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PM to visit Delhi today

Staff Correspondent
 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka for New Delhi this morning on a one-day visit at the invitation of her Indian counterpart Atal Behari Vajpayee.
 Today's whirlwind trip is scheduled to be followed by another one-day visit to Pakistan on June 24.
 A special Biman flight carrying the Prime Minister and her entourage will take off for Delhi at 8 am. She is due to return to the capital at around 10.45 pm.
 The 45-member entourage includes Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman, Principal Secretary to the PM Dr S A Samad, DG, UN desk in the foreign ministry, Jamil Majid, DG, South Asia desk Sirajul Islam, Press Secretary to the PM Jawadul Karim and a host of senior officials.
 Bilateral discussions will dominate official talks between the prime ministers of Bangladesh and India. Besides, Delhi is likely to explain its position on the nuclear issue and its security concerns.
 Our Delhi Correspondent reports that India will convey to Bangladesh the need for a harmonised stand on a time-
 See Page 12 Col 3

BNP unlikely to join JS session before June 24

By Nazmul Ashraf
 BNP's preparation for the June 18 planned hartal across the country is likely to further delay the main opposition party's joining the on-going budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad, according to highly placed party sources.
 The party is unlikely to attend the session before June 24, when the BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) will meet again, they said.
 The BNPPP which met three times since Friday adjourned its meeting yesterday till 2 pm on June 24.
 Emerging from the meeting yesterday, Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain told newsmen that the deferral was for further discussion before finalising the date for joining the Sangsad session.
 "We'll definitely join the session, but only after a decision to this effect is taken...", he said.
 "Another reason for the break, said Delwar, is to get a response from the Speaker about BNP's complaints of non-implementation of its March 2 agreement with the government.
 A four-member BNP delegation met Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury on Sunday and complained that the government violated the March 2 agreement. In response, the Speaker told the BNP leaders he might convene a meeting of the two sides to help resolve the contentious issues between them.
 The Speaker is supposed to contact the government side and let BNP know any development in this regard.
 "We're expecting a reply from the Speaker by June 24", said the Opposition Chief Whip.
 But BNPPP meeting sources said the long recess is for taking preparations for the planned June 18 hartal and the June 22 demonstration against government's alleged attacks on BNP's June 9-10 long march to ward the CHT to press its demand for scrapping of the CHT accord laws for its implementation.
 This is also for reconsidering the party decision on joining the parliament session and decide on fresh anti-government agitation, said a top BNP leader, attending the meeting.
 The government's role during the planned hartal and the demonstration will guide our next course of action," he said.
 Government's excess during the hartal may further delay BNP's joining the parliament session.
 The discussions at the...
 See Page 12 Col 8

Hasina may raise sharing of Teesta waters with Vajpayee

By M Anwarul Haq
 Dhaka is looking forward to the next meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC). The meeting was scheduled to be held in Delhi in November last but was cancelled due to political turmoil in India, followed by elections.
 "Now that the Indian government is in place, we look forward to the JRC meeting to discuss sharing of waters of Teesta and other common rivers," a high official said.
 "Since the Water Resources portfolio is being held by Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, the matter of sharing waters of other common rivers through JRC meetings is likely to be raised by Sheikh Hasina during her Delhi visit," an official said.
 The last meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC), which was its 32nd, was held in Dhaka on July 19 and 20 last year after a gap of seven years. The ministerial level meeting was led by Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak on the Bangladesh side and his Indian counterpart Sir Ram Ola on the other side.
 The JRC was reactivated following signing of the 30-year accord between Bangladesh and India on sharing the Ganges water.
 It was agreed at the Dhaka meeting that JRC meetings would be held once in every three months "to resolve expeditiously all outstanding issues relating to sharing of waters of common rivers." Bangladesh and India share 54 common rivers.
 The 30-year water accord also stated specifically that the two countries "are desirous of sharing by mutual agreement the waters of the international rivers flowing through the territories of the two countries and making optimum utilisation of water resources in the fields of flood management, irrigation, river basin development and generation of hydro-electricity for the mutual benefit of the two peoples."
 After last year's meeting, Abdur Razzak had said that the delay in holding the JRC meeting...
 See Page 12 Col 7

Muazzem Ali new envoy to France

The government has decided to appoint Syed Muazzem Ali, at present Bangladesh's Ambassador to Iran, as Ambassador to France, reports UNB.
 This was announced in Dhaka yesterday, said an official handout.

We regret

Due to sudden breakdown of our Printing Machine last night, we could not reach our newspaper to our valued readers, patrons and well-wishers in time in the city. We deeply regret this temporary dislocation.
 — Editor

Inside Today Article

Nuclear Tests in India and Pakistan: More for Deterrence than for Defence?
 by Khurshid Hamid
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Focus

Hartalotics: Consensus on Intolerance and Conflict
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England's captain Alan Shearer (L) heads the ball to score the 1-0 lead for his team as Tunisian goalkeeper Chroki Al Quaer (C) fails to save the header during their World Cup Group G match yesterday. England won 2-0. (Story on page 13)
 —AFP photo

Colombia fail to sparkle

LYON, France, June 15: Hitman Adrian Ilie gave Romania a 1-0 win over Colombia in their Group G World Cup opener here today, reports AFP.
 It was a lethal performance from the 24-year-old Valencia star. With only seconds to go in the first-half Ilie burst into the area on the left. As Colombian keeper Farid Mondragon came out to cut the angle Ilie coolly chipped him.
 It was a bitter blow for Mondragon who was playing one of the games of his life as Colombia tried to make amends for their 3-1 defeat by Romania in their opening World Cup match four years ago in America.
 Ilie could have had at least three goals if the 26-year-old Mondragon had not been in such sparkling form.
 Mondragon pulled off two stunning saves when Romania's aging midfielder general Gheorghe Hagi slipped a pass through the defence to free Ilie. The 24-year-old let rip but somehow Mondragon got down to his right to get a hand to it. The ball broke free to the in-rushing Viorel Moldovan but Mondragon dived to his left to get his other hand to it.
 The rebound fell to Ilie who ripped in another shot but it hit a defender and went over for a corner.
 It was an impressive performance from the Romanians, with Hagi at the heart of everything they did as he sprayed the ball from one wing to another.
 Meanwhile, Ilie was keeping Mondragon busy. Given half-glance at the goal he was letting rip — on target Colombia, trying to forget their nightmare performance in the 1994 World Cup when they went into the tournament as one of the favourites only to crash out in the first round, were playing attractive football but going nowhere.
 Former Newcastle star Faustino Asprilla, recovered from a groin injury, was displaying tricks as he glided up and down the right wing but Bogdan Stelea was having little to do in the Romanian goal.
 It was not until the 38th minute that he had to face a shot — anger but it was straight at him.
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Cabinet for city corps in Sylhet, Barisal

By Staff Correspondent
 The cabinet yesterday approved a proposal for enhancing the meeting attendance allowances for the mayors and commissioners of the country's four city corporations.
 The cabinet meeting, held with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, also decided that the government would fix the new rate of allowances 'soon', meeting sources said.
 The government has to amend the ordinances, laws, under which the corporations are governed, to accommodate the cabinet decision relating to the enhancement.
 The cabinet also decided to convert Barisal and Sylhet municipalities into city corporations 'gradually.'

Yasmin Murder Case HC admits appeal against acquittal of accused

The High Court yesterday admitted an appeal against the acquittal of eight persons accused in the sensational Yasmin Murder Case of Dinajpur, reports UNB.
 District and Sessions Judge's Court of Dinajpur had acquitted all the eight persons accused of rape, murder and destroying of evidence of the murder in August, 1995.
 Deputy Attorney General Shahabuddin Ahmed preferred the appeal on behalf of the state.
 The Division Bench comprising Justice Kazi Ebadul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Abdul Quddus admitted the appeal after hearing the case.
 The accused in the case are SP Abdul Motaleb, Sub-inspector Mahtab Hossain, Swapan Kumar Chakraborty, and Matiur Rahman, ASI Jahangir Alam, constable Abdus Sattar, driver Anir Lal Barman and Dr Mohammad Mohsin of Dinajpur general hospital.
 The 15-year old girl Yasmin was raped and murdered.
 See Page 12 Col 3

Court boycott in Khulna demanding DC's removal

From Staff Correspondent
 KHULNA, June 15: Lawyers of Khulna Bar Association today began a boycott of courts demanding removal of the Deputy Commissioner and compensation for the damage to the KBA office during Sunday's clash between lawyers' and employees of the collectorate building.
 The KBA has given a 48-hour ultimatum from today to fulfill the demands or to face a tougher movement from Wednesday, its leaders said.
 They claimed that at least ten persons were injured and property worth over Tk 10 lakh was damaged at its office in the clash. The clash took place following demolition of a boundary wall and construction of another sidewalk, blocking a passage between the collectorate building and the judge's court.
 President of KBA Advocate Kazi Abdus Salam in a written complaint to Sadar thana accused the DC and the ADC (General) of masterminding the attack on the lawyers with the help of hired goons and over 100 employees of the collectorate building.
 But the complaint has not yet been treated as an FIR as sanction from the government is required for this, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Commissioner of KMP said.
 But, on the other hand, Abdul Aziz, NDC of DC's office, lodged an FIR on Sunday night with Sadar thana accusing six lawyers including the president and the general secretary of KBA for attacking the collectorate building with the help of...
 See Page 12 Col 7

BNP demands withdrawal of 'false cases' against Begum Zia

BNP has said the ongoing movement to protect the country's integrity and against the government's subservient policy cannot be stopped by hatching conspiracy against Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia, reports UNB.
 "Immediately after assuming power, this government has been harassing Begum Khaleda Zia as part of its political vendetta by filing false cases against her and her family members one after another to tarnish their image," said a statement issued by BNP yesterday.
 The statement was issued after a joint meeting of the leaders of BNP and its front organisations at the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in the evening.
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ধানমন্ডি
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 সড়ক-৮

ধানমন্ডি
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 সড়ক-১০এ

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WORLD CUP '98
 kick-off

Today's matches

Group A
 Scotland vs Norway, 9:30 pm BST

Brazil vs Morocco, 1:00 am BST

Ctg mayor's call to ensure 300 mw power supply
 CHITTAGONG, June 15: Chittagong city mayor Alhaj ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury today appealed to the government to ensure at least 300 megawatt power supply in Chittagong to free it from frequent loadshedding, reports BSS.
 In a statement here tonight, the mayor said frequent power rationing has made life miserable, hampered production in the mills, factories and industries, businesses and other economic activities.
 Outraged by the frequent power disruption in the city, the soccer fans attacked three substations including Agrabad Bidyut Bhaban, here during the period, according to UNB.
 The mayor called for keeping industries outside the purview of loadshedding from 6 am to 6 pm and dwelling houses from 6 pm to 3 am.
 Meanwhile, the city BNP has...
 See Page 12 Col 7

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