

# SAARC has achieved nothing : Asghar

Visiting Pakistani politician Air Marshal (ret) Asghar Khan yesterday said the Association for South Asian Regional Cooperation (SAARC) since its inception had 'achieved nothing', reports UNB.

Asghar Khan who is here on a week-long private visit was talking to newsmen at a reception at the National Press Club.

He urged India in this regard to play its due role in making the forum a success.

He also suggested that countries in the region should cut arms expenditures for the welfare of the peoples.

An initiative to this effect should also come from India which is the biggest country in the region, he added.

Asghar Khan urged all countries of South Asia to forge a common strategy to free the peoples from poverty and hunger.

Expressing concern over the present explosive situation in the Indian-held Kashmir, the Pakistani leader

said that one-third of Indian troops had been deployed in the valley to crush the uprising of the people fighting for their freedom.

"The situation in Kashmir today is much like what it was in former East Pakistan in 1971", he said adding that the Indian troops in Kashmir would face the same fate as that of the Pakistani army in Bangladesh in 1971.

He denied his country's alleged involvement in Kashmir and forecast that 'India can't conquer the will of the Kashmiri people'.

Replying to a question on the present unrest in different parts of India, Asghar Khan remarked, "None will be surprised to see if India takes a different shape."

On cutting of American aid to Pakistan, he said the US now does not need Pakistan in the context of the new scenario in the world.

Asghar Khan, is due to leave for home on Tuesday.

# Vance in Belgrade, not optimistic about peace

BELGRADE, Dec 1 : UN Special Envoy Cyrus Vance arrived Sunday for talks in Belgrade on deployment of peacekeeping forces to halt Yugoslavia's civil war. Serbia's Foreign Minister reportedly said peacekeepers could be in place by mid-December, reports AP.

Croatian Defense Ministry officials reported only sporadic shelling around Osijek, eastern Croatia's largest city, on Sunday a week into the first UN-brokered cease-fire in the war. At least five people were killed in the area Saturday in shelling by Serb-dominated federal forces and Serbian irregulars. Croats fear the Serbian troops want to capture Osijek, a city of 140,000 and capital of fertile, oil-rich eastern Slavonia, before peacekeepers arrive.

Vance's arrival prompted Gen. Marjan Cadi, a senior fed-

eral army commander in Croatia, to declare, "The war is over," the Tanjug news agency reported.

But Vance—who is in Yugoslavia for the fourth time since October, when the UN was first asked to intervene—was not so optimistic, Tanjug said.

It reported Vance as saying there has been little progress on the deployment issue since the signing of a UN brokered truce Nov. 26. He said "pressure" would be put on those involved in the conflict, but did not elaborate.

He also expressed dissatisfaction with the pace of army withdrawals from Croatia's non-combat zones, Tanjug said.

It said Vance would be meeting in Belgrade with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Defense Minister Gen. Veljko Kadijevic.

# AL: Campus violence

From Page 1 Col. 5

liament) August 14. The Committee was entrusted to pin-point the causes of campus violence and suggest remedies.

Headed by the Law Minister Mirza Gohar Hafiz, the 15-member Committee was fully constituted during the third session of Parliament with eight MPs from the ruling party, five from the Awami League, one each from the Jamaat-e-Islami and the Workers Party.

Addressing the press conference Mohammad Nasim, also the Opposition Chief Whip, said that the government formed the committee to hoodwink the people.

The government took the step to show its goodwill in containing terrorism, but virtually it was unwilling to let the committee work smoothly and effectively, he alleged adding that important members from the ruling party remained absent in most of the six meetings held till November 10. Besides, no meeting of the committee was convened later despite repeated requests by the Opposition, he pointed out.

The government attitude proved that it was totally

insincere about rooting out campus violence, Nasim commented and alleged that the government was rather instigating terrorism by its party activists in the campuses and elsewhere in the country.

The ruling party declined to accept the realistic steps proposed by the Opposition, because such measures would reveal many weaknesses of the government, said Nasim.

The AL Publicity Secretary Nasim also resented what he called the government's conspiring not to allow another Parliamentary Special Committee on the Indemnity Ordinance (repeal) Bill to work smoothly.

Tofael Ahmed, MP, warned that deterioration of the law and order situation caused by unabated terrorism would jeopardize the hard-earned democracy in the country.

The nation can be saved from the curse of terrorism if we stand united against it as we did against autocracy," Tofael said.

Lack of effective steps against the most burning problem the nation is facing, will push the future generation to ruin, he cautioned.

Tofael Ahmed said that his party, though in the opposition, first extended its cooperation to the government in containing terrorism. But it was not reciprocated, he regretted.

We are yet ready to help the government in freeing the educational arena from violence," Tofael stated clearly.

But the BNP government, in order to make the educational institutions and the administration at different levels partisan was patronising the terrorists, he alleged.

In this context, Tofael, also the AL Organising Secretary, complained that the government was taking action against neutral persons in the administration, harassing Opposition political activists and sheltering killers belonging to the ruling party.

Replying to a question Tofael said that they were not at present thinking of withdrawing their membership from the parliamentary committee. However, he said that the continued reluctance of the government would make it difficult for them to work effectively in the body.

Matia Chowdhury accused the government of turning the committee non-functional by its non-committal gestures day after day.

# DU Syndicate

From Page 1 Col. 7

Most of the teachers are, however, in favour of resuming classes and that might influence the decision of today's DUTA meeting, the source pointed out.

Meanwhile, FBUTA mentioned that it would sit in a discussion with the concerned authorities regarding campus violence within December 24.

However, the meeting decided to gear up social movement along with various professional groups saying that it would begin its programme soon.

FBUTA, noted that if there was no positive result within this period it would again meet on December 24 to decide a teachers' hunger-strike day.

The meeting was attended by Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, Prof Shahadat Ali and Prof Aminul Islam of the Dhaka University, Prof Afzar Ahmed of the Jahangirnagar University, Prof Mahfuzur Rahman of the BAU, Prof Jashimuzzaman, Prof Nezam Ahmed, of the BUET, Prof Eahia Rahman, Prof Kamaluddin of the Islamic University.

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A procession marking the World AIDS Day in the city Sunday. Story on Metropolitan page. — Star photo

# Sophisticated arms production Sharif for collaboration among Muslim states

ISLAMABAD, Dec 1 : Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said today that Pakistan would seek to collaborate with other Muslim nations to produce sophisticated weapon systems, reports AFP.

"The Muslim countries which occupy geopolitically a pivotal position in the world are blessed with immense resources," Sharif said in a speech read out on his behalf at an international defence science and technology seminar.

The three-day seminar, organised by the Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) at Wah near here, is being attended by defence technology experts from the United States, France, China, United Kingdom, Sweden, Turkey and Egypt.

Sharif urged the Muslim world to set up modern research and development facilities in line with Islamic ideology which "supports scientific learning as an act of faith."

However, he said, Pakistan

did not wish to acquire military strength to "threaten anyone," adding that "we merely desire to be strong enough to deter aggression."

"We do not seek war and we want our region to become totally free of tensions," Sharif said his government had opened up Pakistan for foreign investment and promised all possible assistance to defence manufacturers to set up production and research and development facilities in the country.

"The central location of Pakistan, the level of technical skill available and the size of Pakistani armed forces strongly justify the establishment of sophisticated defence industries in Pakistan," he said.

Earlier, POF chairman Lieutenant General Sabeeh Qamar-uz-Zaman said the developed countries would subject transfer of sophisticated technology to more "suffocating restrictions" in future while maximising prof-

its from sale of modern weapons.

The developing countries will continue to pay "the price of ignorance" until they establish their own research and development facilities, he said.

The General said POF had drawn up an "ambitious" plan to modernise its product range and it had already created production facilities for cluster bombs and electronic proximity fuses.

He said the POF exports arms and ammunition worth 30 million dollars annually.

PPP supporters march on president's home

ISLAMABAD, Dec 1: Police in riot gear outnumbered supporters of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who marched on the president's palatial home Sunday to protest a police crackdown on her beleaguered party, reports AP.



Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK) demolishing illegal structures of building at Dhanmondi on Sunday. —Star photo

# FFs to guide nation

From Page 1 Col. 4

sent as well as the future generation, she said.

"We have achieved independence but the dream of building a prosperous Bangladesh still remains unfulfilled," Begum Zia added.

Giving a call to work unitedly for a golden future, the Prime Minister urged all to shun petty politics and utilise the new democratic environment created through the ouster of the autocratic rule.

Begum Zia recalled Shaheed president Ziaur Rahman's contribution to the Liberation War and said that a devoted soul, he always worked for the development and expansion of the Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust.

She assured that the present government would continue to work for implementing the unfulfilled dreams of president Zia who laid the foundation of the Mirpur Complex for the Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust.

The nation will respectfully remember those who laid down their lives for the motherland, Begum Zia said, adding that their sacrifice will always inspire the nation.

The Prime Minister thanked the French government for providing the assistance and welcomed the efforts of the Trust to render services to the distressed people.

The function was also addressed by Communication

Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed, Bir Bikram, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka, Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain MP, Bir Paritk, and Lt Col (Retd) Zainul Abedin, Managing Director of the Trust.

Oli Ahmed said the freedom fighters should work untiringly to remove injustice and indiscipline from society.

Ministers, State Ministers, freedom fighters and their family members were present at the function.

The Prime Minister went round the new modern hospital and the mobile unit, and also laid the foundation of the housing project in the complex.

Education Ministry directed to gear up uplift works

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia Sunday directed the officials of the Education Ministry to work harder for speedy and effective implementation of its uplift programmes, reports BSS.

While addressing a high level review meeting at her office, the Prime Minister said the present government has attached the highest priority to the education sector and allocated the largest amount for it which was so vital for the overall development of human resources.

# 4 die in road accidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Four persons died and four others were injured in separate road accidents in and around the city on Sunday.

Abdul Baten (30), died on the spot when a minibus from Pubal (No: Chatta Metro Ja-1736) collided with another minibus (No: Rangpur Ja-38) near Tongi Bazar at about 10:30 am.

Jikrul Hussain (18) a second year student of Shaheen School and College died on the spot, while another unidentified man and the rickshaw puller were injured seriously when their rickshaw was knocked down by an army truck (No: 88-7041) near signal gate in cantonment at about 1:30 pm.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy and a case was filed with the Cantonment thana. The injured persons were admitted to CMH.

Abul Kashem (22) a businessman died on the spot when a minibus hit a tempo from behind near Amin Bazar.

Sarwar (32) died on the spot and two other persons Shameem (30) and Mahatab (35) were injured in another road accident at Tejaon. Tejaon police brought the body to DMCH for autopsy. The injured persons were admitted to the hospital.

# Discussion on journalists' role in anti-autocracy movement today

A discussion on the role of journalists in the last year's anti-autocracy movement will be held today (Monday) at 3 PM at the National Press Club Auditorium, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia will attend the discussion as the chief guest which has jointly organised by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), a press release said.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Awami League president member and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General and party's leader in Parliament Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami and Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon will participate in the discussion.

Representatives of various professional groups will also speak.

# Snatcher beaten, cop hurt in blasts

By Staff Correspondent

An alleged snatcher was caught by members of the public in the Motijheel area Sunday.

A police constable was injured in cracker blasts during the incident.

The man was caught after being chased from near the Janata Bank head office at around 3:30 PM.

Earlier, the alleged snatcher and one of his accomplices arrived in the area in an autorickshaw, the driver of which sensed their foul intentions and tried to nab them with the help of the public, police sources said.

While being chased they lobbed several crackers and ran towards the Shapla Square.

When they reached near the Sonali Bank they were confronted by patrol police. They again exploded crackers in which police constable Aziz of Motijheel thana sustained minor injuries.

One of the alleged snatchers was held by the local people and was severely beaten while the other managed to escape.

Later, police rescued the unidentified man from the spot in a critical condition and sent him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. A case was registered with Motijheel Thana in this connection.

# Transport strike

From Page 1 Col. 7

Khan told The Daily Star that the situation would improve further within a couple of days.

"Only some members of the combined eastern owners council created panic near Demra, Kanchpur and Tarabo during the strike. Otherwise the strike was quite peaceful nationwide," Khan said adding that several thousand more letters were issued on the day.

Strike in North Bengal called off

Meanwhile, the North Bengal Transport Owners Association called off its strike Saturday night following fruitful talks with the authorities.

The Association went on strike Friday to press home its 10-point charter of demands including checking of illegal toll collection by the 'mastans' in different routes.

The Association sources further said that they would hold another meeting with the Bangladesh Road Transport Authorities on December 6 to settle the issue.

# The Midnight File

**Khmers want UN protection**

PATTAYA, Thailand, Dec 1: The Khmer Rouge is demanding that United Nations peacekeeping forces in Cambodia protect their representatives in Phnom Penh, the son of Prince Norodom Sihanouk said here today. Prince Norodom Ranariddh, leader of a non-communist guerrilla faction that has fought Phnom Penh in alliance with the ultra-Marxist Khmer Rouge, declined to indicate what specific involvement of the blue berets the Khmer Rouge want, reports AFP.

**Israel frees 25 Arab prisoners**

TYRE, Lebanon, Dec 1: Israel freed 25 Arab prisoners in south Lebanon today, Red Cross sources said. The prisoners were freed soon after the pro-Iranian Revolutionary Justice Organisation (RJO) announced that it would free American hostage Joseph Cleppio within 48 hours, reports Reuter.

**Ukrainians vote for independence**

KIEV, USSR, Dec 1: Brimming with hope for the future, Ukrainians voted Sunday in their first popular presidential election and a referendum on independence that many believed would bring prosperity to their republic. All six candidates in the race, including Kravchuk, have said the election will lead to full independence for the Ukraine and have vowed not to sign Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposed Union Treaty, reports AP.

# Plea to revive interest in traditional medicine

By Staff Correspondent

Some 113 researchers from home and abroad began a three-day regional seminar in the capital Sunday to explore ways and means for reviving interest in traditional medicine for the people of the developing world.

Scientists, biomedical researchers and traditional practitioners from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong and host Bangladesh are participating in the seminar, first of its kind in the country.

During deliberations they called for popularising the use of herbal medicine as the price of synthetic drugs and the cost of hospital treatment still remained beyond the reach of 2.5 billion people of the developing world.

The seminar on "research trends in medicinal plants" was organised by the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences in collaboration with the Department of Pharmacy, Dhaka University at a local hotel.

It is time that serious attention should be paid to herbs and plants and that systematic scientific study on the herbal medicine be taken to combat the common diseases in the South and South East Asian countries, the speakers observed.

The inaugural session was addressed by the President of the Academy Prof M Innas Ali, University Grants Commission Chairman Prof M Shamsul Huq, Education Secretary Lt Col (ret) Hesusuddin Ahmed, Chairman of the Organising Committee Prof Kamaluddin Ahmed, Vice-Chairman Prof Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Secretary Prof A K Azad Chowdhury and Prof Ataur Rahman of Pakistan on behalf of the foreign delegates.

Talking to The Daily Star after the inaugural session, Hakim Mohammad Abdur Razzak, Chairman, Unani Committee of the Central Council of Indian Medicine said traditional medicine should be popularised as alternative to allopathic treatment among the people in the developing countries.

People should be educated on the usefulness of the herbal medicine and research be carried out emphasising its applied aspects on the masses, the Hakim said.

Prof Rahman of Pakistan stressed the need for increased cooperation among the researchers in the Asian countries to combat the common diseases.

Dr Rahman Bin Zakaria from the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, also echoed the need for cooperation and sharing of experiences on scientific information on the traditional medicine.

Dr Biswapati Mukharjee of BC Roy Post-Graduate Institute of Basic Medical Science, India, said the gap between research work in allopathic and traditional medicine should be narrowed down and the knowledge from both the fields should be directed towards benefit of the people.

Organisers hoped that the seminar, which would discuss clinical use of medicinal plants, pharmacology, toxicity and chemistry of the plants will highlight the role of primary health care and give fresh impetus to explore newer, and cheaper medicine without side effects from the flora.

# Middle East peace talks

From Page 1 Col. 4

linked to the peace process must be discussed directly among the parties... and would put forward proposals if the parties were unable to agree."

AP said: But senior Israeli officials left open the possibility of some compromise, and the Foreign Ministry said several low-level officials have been dispatched to Washington to prepare for the talks.

Army radio said some of these officials may participate in the talks beginning Wednesday, with the bulk of Israel's delegation joining in only on the following Monday — the date Israel wanted the talks to start.

Meanwhile, in Amman, Jordan's King Hussein told the opening session the Parliament that peace could only be achieved if Israel withdraws from all Arab territories. The King also said Israel should stop building Jewish settlements in occupied Arab territories.

Hussein said these moves would "provide the means for a just and permanent peace in the region."

So far, the Israeli government has said it will not halt new settlements or trade land for peace.

Hussein also defended Jordan's participation in the peace conference, which has been criticized by the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood Party, whose members make up the largest bloc in parliament.

The Israeli decision to keep calling for a delay in the talks came at a Cabinet meeting on Sunday. Israel army radio said most of the ministers supported Shamir, but also indicated a split was developing. Foreign Minister David Levy, for one, argued that Israel would only "lose points" in an argument about the date, it said.

Israel television said Saturday that the Shamir government also would send Benjamin Netanyahu, deputy minister in the prime minister's, to Washington this week to try to counter damage to Israel's image if it is portrayed as the obstacle to peace talks.

Last week, President Bush announced the historic negotiations, which began a month ago in Madrid, Spain, would resume Wednesday in Washington.

Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians accepted Washington's invitation.

**Shyamoli**

From Page 1 Col. 7

cluding the revolver recovered from the car. The relatives of late Hossain did not file any case till Saturday.

Our Narayananjali correspondent adds: A six-hour hartal was observed Sunday Narayananjali and Fatullah in protest against Mokhtar's 'killing'.

Road communication at Narayananjali and Fatullah was completely disrupted during the hartal hours. Dhaka-Narayananjali road communications were opened via Adamjee. Shops and markets remained partially open during the hartal hours.

Later in the afternoon, some residents of Narayananjali and Fatullah at a press conference at Narayananjali Press Club alleged that it was a "well planned murder" and that some vested quarters were trying to establish it as a suicide case.

The press conference addressed among others by Oiasuddin (birpratiki), former Secretary General of Muk-tijodha Sangsad, M Shamsul Karim, former Chair-man of Narayananjali Bandar upazila, A K M Fazul Haque, Commander of Fatullah thana unit of Muktijodha Sangsad.

They said that Hafes Mokhtar Hossain was a freedom fighter their demanded proper investigation into the death and punishment for those responsible.