

Whirlpool
Refrigerator
Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for
Whirlpool Appliances, USA
Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg: 716353, 723578
Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215
ART290 - 285 Litres

Dhaka for single route transit of buses only

By Mizan Ali
An inter-ministerial meeting yesterday reiterated that transit of passenger buses only could be allowed between Bangladesh and India through a single route, according to official sources.
Yesterday's meeting was held against the backdrop of an Indian proposal of an 'umbrella agreement' on transit of both passenger buses and loaded trucks, through routes to be mutually agreed upon by both the sides.
The meeting observed that once passenger bus service between the two countries starts through one route, it can be increased through negotiations if See Page 12 Col 3

BUET teachers to submit memo to PM today

By Staff Correspondent
The BUET Teachers' Association is scheduled to hold a silent procession and march towards the Prime Minister's Office to handover a memorandum today.
The decision to hold the silent procession and march towards the PMO to hand over the memorandum might be rescheduled considering the unfavourable weather condition, said BUETTA President Prof. Abdur Razzak Akand last night.
The teachers will assemble in front of the Mechanical Engineering Department at about 8:30 am and take their final decision about the programme, he said.
BUETTA which is observing an indefinite strike since May 5, in its executive committee's meeting on Sunday decided on today's programme, which was earlier endorsed in a general meeting of the organisation.
The indefinite teacher's See Page 12 Col 2

Rallies on campus

DU will take action against student leaders

By DU Correspondent
The Dhaka University authorities yesterday decided to take action against leaders of some student organisations for bringing out processions and holding rallies on the campus defying the ban, a DU press release said.
The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the DU Syndicate held with VC Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair.
The Syndicate earlier imposed a ban on holding rallies and bringing out processions on the campus till May 24 to ensure peaceful rehabilitation of the students ousted from their dormitories.
Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), an alliance of some left student organisations yesterday brought out a procession and See Page 12 Col 3

Shamsul Haq new PARC chairman

ATM Shamsul Haq, a former secretary and member of the Planning Commission, has been appointed as the Chairman of Public Administration Reforms Commission for two-year term, reports UNB.
He will enjoy the rank and status of a minister.
He took over the charges as PARC Chairman yesterday.

Inside Today

Article

Fallout of Explosion: Jingoism and Arrogance

Column: Between the Lines
by Kuldip Nayyar
Page 4

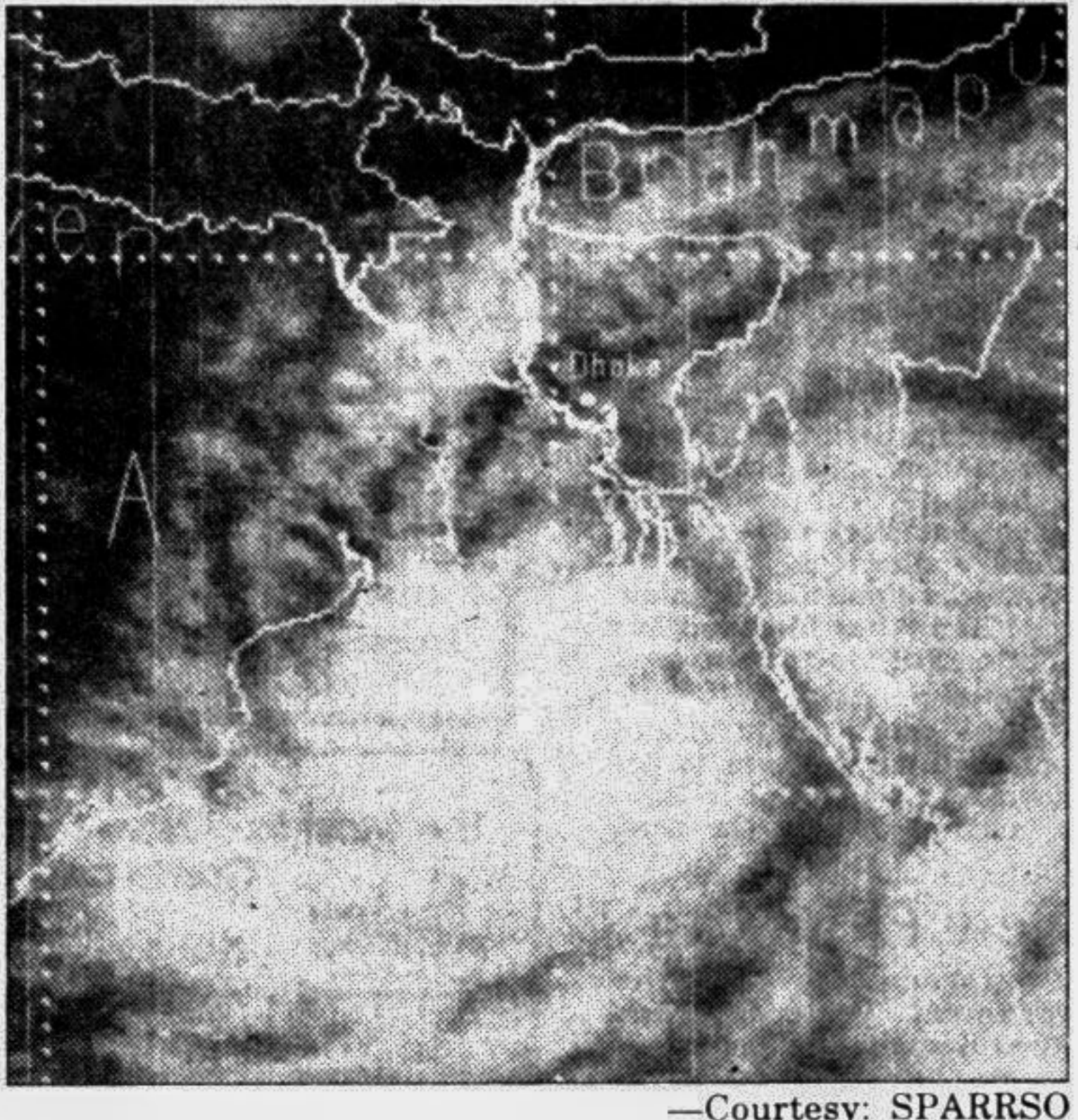
Focus

Abuse of antibiotics hazards of resistance
Page 5

Business

DSE slaps suspension on 17 securities: Index plunges to 51-month low
CSE price index falls by 3.85 points
Pages 6, 7

Cyclone poised to hit coastal areas



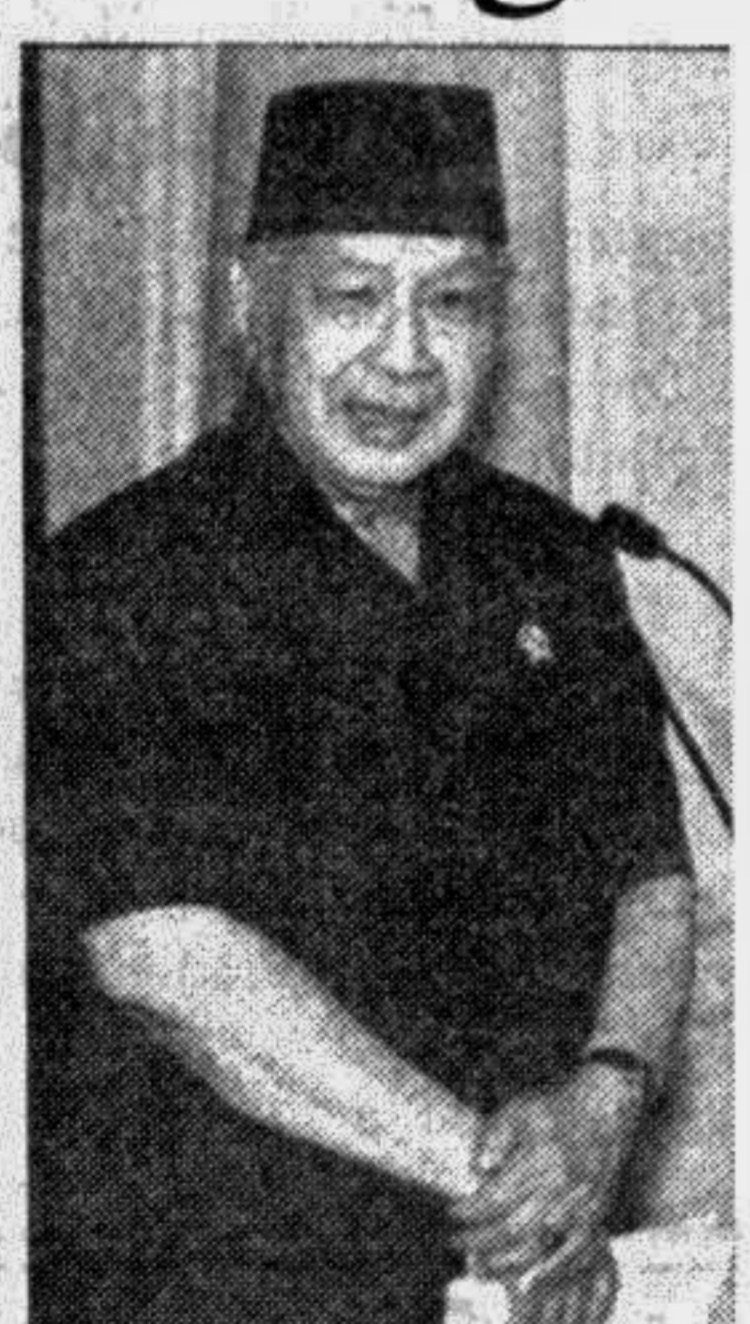
—Courtesy: SPARRSO

By Special Correspondent
Thousands of people were being evacuated from their homes to shelters, as high winds accompanied with rains, were blowing across Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong and the coastal areas yesterday under the spell of a tropical cyclone, poised to plough through the Meghna estuary.
Gale force winds with a speed of upto 60 kilometres per hour started blowing over Cox's Bazar after midnight, our correspondent reported. At least 30,000 people have taken shelter in cyclone shelters, he reported.
Our correspondents from Barisal and Barguna reported that stormy winds with rains were blowing in the coastal areas.
Peripheral winds of the cyclone grazed Patuakhali shore in the afternoon, where its centre was located at 10-30 pm.
Officials in Chittagong said army was deployed to evacuate some one lakh people from the shore areas.
The cyclone is moving
See Page 12 Col 1

BB asks Agrani Bank to stop fresh loans to Orion Infusion

By Inam Ahmed and M Shamsur Rahman
Bangladesh Bank has asked Agrani Bank to stop providing any further loans to Orion Infusion Ltd and asked it to prepare a report on the allegations about the publicly listed company.
The move came following a series of reports in The Daily Star on the company which has Tk 26.84 crore in default loans with the bank and is asking for more loans without making the required 10 per cent down payment.
The central bank has also asked the bank to check on the allegations against Orion relating to the capital market.
Meanwhile, it is learnt that the company is also trying to reschedule its defaulted loans with the Janata Bank and a former student leader of the ruling party is lobbying for its loans.
In a separate development, Orion Infusion has sought waiver of Tk 15 lakh penalty imposed on it by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) by making a Tk one lakh payment.
The fine on the company was imposed in August last year for non-payment of dividend to shareholders.
The company's move to waive the fine comes at a time when the capital market watchdog was contemplating to sue it for its non-payment of the penalty.
"We have received a pay order of Tk one lakh from the company. The company also urged for a waiver of the fine accumulated over the last nine months," a source in the SEC said.
The new move from the company is likely to delay the process of filing a suit as the matter would be placed before the SEC Board to take a final decision. The Board is likely to sit to decide the matter at the end of this month following the SEC chairman's return from abroad.
Orion declared a lucrative 32 per cent cash dividend and a rights share against every two shares of Tk 100 each.
The regulators later asked for a compliance report from the company after it failed to pay the declared amount within the stipulated period. Orion failed to come up with any satisfactory answer.
Later, in its devise to escape the fine, the company filed a Writ Petition in the High Court against the SEC's penal action and obtained a stay order on August 12. The court later vacated the stay order following an application filed by SEC.
The company, finding no other alternative, then appealed to the regulators for waiving the penalty in December which was rejected by the Commission at its board meeting.
The market watchdog then started thinking of filing a money suit under the "Public Demand Recovery Act" against See Page 12 Col 1

Another wave of protests likely today Suharto promises to quit, but gives no time-table



Suharto making live broadcast from his Presidential Palace. —AFP/UNB photo

JAKARTA, May 19: President Suharto today announced plans to end his 32-year authoritarian rule, saying he would step down after introducing long called-for political reforms and holding parliamentary elections, reports AP.
He said the ballot would be held "as soon as possible."
But with no firm timetable
JAKARTA, May 19: Suharto has drawn up a plan to hold parliamentary elections within three to six months and to step down by the end of the year, environment minister Juwono Sudarsono said today. "There will be a new president by the end of the year," he told Reuters.
for his departure, thousands of angry students besieged the Parliament, demanding he quit now.
A big protest in the city's main square facing the presidential palace was called for tomorrow, an anniversary of Indonesia's nationalist movement, setting the scene for more violence after days of bloody protests and riots.
In Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, soldiers with sticks beat students who marched into the street, a witness said. Nineteen protesters were injured.
Some feared that Suharto's reform plan could take months or longer under the sponsorship of the powerful military, which has made clear its support for Suharto, who has voiced his willingness to step down in the past.
Critics complained that Suharto was trying to prolong his time in office. Others said the play would help protect the vast business interests of his family.
Students gathered at Parliament hours before the announcement and their numbers swelled to 15,000 after Suharto spoke.
About 100 climbed its roof on two occasions, waving flags and banners. Others staged a sit-in within legislature's complex, some planning to stay the See Page 12 Col 2

Comilla BCL leader gets life term for rape, abduction

From Staff Correspondent
COMILLA, May 19: A former student leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League was today sentenced to life imprisonment under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act for abducting and raping a college girl in 1995.
Iktedar Ahmed, Judge, Special Court for Repression Against Women and Children, Comilla, sentenced Shajahan alias Sajju to seven years RI under sections 9 (Kha) and (Ga) of the Act for abducting Husna Jahhan and to life imprisonment under sections 6(1) and 9(Kha) (Ga) of the Act for raping her, according to court sources.
Three accomplices of Shajahan — Babu, Farid and Liton were charged under sections, 9 (Kha) and (Ga) of the same special law and sentenced to seven years RI and to pay a fine of Tk 5000 each.
The court, however, acquitted 13 others accused in the case.
The aggrieved persons may See Page 12 Col 1

Bill in JS budget session UZ Parishad to enjoy greater admin powers

By Reaz Ahmad
The Upazila Parishad Bill would be placed before the Jatiya Sangsad in the upcoming budget session, according to official sources.
Earlier, on May 13, the Cabinet approved in principle the draft bill on formation of Upazila Parishad.
The Upazila Parishad system, first introduced in 1982-83, would be revived this time with some additions enabling the local government body to enjoy greater freedom in the decision-making and project implementing process.
According to sources in the Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Ministry, it has been proposed in the bill that the Upazila Parishads would deal independently with the affairs of various departments of the government except police administration and judiciary.
Immediately after coming to power, the Awami League government set up a commission under the chairmanship of Rahmat Ali, MP, to recommend establishing of local-level representative bodies. The commission suggested a four-tier local government system—Gram Parishad, Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad and Zila Parishad.
On the basis of the commission's report, the Local Government (Union Parishad) Second Amendment Act, 1997 was passed by the Jatiya Sangsad last year and elections to some 4,000 Union Parishads in the country were held in a staggered manner throughout the month of December, 1997.
Of the four-tier local government structure, the government See Page 12 Col 7

FRANCE 98
COUPE DU MONDE
Nothing can dent WC spirit
By Tawfiq Aziz Khan
It will be the best time for others, it could be the worst for some. But, who will be the victor, or the vanquished? Paris will decide it all on July 12 when the final of the finals takes place.
Neither the N-test by India, nor the turmoil in Indonesia; neither the failure of the Middle-East peace talks nor the outcome of the G-8 meet at Birmingham were going to dent the spirit of millions of football fanatics.
Whether it will be Pele's brilliant Brazilians or the men from Maldini's Italy; the methodical Germans or the Argentinians; or the magic of Maradona; the debonair Dutch or the delectable French; the See Page 12 Col 2



Parents of Ripon wailing over the body of their son who was murdered at Uttara in the city. —Star photo

Bid to kidnap schoolgirl from Scholastica

By Staff Correspondent
An alleged attempt to kidnap a 13-year-old daughter of a businessman from Scholastica School at Gulshan area in the city was foiled yesterday afternoon.
The abduction attempt on the student of class eight was foiled after the school authorities took immediate measures in this regard.
The father of the girl, a resident of Baridhara, immediately informed the incident to the Detective Branch of police, said a senior police official, adding that they were investigating the incident.
Quoting the school staff, the girl's father narrated the incident to The Daily Star.
An unidentified man came to the school's reception about ten minutes before the classes were over at 2pm. The young man who was holding a key ring in his hand identified himself to be a car driver of the girl's family.
He told the school staff that he came to pick up the girl and See Page 12 Col 4

Stabbed young man succumbs to injuries

By Staff Correspondent
A young man who was fatally stabbed allegedly by his friends over share of money at Ashkona in the city's Uttara area on Monday, died at the Suhrawardy Hospital yesterday, police said.
The young man, Ripon, 20, was called out of his North Ashkona house by his friends — Hazrat, Habibur and Osman — and five others, taken beside a pond at nearby Goair village and stabbed. They also cut the tendons of his leg, having him unconscious.
Local people took Ripon to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Later he was shifted to Suhrawardy Hospital where he died yesterday morning.
Police sent the body to DMCH morgue for autopsy. Ripon was the son of one Ramjan Ali.
Police suspected that Ripon was killed following a quarrel over share of money. Ripon and his friends were involved in various crimes in the area specially around the Zia International Airport, police said.
A case was filed with Uttara thana in this regard. However, none was arrested till last night.

BNP stages hunger strike at dist HQs today

By Staff Correspondent
BNP leaders and activists are scheduled to stage a 10-hour hunger strike at all district headquarters today demanding scrapping of the CHT accord and the bills passed in the Jatiya Sangsad to implement it.
The programme for today's 8am-6pm hunger strike was announced by BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia on May 12 when she and her party lawmakers staged a day-long hunger strike in the city to press the demands.
BNP's central leaders including MPs will participate in the hunger strike at their respective district headquarters along with local leaders of the party and its front organisations, a party press release said last night.
BNP Secretary General Abdu Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement last night called upon the people from all walks of life to express their solidarity with the hunger strike.
The 'central programme' of the day will be arranged at the Savar bus stand. Dhaka district convener of BNP Nazmul Huda MP in a statement yesterday urged the district leaders of the party and its front organisations to attend the 'central programme'.
The BNP press release also said that the London chapter of BNP will also organise a hunger strike in front of the Bangladesh High Commission there today. However, it will be a nine-hour programme.
See Page 12 Col 4

Garments worker gangraped

By Staff Correspondent
A teenage garments worker was gangraped at Moghbazar area under Ramna thana in the city early hours of Monday.
Police said yesterday that the girl was kidnapped by a gang of three men when she was returning to her house at Goran after watching a movie at Padma Cinema hall in Malibagh at about 12:30 am Monday.
The girl, aged about 18, was accompanied by a male friend when she was abducted.
The gang took the girl to an under-construction building at Chan Bakery Lane in Moghbazar area and violated her.
The victim filed a case with Ramna thana in this regard. Police said they arrested one person in connection with the incident.

Octogenarian rapist!

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, May 19: Local people caught an 85-year-old man Abdur Rab when he was allegedly raping a nine-year-old girl near the railway station here yesterday night.
Hearing the cry of the girl, people rushed and rescued the girl, daughter of a richshaw puller, when she was being raped in a corner of the railway station at around 8:30 pm.
Police later arrested Abdur Rab who took the girl to the station when she was returning from a hosiery mill where she works as a day-labourer.
The girl was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital where a medical test was conducted today.
A case was also lodged with Narayanganj thana in this connection.

Indian N-tests Clinton's proposed trip to S Asia being reviewed

By Staff Correspondent
US President Bill Clinton's proposed visit to South Asia including Bangladesh has come 'under review' by State Department officials in Washington, according to information received by diplomatic sources in Dhaka.
The proposed trip is being reviewed following India's explosion of five nuclear devices, they said.
Washington is deeply upset about the explosions and imposed sanctions on India.
President Clinton, however, is likely to keep his original itinerary of visiting Malaysia in November to attend the APEC summit — the 18-nation meet of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum. The South Asian tour was planned See Page 12 Col 2

Delhi warns Islamabad Roll back anti-India policy, opt for peace

NEW DELHI, May 19: India, its confidence buoyed by nuclear tests, has warned Pakistan to opt for peace and repeated that China remains its biggest threats, report agencies.
Sharpening rhetoric after a day of conciliatory statements from government officials on the country's neighbours, Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani said late on Monday that Islamabad must now 'roll back its anti-India policy'.
"High on tests, govt takes on Pak," ran the headline in the Indian Express.
The interior minister said Pakistan was likely to step up hostilities in the Himalayan region of Kashmir and elsewhere following India's shock series of five nuclear tests, but warned that any course but peace would prove 'futile and costly'.
As he spoke, defence minister George Fernandes told an audience in Bombay that he still believed China was India's chief potential threat.
India and China fought a brief border war in 1962, while Pakistan and India have been to war three times over the past 50 years.
India's ruling Hindu nationalists also today warned Pakistan it would pay a heavy price for fueling the Muslim separatist conflict in Kashmir.
"Time has come when the government should take a tough stand and foil Pakistan's attempts to stoke militancy," said See Page 12 Col 1



Dhaka University students brought out a procession on the campus yesterday mourning the death of Asma Akhtar who was killed in a road accident in the city on Monday. —Star photo