expected to arrive in Dhaka on Saturday.
The aircraft was grounded on December 21, a day before another F-28 was lost in a crash landing off the Sylhet airport.

Malaysian Airlines plane breaks light pole at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent
The Civil Aviation Authority is investigating the damage of a flood light pole by a Malaysian Airlines Airbus at the Zia International Airport early hours Tuesday.
The Airbus which landed at ZIA at 12:06 am broke the pole, about 20 metre high, when it was moving towards the boarding bridge number one at 12:14 am, airport officials said.
The accident occurred as the aircraft was moving through the central taxi track.
A three-member committee probing the incident will determine the extent of financial loss and the reason behind the accident. Later, the Civil Aviation Authority will claim the loss from Malaysian Airlines, said a senior official.

Mashur Rahman made IRD secy

By Special Correspondent
Dr Mashur Rahman, Secretary of External Resources Division, has been appointed as the Secretary of Internal Resources Division (IRD).
According to an order made yesterday, as IRD Secretary he will take over as Chairman, National Board of Revenue (NBR).
NBR Chairman Shah Abdul Hannan had resigned last month. Dr Rahman had earlier served as NBR chairman.

NOTICE
Our regular weekly supplement *Star Literature* this week will be published on Sunday instead of Saturday. This inconvenience to our readers is regretted.

Inside Today
Article
The Last Shall be the First
Column: Do I Dare
by AZM Obaidullah Khan
Page 4

Focus
Problems of arsenic and its solution
Page 5

Business
Nepalese MPs say India still remains a barrier to Dhaka-Kathmandu land link
DSE price index rises by 10 points
Pages 6,7

Fresh crisis: President's decision tomorrow

Jayalalitha backs out



J. Jayalalitha

NEW DELHI, Mar 12: A regional politician said today she had not given Hindu nationalists the commitment they need to form India's next government, leaving the country's political future uncertain, reports AP.
J. Jayalalitha told Press Trust of India news agency that 'unavoidable circumstances' prevented her from throwing formal support to the Bharatiya Janata Party, though she had been its ally during the campaign. She did not elaborate, but held out the possibility she would eventually back the BJP.
Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the BJP leader, met with President KR Narayanan later today in New Delhi and told him that he enjoyed the support of 240 lawmakers — 33 short of a simple majority.
"President Narayanan said he would consider the entire situation and tell me on Saturday what his decision is," Vajpayee told reporters after the meeting.
"I have not yet been called to form the government," the BJP leader said.
He also said he was still talking to Jayalalitha who has demanded some Cabinet positions for her allies. "I will not bow to any pressure," Vajpayee said.
The BJP and its allies minus



Kotwali thana BNP workers demonstrating in front of the CMM's Court in the city yesterday in protest against the rape of a minor girl. —Star photo

Rape of minor girl Police yet to identify the culprit

By Staff Correspondent
Police were yet to identify the person who raped the six-year-old girl in the police control room at the CMM's Court building on Tuesday.
Meanwhile, the magisterial probe headed by Additional CMM Habibur Rahman started its work yesterday.
It questioned a number of people who were reportedly present in the area during the incident of rape at about 3 pm, sources concerned said.
The motherless girl, Maria (not her real name), was now under treatment at the CMH in the city. "Her condition is better now", an official said last night.
Kotwali police, investigating the case lodged in connection
See Page 12 Col 8

BNP demands JS discussion on rape, terrorism

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday demanded a full-dress discussion in parliament on rape and terrorism, reports UNB.
The Opposition demand came in the wake of frequent incidents of rape and terrorism in different parts of the country stirring the minds of the people and evoking sharp criticism.
Agreeing with the Home Minister for holding a discussion in the House, Dr Chowdhury said, "Existence of law is not enough, enforcement of law is more important."
He said, "government will have to prove that law is being enforced."
After Tuesday's rape of a minor girl at CMM's court building, Prof Chowdhury said, quoting a press report, that another minor girl was gang-raped at Bhabarbar Wednesday.
"Everyday at least four girls are becoming victims to rape," he said and suggested that the House find out effective measures to stop it.
The opposition, he said, is ready to fully cooperate with the government to deal with the situation.
Refuting an allegation of giving Tk 25 lakh to the treasury bench members in the name of
See Page 12 Col 1



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited six-year-old Tania at CMH in the city yesterday. —PID photo

Bill seeking to set up CDS for stock market placed in JS

By Staff Correspondent
A bill seeking to set up a central depository system for the stock market was placed before the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.
The proposed Central Depository Act, introduced by Opposition lawmaker Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, defines the legal and operational framework for an automated central depository and aims at ensuring transparency and creating confidence among investors.
The bill was later sent to the Private Members Bill Selection Committee.
After the bill was placed Finance Minister SAMS Kibria said, the bill is needless since
See Page 12 Col 4

Khaleda condemns rape of minor girl

Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chief Begum Khaleda Zia has strongly condemned the rape of a minor girl, Tania, at the CMM Court building, reports UNB.
"In fact, the incidents of rape and repression on women has broken all previous records during the Awami League regime," Begum Zia said in a statement yesterday.
Referring to press reports, she said all sections of women — from school and college girls to elite women and housewives — are falling prey to such repression.
"Nowhere, not even at home, women do feel safe today," she said, describing the situation as alarming and intolerable.
Begum Zia said women and children are being trafficked across the border which has also been reported in the US Human Rights report.
"As in all other sectors, the
See Page 12 Col 6

Alternative fuel-II Use of CNG to help reduce pollution, save money

By Morshed Ali Khan
Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), as an alternative fuel for vehicles and vessels, could drastically reduce pollution level and save crores of taka in maintenance and running costs.
Engineers and environmentalists said CNG could change the face of Bangladesh cities, notably Dhaka, which is now one of the most polluted cities in the world.
Engineers of RP Gas Company Ltd, which is running the country's only CNG conversion workshop at the city's Joarsahara said at present conversion of a normal saloon car costs about Tk 20,000.
To equip a big jeep, microbus or a pick-up with a 22.5 cubic meter gas cylinder (equivalent to 28 litres of petrol) the cost is Tk 26,000. For a bus or a truck the CNG conversion cost is Tk one lakh.
For diesel vehicles the cost is a little higher. To convert a diesel minibus or a microbus the cost is Tk 80,000.
The price of CNG, equivalent to a litre of petrol, is Tk 6.05 while the price of CNG equivalent to a litre of diesel is Tk 8.55.
"You pay Tk 21 for a litre of petrol whereas with the CNG conversion you can reduce the fuel cost by nearly one fourth," said Engineer ABM Fazley Elahi, Managing Director of RP Gas, a subsidiary company of Petrobangla.
Elahi also said that when a petrol of diesel run vehicle is converted the driver can always run with petrol or CNG. "Once you convert your petrol driven car into CNG mode, you always have the option between CNG and petrol to run your car," said Elahi.
Department of Environment (DOE) experts said that they had long been advocating for this alternative fuel in view of the tremendous pollution level in the city.
"CNG does not produce lead for which Dhaka is the most polluted city in the world and when it burns CNG it has no smoke at all," said a DOE environmentalist.
DOE officials said crores of taka could be saved in maintenance of vehicles because CNG
See Page 12 Col 6

Occidental sees no sign of gas in Block 12

By Sharier Khan
US company Occidental might face yet another setback as its gas well drilling operation in Bibiana, Sylhet, is showing little prospect, according to sources.
Quoting drilling information, sources said that Occidental's operation in Bibiana under Block 12 was now in an advanced stage but till date the results were disappointing. Its drilling has now exceeded 3700 metre of depth while its ultimate target is about 4000 metres.
"Occidental has exceeded its 'prime target', which is around 3500 metres, without any positive sign," said one source. "It seems that this company has hard luck in Bangladesh."
Occidental's operation in Magurchara under blocks 13 and 14 ended up in a colossal disaster in June last year. The company's inefficient operation in Magurchara damaged natural resources worth hundreds of millions of dollars and its Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for these two blocks also expired on January 11 as it failed to fulfil the terms of the contract.
If the company fails to strike gas in Bibiana, it will have to suffer huge losses.
In contrast, British company Cairn Energy is moving towards yet another success as per drilling information on its operation in Halda valley and Sonadia in Chittagong.
Sources said, Cairn has drilled over 3000 metre in Halda and in the off-shore site in Sonadia and the prospects were very good. Sonadia is located 40 km off Sangu-1 gasfield which was discovered by Cairn in January 1996.
"The prospects of striking gas are very bright in Sonadia and Halda — but nobody can say that they will strike any recoverable gas reservoir until it is done," the source added.
Cairn will start supplying gas to the national grid from Sangu from April.

Dhaka, Thimpu for land route through India

By Mizan Ali
Bangladesh and Bhutan are planning to open land route through India for promoting trade between the two countries, foreign ministry officials said. The government has proposed the route through Nakuagaon in Sherpur district and Dalu in Bhutan. "The Bhutanese authorities have agreed to the proposal in principle", one official said.
"Travelling distance from Dalu to Nakuagaon is much less and the road condition is much better than that of Dalu to Gobra-kura via Gasupara in India," he said.
Nakuagaon is also close to Vogair river in Bhutan that flows into Brahmaputra. River route can also be used of transit is opened through Nakuagaon point, the officials said.
"They are now seeking permission from Bangladesh to conduct a feasibility study of the proposed route," he said. A Bhutanese delegation may come to Bangladesh for the purpose, he added.
Bhutan has, however, sought permission from Haluaghat for allowing the Haluaghat through Haluaghat.
The road from Dalu to Gasupara is hilly and very zigzag and the condition of the three kilometre kutcha road from Gasupara to Gobra-kura is very poor. Another one km road from Gobra-kura to Haluaghat is also kutcha and uneven.
The distance between Dalu and Dhaka via Nakuagaon point is 199 km but the condition of the road is better. Besides the five kilometre road between Nakuagaon and Nal-itabari is being metalled, the officials said.

JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf
State Minister for Social Welfare and Women and Children Affairs, Dr. Mozammel Hossain, was caught on the wrong foot while responding to a private member's resolution in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.
While replying to the resolution by Awami League MP Wajuddin Khan on setting up of a sewing training centre at Faridpur thana of Pabna district, the state minister informed the House of the government plan to set up such centres at all the thanas by May this year. He concluded without making any request as he was supposed to do, asking the AL lawmaker to withdraw his resolution.
Asked by the Chair if he accepted the resolution, Dr. Hossain stood up again to say: "Hasn't it (the resolution) been withdrawn after I've accepted the demand?"
See Page 12 Col 3

AL MP shouts at quarrelling MPs, regrets

By Staff Correspondent
An Awami League MP's shouting at some Jatiya Party and BNP lawmakers, who were quarrelling while the AL member was given the floor, disrupted the business of the Jatiya Sangsad for nearly five minutes yesterday.
To restore order, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury had to stand up and ask the members concerned to sit down, after his usual attempts failed.
However, the AL lawmaker, Shamsur Rahman Sharif of Pabna, regretted his conduct and withdrew the word 'stop' he uttered at the top of his voice. He did so following persistent protests by both the BNP and the JP lawmakers who were not satisfied by the Speaker's expunging the word.
Shamsur Rahman Sharif could not be heard while he was raising a supplementary on his question if the government had any plan to set up a Youth Training Institute in his area because of heated exchanges between some BNP and JP members.
See Page 12 Col 7

All help for pvt power generation: PM

By Staff Correspondent
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the government is taking steps to facilitate early installation of small power generation units in the private sectors.
Exchanging views with journalists at her office in the city yesterday, the Prime Minister said that though power problem could not be solved overnight, her government was making all efforts to improve the situation.
"Demand for power has increased. I hope with the installation of new power plants and repair of power infrastructure, power problem will be solved", she said.
Hasina noted that setting up of power generation plants at private initiatives is taking some time as the private sector lacked experience in this field. She, however, mentioned that her government inherited the problem as no serious effort was made in this regard in the past.
About the slow progress of the privatisation process, the Prime Minister said the government had conceived some new ideas as regards denationalising the loss-making industrial units.
She explained that the government had planned to sell va-
See Page 12 Col 3

Nasim Biswas MP dead

By Staff Correspondent
BNP Member of Parliament and son of former President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Dr Ehteshamul Huq Nasim Biswas, died at the Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR) at 8:45 last night. He was 38.
According to sources in the Holy Family Hospital, Biswas was accompanied by his wife, was first taken to the hospital at about 11 in the morning in critical condition. "He was suffering from respiratory ailment when he arrived at the emergency unit of the hospital," said an on-duty doctor who was present during his treatment at the emergency unit.
"When Biswas arrived his blood pressure was extremely low. We feared respiratory ar-
See Page 12 Col 5

Dutch-Bangla Bank
THE FIRST BANGLADESHI-EUROPEAN JOINT VENTURE BANK

serves you more with its expanded network

AGABAD BRANCH
37, Agabad C/A
Chittagong

BANANI BRANCH
Kamal Alauddin Avenue
Banani, Dhaka

NABABPUR BRANCH
185, Nababpur Road
Dhaka

LOCAL OFFICE
1, Dilkusha C/A
Dhaka

Dutch-Bangla Bank provides quality service in banking with sincerity, mutual trust and co-operation.

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited
YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER
Head Office: 1, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh. Tel: 9568539-44, Fax: 8802-9568538
A JOINT VENTURE BANK WITH FMO, THE NETHERLANDS