

EC summit likely to okay single currency

MAASTRICHT (Netherlands), Dec 9: West European leaders Monday opened a landmark summit likely to create a single European currency that could be spent from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean, reports AP.

The leaders of the 12-nation European Community streamed into the Provinciaal, an ultramodern government building in this southern Dutch town.

They were expected to lead off the two-day summit by agreeing on a common central bank and joint currency.

The European currency unit, a centerpiece of the drive by the 12-nation EC for monetary union, would replace national currencies by 1997 at the earliest.

Britain is expected to exempt itself from the single currency. It wants a future British parliament to decide its participation.

The EC leaders will try to resolve remaining disputes in their drive for monetary union, including the creation of a European Central Bank by 1997, and a parallel bid for political union.

The leaders also will meet with Enrique Baron Crespo, president of the European Parliament. The largely advisory assembly will see its powers increased under the political union plan, but not as much as the 518-member house has demanded.

Finance ministers met on the summit's eve to hash out details on monetary union while British Prime Minister John Major met with Ruud Lubbers, his Dutch counterpart and the summit's chairman.

The leaders are expected to endorse sweeping amendments to the group's founding treaty of 1957 that will give the EC a decisive say in a broad range of economic areas and grant it a joint foreign, and possibly, defense policy.

The summit caps a year of difficult talks during which

Britain registered across-the-board reservations on grounds the proposals will mean grave undermining of national sovereignty.

Britain alone remained aloof from the monetary union plan after the other countries rejected a British proposal for every nation to have the right to opt out.

"We are absolutely opposed to Britain's case becoming an escape valve for everyone," Pio Mastrobuoni, spokesman for Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti said over the weekend.

Major, however, restated his concerns Sunday.

Hartal call

From Page 1 Col. 4

The BCL workers will also demonstrate in Chittagong city Tuesday in protest against the killing.

The namaj-e-janaja of the deceased was held at Laldighi Maidan Monday and later the bodies were sent to their village homes, Hathazari and Fatikchhari for burial.

After the namaj-e-janaja, the BCL activists held a meeting at the Laldighi Maidan and later brought out a procession that ended at Anderkilla.

Speakers at the meeting warned that they would go for greater programmes if the administration failed to bring the killers to book.

While proceeding towards Anderkilla, the processionists damaged several vehicles and shops.

Witnesses said the BCL activists also put up barricades at some places on the Chittagong-Nazirhat road.

It is learnt that the two groups further exchanged gun-shots today at Hathazari. But no detail was available.

Heavy contingent of police were deployed at Hathazari to avert fresh violence.

Tension is running high in Chittagong and Hathazari following the clashes.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was received Sunday by the acting Emir, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah at the Kuwait airport during her stopover there on way to Dakar. —PID photo

PM in Dakar

From Page 1 Col. 5

tourage includes Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, parliament members — Farida Hasan, Salahuddin Kamran and Dr Asfar Hossain Mollah. ERD Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury and senior officials.

The Prime Minister made a brief stop-over in Kuwait on her way to Dakar where she held exclusive talks with the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheik Saad Abdullah Al-Salem al-Sabah.

Muktijoddha factions shift venue of rallies

By Staff Correspondent

Both the factions of the Muktijoddha Sangsad (Freedom Fighters' Council) have shifted the venue of their rallies scheduled to be held at Manik Mia Avenue in the city at the same time today (Tuesday) following a government ban on holding of such programmes in the area.

The Ahad-Azz group of the Sangsad in a statement Monday announced that its grand rally of Freedom Fighters (FFs) would be held at the Sapla Square at 2 pm today. The shifting was done due to unavoidable circumstances, the statement said.

OIC summit

From Page 1 Col. 4

on the grounds that these hurt the Iraqi people rather than the government.

Iran, emerging from international isolation after the defeat of its old enemies in Iraq, has by contrast been using the summit to plan for the future and sent a huge delegation led by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The Iranians brought with them representatives of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, two Soviet Muslim republics which are shifting their focus away from Moscow as the Soviet Union disintegrates.

Azerbaijan, sponsored by Iran, was admitted as a full member of the OIC.

Rafsanjani told the opening session he welcomed the trend towards independence by the Soviet Muslim republics.

As a member of the OIC we welcome the freedom of these republics and believe that their presence will further strengthen our Islamic family," he said.

If the other five Soviet Muslim republics follow Azerbaijan, it could create a powerful new force in the Islamic world, representing 150 million people shut out of international politics since the Russian revolution in 1917.

Senegal's President Abdur Diouf struck a conciliatory note

when he addressed the opening session, avoiding direct condemnation of the absent Iraqis.

"We felt particularly happy at the liberation of Kuwait, thanks to god above all. It was thanks to the Almighty, who inspired the international community's determination and commitment to international legality," Diouf said.

Lebanon's president Elias Hrawi, a Christian, appealed on behalf of the Arab states at the summit for unity to "confront Zionist aggression and restore the rights of the Palestinian people."

Security helicopters hovered near the marble-clad conference hall and hotel built for the summit on the Atlantic seashore.

An honour guard of Senegalese soldiers in red cloaks and hats saluted each arriving leader with their swords.

Reporters were quarantined in an upstairs room and security guards fought with photographers to prevent them entering the conference hall to take pictures of the public opening session.

The Secretary-General of the OIC, Hamid Alghabadi of Niger, appealed to the summit not to forget Muslim minorities in countries that are not members of the Islamic group.

Hartal

From Page 1 Col. 7

Bakshiganj upazila — were arrested the day before the hartal.

Our Narayanganj correspondent says: The half-day hartal was observed here partially. Life in the district headquarters was almost normal during the hartal period. Motor vehicles plying on the roads were few till 9.30 am. However, vehicles of all kinds and rickshaws plied in full swing the whole day.

No picketer were found on the streets and no untoward incident was reported from any part of the district.

Sources said that the hartal called in protest against the dissolution of the country's upazila parishad system was not successful in the district due to the death of Narayanganj sadar upazila parishad chairman Hafez Mokhtar Hossain recently.

Our staff correspondent who visited Gazipur Monday morning reports: Complete hartal was observed in the Gazipur upazila headquarters while it was partial in the surrounding areas.

Shops and business establishments remained closed and motor vehicles were off the streets of the small town. But in the surrounding areas, roadside shops remained open and government offices were in operation with a thin attendance of employees.

The local units of the Awami League and the Jatya Party brought out separate processions and chanted slogans against 'autocratic steps' of the ruling party.

The student wing of the ruling party also brought out a procession against the hartal at 11 am and crossed both processions of the AL and the JP with no untoward incident occurring.

Our Khulna correspondent adds: Complete hartal was peacefully observed in Khulna city and its adjoining industrial belt. Transporters were off the streets and shops, business establishments and educational institutions remained closed.

Privately owned industries remained totally closed while the public sector industries were open with a thin attendance of workers and employees.

Six people were arrested in the city during hartal while police resorted to baton charge on a procession brought out in demand of repeal of the government ordinance.

According to reports received from seven upazila headquarters of Khulna district, complete hartal was also peacefully observed there.

Our Chittagong correspondent adds: Partial hartal was observed in Chittagong city with no vehicles, except rickshaws, on the roads.

Most of the government offices functioned but attendance was thin.

Loading and unloading of cargo inside the Chittagong Port took place during hartal. Ten to 12 crackers were blasted in different parts of the city but nobody was arrested.

Our Sylhet correspondent adds: Complete hartal was observed in Sylhet town despite the local BNP's holding of a rally at court point against the hartal.

The hartal was peaceful. According to information received from eight upazila headquarters, hartal was observed either completely or partially throughout the district.

Rokeya

From Page 1 Col. 5

presided the seminar and was attended among others by Prof Sultana Zaman, Prof Hasan Begum and Prof Majeda Saber. Prof Selina Aktar Jahan read out the key-note paper which was discussed by other participants.

In the key-note paper, Selina Aktar said that Begum Rokeya was not only a reformer but also a revolutionary figure who led war of the womenfolk against social bondage.

Born at Pairaband of Mithapukur under Rangpur district on this day in 1880, Begum Rokeya educated herself and later came out defying iron curtain of the then conservative society to enlighten the women, she said. In her paper she also termed Rokeya as a great woman satirist of her time.

Bangla Academy Director M Harun-ur-Rashid delivered the address of welcome at the seminar.

Nari Pakkha, a women organisation held a function in the Public Library premises. Messrs Mahbuba Mahmud, Tanzina Islam, Rini Reza, Hamida Rahman and Rokeya Kabir took part in the programme and read out writings of Begum Rokeya.

Another women organisation Nari Grantha Prabartona held a rally at Mohammadpur Square on Mirpur Road on the occasion.

A book titled 'Begum Rokeya: Arjuner Ithas' by Sameema Islam was also published to mark the anniversary.

The organisation also revived its pledge to rename Mirpur Road as Rokeya Smriti Sarak. **Editorial on page 4**

The Midnight File

Gorbachev doesn't want to resign

MOSCOW, Dec 9: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev does not intend to resign, a presidential spokesman said today. "Rumours that Gorbachev intends to resign from the post of USSR President do not at all correspond to reality," Alexander Likhotal said. The rumours followed the formation of a Commonwealth of independent states by the three most powerful Soviet republics, Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia, which proclaimed the end of the Soviet Union on Sunday, reports Reuter.

BSF kills 13 on Pak border

NEW DELHI, Dec 9: Indian border guards on Monday shot and killed 13 people on the frontier with Pakistan. United News of India reported. Quoting official reports the agency said an Indian patrol spotted a group of 15 people trying to cross into India from Pakistan. The group was asked to stop, when they refused Indian Border Security Force soldiers opened fire, killing 13 of them. UNI did not say what happened to the remaining two. UNI called the deceased "Bangladeshis intruders" returning from Pakistan to their homeland, Bangladesh, through India, says AP.

8 Tamil guerillas killed

COLOMBO, Dec 9: Security forces killed eight more Tamil guerillas and lost one of their own men in a foray on the outskirts of a key military base in northern Sri Lanka, officials said Monday. Eight guerillas from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were killed and several injured in the army operations Sunday to set up a new forward defence line at the Palaly Air Base, a military spokesman here said. One soldier was killed and another wounded in the latest offensive near Palaly, one of the biggest military facilities located in the LTTE-controlled northern Jaffna Peninsula, reports AFP.

Slav commonwealth

From Page 1 Col. 7

The Kazakhstan President said he still supported Gorbachev's Union Treaty — or something similar — but emphasized: "I am a pragmatist and a realist, and I will look at the situation."

Nazarbayev said he, Gorbachev and Yeltsin agreed that the Slavic agreement be sent to the Soviet parliament for consideration alongside the Soviet leader's plan. It was not immediately clear what, if any, authority the parliament would have to prevent such a commonwealth from coming into existence.

Russia, Byelorussia and Ukraine comprise nearly three-fourths of the Soviet Union's nearly 290 million people and possess most of its economic strength. They make up the country's traditional Slavic heartland.

The Presidents of Azerbaijan and Tadzhikistan briefly attended the meeting with Gorbachev, according to the Tass news agency. But a full meeting of the State Council, the body temporarily running the Soviet government, was cancelled without explanation.

AFP adds: Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk declined to attend planned talks here today with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the leaders of three other republics, a Ukrainian official said today.

A spokesman for the Ukrainian representation in Moscow said "no representative from Kiev" was expected to arrive in Moscow to attend the talks.

AP picks up: Although the action by the Slavic leaders threatened to put an end to Gorbachev's six years in power, Nazarbayev was not ready to write him off yet.

"At this difficult moment, Gorbachev still has not exhausted his possibilities, that's my personal opinion," he said.

Gorbachev's deputy spokesman, Alexander Likhotal, told Israeli Radio he

did not think the pact doomed Gorbachev's authority.

"Yeltsin has come to Gorbachev, to the president now. That means he has to take into consideration the fact of the President being in power," Likhotal said.

"As of now, it's normal... The situation is rather tense, of course," he said.

The Slavic leaders' weekend meeting in a secluded hunting lodge near Byelorussia's border with Poland was organized after Ukrainians voted overwhelmingly Dec 1 to break from the Soviet Union.

The Independent Interfax news agency said Yeltsin was authorized to speak on behalf of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian leaders neither attended Monday's meeting.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told a news conference on Monday that Yeltsin telephoned Bush to inform him of the Slavic agreement. Bush learned about it before Gorbachev said, Yeltsin's press spokesman, Pavel Voschanov confirmed.

"Talks on the preparation of a new Union Treaty have reached a dead end and the process of the secession of republics from the USSR and forming of independent states has come to reality," the leaders said in a document carried by the Soviet news agency Tass.

Membership would be open to all former republics and other countries "who share the aims and principles of this agreement," the document said.

Related story on page 5

AIDS vaccine

From Page 1 Col. 8

a tour of the United States.* AIDS is caused by HIV. A HIV infected person takes ten to 15 years to develop into a full-blown AIDS case which he frequently becomes ill due to the body's failing immune system. HIV vaccines are meant for preventing spread of the virus.

Prof Nazrul Islam, Secretary, National AIDS Committee, has expressed his ignorance about the existence of any programme for trial of HIV vaccines in Bangladesh.

He has information that such vaccines are currently on trial in Thailand where AIDS cases, particularly HIV positive cases, are now widespread.

HIV vaccines are meant for two kinds of tests: a) observing if they help the growth of a particular anti-body which is believed to be able to neutralise the virus, and b) determining the level of immunity of persons inoculated with vaccines by exposing them to HIV.

Prof Nazrul Islam said human trial of HIV vaccines is not possible in Bangladesh because there had never been a proposal for the experiment.

According to him secret trial is also an impracticable proposition. One may secretly inoculate a person with HIV vaccine, but one would not get the results without carrying out systematic laboratory tests subsequently. Vaccines are also very expensive, because they are the outcome of very sophisticated genetic engineering researches.

He emphasizes that the National AIDS Committee would never allow such trials because AIDS or HIV positive cases are not widespread in the country.

Sources say Thailand has agreed to carry out trials because at present nearly hundred per cent of the prostitutes and people of many other groups have been infected with HIV. But the government tries to hide the information, because of fear that the Thai tourism industry heavily based on sex-trade might be affected adversely.



Former Philippines first lady Mrs Imelda Marcos (right) is greeted by supporters yesterday (Monday) after coming out of a suburban court in Manila. Imelda is facing seven tax evasion charges filed by the government. **Story on page 5** —AFP photo

Chinese support

From Page 1 Col. 8

Bangladesh government. Madam Peng appreciated the steps undertaken by the government to solve the population problem being faced by the country and said China and Bangladesh would continue to work closely in all fields to bring socio-economic development of the two peoples.

She also conveyed the best wishes to President Biswas from the Chinese President, Yang Shangkun.

The Chinese Minister recalled the recent visit of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said, she hoped the visit would go a long way to further cement the existing friendship between the two countries.

President Biswas said the Chinese cooperation in various fields including science and technology

Shopowners

From Page 1 Col. 8

smuggling drive, now beginning December 15.

As part of the drive, shops and markets will be raided to haul up contraband foreign goods breaking the backbone of domestic industry.

The government gave a November 30 deadline for disposal of smuggled goods before start of the drive, earlier scheduled to begin on December 1.

The drive was deferred following request by chamber leaders who also called for listing out contraband items before beginning the putsch.

Fund crisis stifles EPZ

From Page 1 Col. 7

processing zone where cheap labour is available.

Geoffery Paul Director Regency Garments Ltd echoing the same said, "We are recommending that other companies come as there are no labour problems here because of banning union activities."

Regency Garments belonging to Lokyogo Company and a hundred per cent joint venture of Sri Lankan and America was established here in 1984.

The company has four other factories in the export processing zone of Sri Lanka.

Regency Garments suffering an export loss of one million dollars resumed production after two months of the April 29 cyclone that left a trail of devastation here.

Toshikazu Sonoda, Finance Manager of Olympic-MI (Bangladesh) Ltd, a 15 million dollar enterprise said, "Some small companies of Japan are planning to come here closing their units there due to labour shortage in that country." The Chittagong Export Processing Zone is one their choices," he added.

CEPZ officials believe that the flow of foreign investment here is sure to rise in the near future after the construction of a permanent embankment to ensure protection to this zone.

The construction work of the permanent embankment will begin from next January over on 18 km area from Patenga to Kumira and will cost Taka 500 crore.

Noboru Harako, General Manager (Technical) of the Minipolo Electric Co Ltd at the CEPZ told The Daily Star that more investors would be encouraged to come here if the permanent embankment could be made to protect the export

Gun recovered

SATKHIRA, Dec 9: Police recovered a stolen SBBL gun Saturday from a pond of Satkhira Government College. The gun was stolen from the residence of Advocate Deldar Rahman on May 17, reports UNB.

BCL goes on rampage

From Page 1 Col. 3

involved in terrorist acts on the DU campus since long, evading arrest.

Campus sources said that the supporters of the BCL (S-A) after holding a rally in front of the National Press Club protesting the arrest brought out a procession in the city.

Several shots were heard when the procession came to the TSC premises. Police nearby immediately lobbed several teargas shells after the shots to disperse the procession.

Police also fired three shots there intensifying the agitation of the processionists.

Meanwhile, the BCL workers at Jagannath Hall, S M Hall and Zahurul Huq Hall of the university came out of the halls and went on the rampage in the Plassey, Nilkhet and Elephant Road areas disrupting the movement of all vehicles through the roads in the areas. They damaged several vehicles.

The agitating students set fire to a minibus at the Plassey Crossing at about 9 pm. The driver of the minibus, however, managed to drive the vehicle in that condition and rushed towards Nilkhet where it was saved by police and Fire Service workers from being gutted. Another vehicle, reportedly a private car, was gutted in the Plassey area at about 9:30 pm.

A rickshaw puller coming from the Sukrabad area told

Ataur Rahman

From Page 1 Col. 8

leader at the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar National Graveyard.

The political leaders and eminent personalities at a meeting today with the Shahjahan Straj, MP, in the chair requested the government to declare national mourning, and fly the national flag at half mast, and take steps for burial of Khan with full state honour.

The meeting held at the Dhanmondi residence of the late leader was attended, among others, by Mattur Rahman Nizami, General Secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, Awami League leader Sudhangshu Shekhar Haldar, Md. Ainuddin of Muslim League, Khalequzzaman Dudu, Manindra Nath Sarkar of Hindu Otkka Front and Md. Abdul Khaleq president of Bangladesh Human Rights Association.

The Bangladesh Human Rights Organisation demanded the declaring of a three-day national mourning to condole the death of the politician.

Editor: S. M. Ali

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toynebe Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. PABX-246023-4. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.