

BUY NOW... PAY LATER



Whirlpool
HOME APPLIANCES
USA
Refrigerator

Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

WRIP gets PM's nod

By Sharier Khan

The prime minister, last week, okayed the controversial Western Region Integrated Project (WRIP) that focuses on energy sector development in the country's southwestern region, despite expert opinion to the contrary. The project proposes developing the Shabbazpur gas field in Bhola, setting up a regional gas pipeline and four power plants.

An Energy Ministry committee evaluating the WRIP, earlier, sent its report to the prime minister. The report observed that the deal had severe negative implications.

Since the submission of WRIP proposals in mid-97, Petrobangla opinion was: Though WRIP sounds very lu-

crative, its components are highly favourable for UNOCAL. They argued, the proposal put all risk factors on the government and the nation would lose billions of dollars from the deal, UNOCAL on the other hand, argued that the country would gain millions of dollars by developing the energy sector.

The World Bank, which usually promotes private sector investment in the energy sector, also believes: The project is unrealistic. It said, there was no feasibility study to justify such a huge investment proposal.

The US Energy Department took the final stand. Earlier this year, they said, Bangladesh should protect its own interest

before going for such a complicated project. The US Energy Department has extended support by agreeing to appoint a consultant. They felt, Bangladesh lacked expertise in understanding the loopholes and the pricing of components under WRIP.

Before the consultant could be appointed, the government encouraged UNOCAL to negotiate WRIP and outline tender documents.

Meanwhile, unsolicited negotiations for power plants under WRIP are almost complete. Petrobangla has identified the gas pipeline route. All these were supposed to have been done under guidance of the consultant.

US company UNOCAL, which recently purchased Occidental's three blocks in Bangladesh has also been offered Block 7 in the second round bidding. It has been pursuing WRIP, since late 1996. The project envisages an investment of 700 million US dollars.

The proposed project will now be reviewed by a consultant, appointed and paid for by the US. The consultant will evaluate the viability and technicality of the project and float a tender to seek matching proposals from other companies.

Sources said there will be a very short time for submission of tender and as such no genuine proposal is expected.

Budget session begins today

Parties brace for big battle in the House

By Nurul Kabir

The Jatiya Sansad goes into its budget session at 9:30 this morning.

The session, 13th of the seventh parliament, is likely to witness stormy debates as the ruling party and the Opposition have plans to utilise the session keeping in mind the next general elections.

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria is likely to place before the House the national budget for fiscal 1999-2000 on June 10.

This time the government would try its best to offer a budget aiming at winning sentiments of the common man, ruling party insiders hinted. "The party high command has already asked the finance minister to formulate the budget keeping in mind the next general elections," a ruling party stalwart told The Daily Star yesterday seeking anonymity.

Meanwhile, the opposition parties in parliament have reached an understanding to project concerted efforts to project government's failures in various sectors including power, gas, law and order, prices of essentials, trade and commerce, said a top ranking BNP leader.

Among other issues, 'harassment' of opposition leaders and activists by the government would figure prominently in the proceedings of the session.

"The BNP leader said, "On top of all, the Treasury Bench will face the music for its controversial claim of 5.2 per cent growth rate in fiscal 1998-1999."

He also said, "whatever we do in the House, we will naturally keep an eye on the next national polls."

Meantime, JS Secretariat sources said that the lawmakers belonging to both the Treasury and the Opposition benches have already submitted some 2000 questions relating to activities of different ministries. Besides, they have submitted some 100 questions for the Prime Minister for her question-answer session on Tuesdays.

The MPs, especially those from the Opposition, have also submitted several dozens of 'call attention notices' on various issues affecting people of different areas of the country.

Besides, the session would witness debates on a good number of bills and passage of those.

The Treasury Bench is set for moving a number of important bills including the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Special Provision) Act,

1999 and Upajila Act (amendment) Bill, 1999.

The Upajila Act will be amended mainly to shift the present deadline.

July 30 - of Upajila elections. Besides some loop-holes in the Act, detected after its passage a few months ago, will be removed through amendments.

Another bill will be moved to enhance the salaries and allowances of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

The JS Business Advisory Committee, an all-party body responsible for deciding agenda for a session, is scheduled to meet this afternoon.

The parliamentary wing of BNP met yesterday while that of the ruling party is scheduled to meet this evening to decide its strategy for the budget session.

JEC talks to follow Vajpayee's visit

NEW DELHI, May 5: Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee will pay a two-day official visit to Bangladesh beginning on June 19 to inaugurate the Dhaka-Calcutta bus service, a senior official of the Indian External Affairs Ministry told BSS yesterday.

Vajpayee's visit would be followed by a meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission (JEC) in Dhaka, the official said.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Indian External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh, co-chairmen of the JEC, will lead their respective sides at the meeting.

The last meeting of the JEC was held in New Delhi in 1997.

Inside Today Supplement

A three-page supplement on the National Day of Sweden on Pages 17 to 19

Business

It's a high inflation year DSE, CSE price quotations Pages 6, 7 & 8

Prayer Timings

June 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-20
Zohr	12-45	1-30
Asr	4-45	4-55
Maghrib	6-40	6-43
Esha	7-40	8-10

Source: Islamic Foundation

Looking at the results

PARC chief pleads for performance indicator in public institutions

SAVAR, June 5: Public Administration Reforms Council Chairman A T M Shamsul Haque today called for immediate introduction of performance indicators and citizens' charter in all government agencies to make those more accountable and transparent, reports BSS.

He was speaking as guest of honour at a workshop on "Performance Indicators/Standards and Citizens' Charter" at the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) here.

"Performance indicators/standards and citizens' charter," a new concept in Bangladesh for measuring weekly, monthly and yearly performances of organisations and ensuring citizens' right to know facts, is widely followed in government, semi-government and big private organisations

in Malaysia and India. Haque said 43 agencies of India including the Railway is reaping benefit from this system.

He said: "Despite limitations and lack of good governance, it is necessary to introduce the system immediately in the government enterprises like BTTB, WASA and in the ministries."

"We have to start from somewhere despite resource constraints," he added.

"Once the system with specific target is introduced in an enterprise, it would definitely instill dynamism into it than ever before."

Comparing different aspects in Malaysia and Bangladesh, M Mahalingam, the keynote speaker, said, "My country has achieved tremendous growth by applying the system."

Reform measures are taking

place around the globe, particularly in developing countries, he said, referring to some new reform concepts as well as successes of privatisation which include right-sizing of the government, extensive human resources development and merit-based promotion instead of seniority.

He said performances could be viewed from two aspects - efficiency and effectiveness. He also suggested that the national budget should be more result-oriented rather than input-oriented.

Jointly organised by BPATC and Public Administration Reforms Council (PARC), Rector of BPATC Dr Ekram Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

PARC member Aminul Islam chaired the inaugural ceremony.

BNP to attend BAC meet

By Staff Correspondent

BNP lawmakers will attend today's meeting of the Jatiya Sangsad Business Advisory Committee following the Speaker's assurance that the party's demands for general discussion on water-power-gas crises, law and order situation and some other issues in the House will be on the agenda.

The decision was taken at a meeting of BNP Parliamentary Party held at the Jatiya Sangsad complex with party chief and Leader of the Opposition in the House Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

BNP members of the JS Committee did not attend last three meetings of the committee protesting non-acceptance of its

proposals. "We agreed to participate in tomorrow's meeting as the Speaker assured us to meet our demands. We want to discuss issues including water-power-gas crises, law and order situation and some other issues in the House," Deputy Leader of the Opposition in parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said emerging from the meeting.

Meeting sources said Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury phoned Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday morning and told him (Delwar) that he (Speaker) talked with the Prime

See page 11

Khaleda trapped in JS elevator

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition leader Khaleda Zia, along with her entourage, were stranded for five minutes in an elevator at parliament building last night.

An engineer at the parliament secretariat said that the incident occurred due to magnetic fault which may have occurred due to low voltage of electricity.

She boarded the elevator on the west block of Jatiya Sangsad along with her private and government security personnel to attend the BNPPP meeting on the 9th floor at about 7:54 pm.

When the elevator reached the floor, the liftman found that it was about 8 inches above floor level and the door was stuck.

Jubadal leader Giasuddin Khokon, also a member of her private security force, said that the liftman rang up the control room, twice, but no help forthcoming. Securitymen forced the door open, following instructions from a panicked Khaleda.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Begum Zia's private security chief Lokman Hossain along with others had been waiting to receive her outside the lift.

When contacted, sub-divisional engineer of parliament Shaiful Islam said such an incident had never occurred in the past 19 years since 1980 when the elevator became operational. He, however, said that the elevator had resumed functioning, automatically.

Begum Zia when asked about the incident after her party's meeting said, "Yes, I was stranded for five minutes inside the lift. The liftman rang up the control room but none came." She, however, refused to make any further comments.



New lease of life Foreign Minister Azad, 72, with his bride Nili Khan. —Family photo

An end to 'lonely life'

By Staff Correspondent

"I am feeling re-invigorated. It will give a boost to my lonely life," said Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad while describing his feelings on getting married again.

The 74-year-old politician from Sylhet tied the nuptial knot for the second time at his New Eskaton official residence in the city Thursday night.

The wedding ceremony was an exclusive affair where only a handful of persons were present. Khatib of the Baiful Mukkarram Mosque Maulana

See page 11

A view from THE GUILTY

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

India were catapulted further away from a semifinal berth by that lanky Australian called Glenn McGrath. This Aussie match-winner suddenly struck form and broke the backbone of Indian batting within minutes of the rain-delayed match. A good support came on the other end from Fleming, known for his ability to swing the ball both ways.

In this very important opener of the Super Six stage, both teams were under pressure and if the recent form was of any consequence then the Indians were ahead of the Aussies in all departments of the game. Their last win against England had not only took them to the Super Six but raised their moral sky high. In this World Cup the Indians are truly always under pressure not only from their opponents but from their millions of supporters also who believe that Azhar's



The partying goes on Bangladesh cricket captain Aminul Islam flanked by state minister for sports Quader and BCB chief Saber Chowdhury leads a motor rally in the city yesterday. —Star photo by Amran Hossain

SA drown Pakistan

Klusener comes to the rescue again

TRENT BRIDGE, England, June 5: Lance Klusener won his power battle with pace sensation Shoaib Akhtar here on Saturday as South Africa salvaged their World Cup campaign with a stunning three-wicket victory against favourites Pakistan, reports AFP.

Hansie Cronje's side looked dead and buried after collapsing to 58 for five as they chased Pakistan's 220 for seven in the second-round encounter.

But Jacques Kallis (54) hung around to put on 77 with Shaun Pollock (30) before all-rounder Klusener, grabbing his fourth man-of-the-match award of the tournament, thrashed 46 not out off 41 balls, including three fours and three sixes.

South Africa won with six balls to spare. They had needed 44 to win off five overs with seven wickets down - Pakistan earlier in the day managed 54 off their fi-



For Long Lasting Fresh Breath and Sparkling White Teeth

nal 30 balls -- when Klusener took matters into his own hands.

The key came in the 46th over when he pulled Akhtar, who had earlier bowled a string of 95mph deliveries, for six over square leg as 17 came off six balls.

Another six by Klusener off Wasim Akram, copied in the penultimate over by Mark Boucher off Saqlain Mushtaq's off spin, settled matters.

The victory extended South Africa's winning sequence against Pakistan to an ex-

traordinary 13.

Both sides, regarded as the best two outfits in the tournament, now have four points, with two games of the Super Six phase to go. Six points will give them a good chance of reaching the semi-finals.

Pakistan, had they won, were all but guaranteed a place in the semi-finals.

Pace bowling sensation Shoaib Akhtar had earlier torn the heart out of South Africa's top order.

He removed Herschelle See page 11



WORTH THE MESS: South African wicket keeper Mark Boucher is all tangled up while running out Pakistan's Moin Khan yesterday. —AFP photo

'Tis An Ill Wind

Shakil Kasem

To the great surprise of one and all, the Pakistan opening pair actually survived more than ten overs at Trent Bridge yesterday. This was partly because Jonty Rhodes missed what was by his standards a sitter, and Shahid Afridi was not playing at all.

Obviously this was too good to be true. Saeed Anwar finally managed to get the edge he was trying to find ever since he got in to bat, leaving the stage to the young bucks in the side to shore up the innings. The South African quickies were never likely to create much of an impression, but Pakistan made heavy weather of the rather pedestrian attack. Ijaz hung around in typical ungainly fashion for a while, but his dismissal was always on the cards.

The mouth watering prospect of Inzamam taking on the South African fielders was a

gourmet's delight. He backed himself against Rhodes' agility and paid the heavy price, which almost proved fatal for Pakistan. Had it not been for Moin Khan doing the Houdini, Pakistan would have been in dire straits. Once again this enterprising and intrepid bundle of energy took on the bowling single-handedly. Fielders scampered every which way and the bowlers were pitching their deliveries on lengths not really prescribed by Dr. Woolmer at all. Pakistan, who looked dead and gone for quite sometime, suddenly resurrected themselves from the ashes.

Hansie Cronje has the same problem as the Pakistanis. He too is burdened by an opening pair that is refusing to come alive. Once again, a combination of out of form early order and some penetrative bowling by the new firm of Akram &

See page 11

Two murders in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were killed in a span of six hours in the city, yesterday.

A 25-year-old unidentified young man was slaughtered inside a house of a rickshaw puller at the city's Mirpur area yesterday noon while Bulbul Mia, 35, a shopkeeper was stabbed to death at Narinda area in the evening, police and hospital sources said.

In the first incident, a contingent of Mirpur police went to the tin-shed house of Alauddin at Block: D of Mirpur section 1 at about 1 p.m. and found the body of the unidentified young man lying on the floor, police said.

There was a deep stab mark at the throat of the victim while his legs and hands were tied with ropes.

Police suspected Alauddin, the tenant of the house, following a suspected extra marital relationship between his wife Asma and the victim, probably murdered the young man. Alauddin, a rickshaw puller, and other members of the family have been absconding since the incident.

Police after investigation revealed the victim often comes to Alauddin's house in his absence. The young man, yesterday, came to the house in the morning after Alauddin had gone outside.

Incessant mirth

Dhaka denizens hail the nation's latest heroes

By Staff Correspondent

The celebration that started on Monday midnight continued unabated in the capital yesterday as the national cricketers paraded through the streets amid thunderous applause of people from all walks of life.

Hundreds of jubilant cricket zealots poured onto the street to greet the heroes, who recorded a historic win against cricketing giants Pakistan at Northampton in England in the seventh World Cup.

The cricketers, who flew into the city Friday morning, spent another hectic day after the civic reception hours later at the National Parade Square.

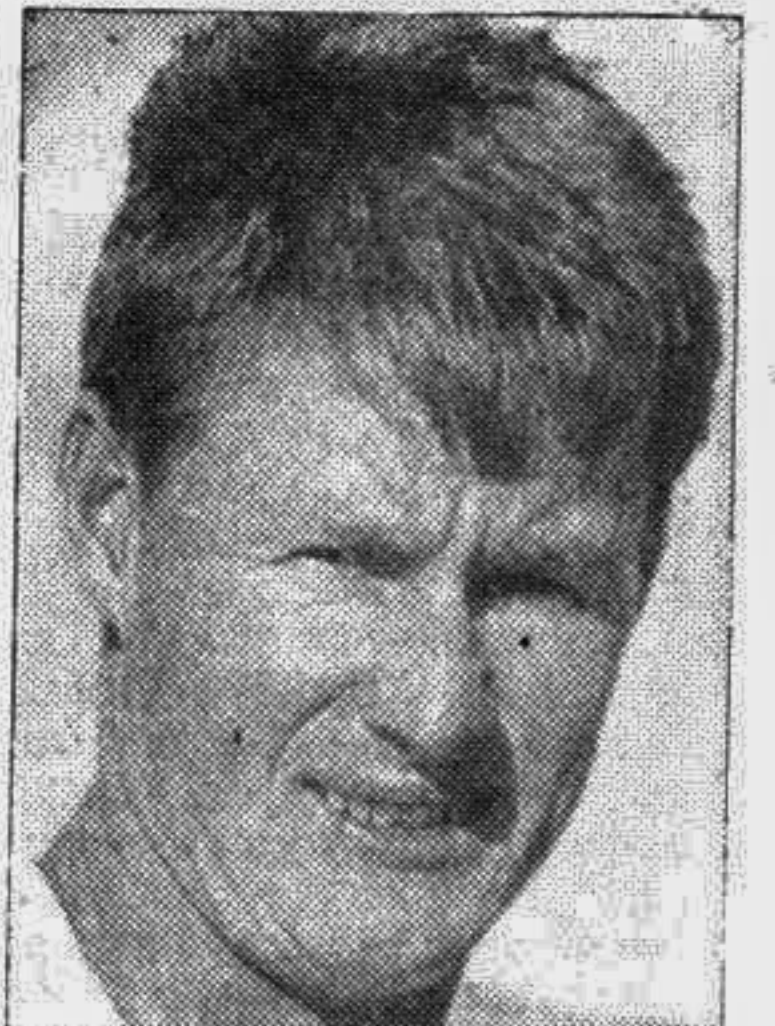
The rally organised by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), started from the Bangabandhu National Stadium with the national heroes saddling open trucks, ecstatic with joy. The motorcade, incidentally, began from the Motijheel and Sabujbagh area, the parliamentary constituency of BCB supremo Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

It looked like a moving panorama as hundreds of thousands of people, from streeturchins to officials, students to housewives, children to the elderly, joined the bandwagon. For those, who could not get the opportunity to have a glimpse of the heroes, lined the streets to clap the fifteen infant-terribles, who turned the world of cricket, upside down, defeating Pakistan by 62 runs.

As men stormed the street, women did not miss the chance to have a view of Aminul Is-

See page 11

APTECH
COMPUTER EDUCATION
We change lives



LANCE KLUSENER (South Africa) Man of the Match Pakistan vs South Africa

RC We give you MORE

TODAY'S MATCH

New Zealand vs Zimbabwe
Venue: Headingley
Live Coverage: BTV and Star Sports (3:45 pm)
No match will be played tomorrow. Arch rivals India and Pakistan will face each other in the next Super Six clash at Old Trafford on Tuesday.

we scored... the world watched