

Vow to build green S Asia

Saarc leaders adopt statement on tackling climate change
 UNB, Thimphu

The 16th Saarc Summit yesterday adopted the Thimphu Statement on Climate Change, expressing a determination to make South Asia a world leader in low-carbon technologies and renewable energy.

Nuke rivals to resume peace talks

Manmohan, Gilani meet in Thimphu
 AFP, Thimphu

India and Pakistan took a significant step towards resuming their frozen peace dialogue yesterday as their prime ministers held direct talks for the first time in nine months.

Saarc sings for democracy

Summit ends with Silver Jubilee Declaration; 2 agreements signed; next summit in Maldives

UNB, Thimphu
 The two-day Saarc Summit concluded yesterday with a 36-point 'Thimphu Silver Jubilee Declaration' that endorses Bangladesh's proposal for a 'Charter of Democracy' for regional cooperation aimed at strengthening good governance.

ent and accountable government for their peoples.
 Bangladesh's proposal to convene an inter-governmental meeting in Dhaka on taking forward the idea of a Saarc Charter of Democracy was noted by the leaders of the eight nations.

countries signed the agreements on behalf of their respective governments.
 The Convention on Cooperation on Environment aims at promoting regional cooperation in preserving the environment and mitigating the impacts of the climate change.

leaders at the concluding session of the Thimphu summit welcomed the offer of the government of the island nation to host the next summit.
 South Asian leaders, at the concluding session of the summit, recommended that a 'Conclave of Saarc Parliamentarians' in line with the Saarc Charter be convened, and directed the Saarc Secretariat to convene a Working Group comprising nominees of the member states to



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks with her Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh at a bilateral meeting on the sideline of the 16th Saarc Summit in Thimphu, Bhutan yesterday.

India keen on seeing Delhi deals implemented

Manmohan tells Hasina
 BSS, Thimphu
 India has been expediting the implementation process of various agreements, including export of 200MW electricity and providing one billion dollars soft loan to Bangladesh, signed in Delhi between the two countries in January this year.

Target stalkers

Home ministry sits with heads of educational instts soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The home ministry will hold talks with the heads of educational institutions in the capital in a day or two to decide on taking action against stalkers.

They were not aware of power

EC Sohul tells of executive magistrates for trying poll offences in Bhola

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Executive magistrates engaged in electoral duties in Bhola-3 by-poll were unaware of their magisterial authority to hold trial of electoral offences summarily, an election commissioner said yesterday.

Knock down all illegal billboards

HC asks authorities; revokes stay order on demolition of rooftop hoardings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The High Court (HC) yesterday lifted the stay on dismantling hazardous rooftop billboards it had earlier imposed following a writ petition.

rooftops.
 In October the same year, the HC stayed operation of the notice. Then on October 16, it extended the stay order and issued a rule on Razuk to explain why its notice should not be declared illegal.

MUTINY TRIAL AT PILKHANA

Male nurse helped remove 40 bodies

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK
 All eyes were set on nayek subedar Torab Hosain Khan when he told a BDR court yesterday about his involvement in removing over 40 bodies of slain army officers from the Darbar Hall.



Torab Hosain Khan

4 back home, tell of horror

Promised of jobs in Switzerland 31 seamen left stranded aboard ships at Benin coast

PORIMOL PALMA
 The Bangladeshi seamen stranded offshore Benin had been promised jobs in Switzerland but were left in the ships in rough Atlantic ever since they had left the country in late December.

of food, water and fuel, while rough weather and possibility of terror attacks put them under constant threats on their lives.
 Another returnee Fazlul Haque said, "I could not eat anything. Vomiting was a regular incident. A colleague got severe back pain but there was no scope for treatment."

The seamen said the Golden Shipping SA, which had financial issues with the Nigerian authorities, was trying to sell the ships. Complications also arose as the ships were not registered with the International Maritime Organisation, they said. This, however, could not be confirmed.



Ashraf Alam with his 6-year-old son on his return home from offshore Benin where he was stranded aboard a ship for two months.

Schoolboy killed for ransom

Relative abducted him 3 days ago

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
 Rab recovered the body of schoolboy Oli from a maize field at Berabari village in Mohonpur upazila yesterday after three days of his abduction.



Oli

DMCH staff recruitment cancelled for anomalies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The health ministry yesterday cancelled the appointments of 354 third and fourth class employees at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for huge irregularities in the recruitment process.