

# Biswas, Premadasa talk development of SAARC

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, accompanied by his wife Hema Premadasa, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban Monday, reports BSS.

On arrival at the Bangabhaban, the visiting dignitaries were received by President Biswas and Begum Biswas.

The two presidents, during their hour-long discussion, stressed the need for united efforts for the development of the SAARC nations.

President Biswas said the bilateral relations between the two countries would continue to grow for the common benefits of the two peoples.

He said Bangladesh and Sri Lanka shared common tradition and culture and they have common views on many issues.

Referring to the forthcoming SAARC summit in Dhaka, President Biswas expressed the hope that the summit would foster close amity among the SAARC countries with the adoption of the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA).

President Biswas emphasised the need for ensuring food, clothing and shelter for the people of SAARC countries and called for adhering to the 'dai-bhat' concept put forward by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Colombo

summit. President Biswas said the SAARC, which was mooted by sheahed President Ziaur Rahman, was marching ahead to materialise the hopes and aspirations of the people of the region.

He said complete communal harmony existed in Bangladesh and people's participation at all levels in the national development had been ensured.

President Premadasa said SAARC would greatly contribute to bring about changes in the life of the people and untied move by all would help achieve the cherished goal.

He said the report of the poverty alleviation committee of the SAARC would be placed before the coming summit for evaluation.

Premadasa appreciated the communal harmony that existed in Bangladesh. He expressed his gratitude for the warm reception accorded to him and the members of the entourage during his visit.

Minister-in-waiting Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain Laday-in-waiting Begum Selma Rahman, MP, Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary B P Tilakratna, Secretary to the President Ataul Haq and Sri Lankan envoy to Bangladesh Alfred K David were present.

# 24 members ALWC

From Page 1 Col 8 Raziuddin Ahmed Razu, Abdur Rauf Chowdhury, Imam Uddin Ahmed, Rahmat Ali MP, Rahmat Ullah Chowdhury, K M Jahangir MP, Moinam Sarker, Mirza Sultan Raja, Fazur Rahman, Mukul Bose, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Akhtaruzzaman and Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed.

Sheikh Hasina last night also announced 11 departmental sub-committees to provide the party presidium members specific responsibilities.

All the sub-committees, according to the party constitution, would be working under the chairmanships of the presidium members while the departmental secretaries of the party would assist the committee chairmen as member secretaries to the committees.

According to a party press release last night, the committees are as follows:

Publicity and Publication Sub-Committee: Chairman: Abdul Momen, Member-Secretary: Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Members: Abdul Mannan, Moinam Sarker, Ahmad Hossain, Ashim Kumar Ukil and Mrinal Kanti Das.

Agriculture and Cooperative Sub-Committee: Chairman: Abdur Razzak MP, Member-Secretary: Begum Matia Chowdhury MP, Members: Rahmat Ali MP, Rashed Mosharraf MP, Azharul Islam MP, Bahadul Majnun Chunnun and Baduzzaman Badsha.

Labour and Manpower Sub-Committee: Chairman: Amir Hossain Amu, Member-Secretary: Munnujan Sufian, Members: Rahmat Ullah Chowdhury, Abdul Matin Master, Alhaj Mesbahuddin MP, Shajahan Khan MP, Kazi Iqbal, Abdur Rahman, Golam Mostafa Sujan.

Finance and Planning Sub-Committee: Chairman: Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Member-Secretary: Ataur Rahman Khan Kater, Members: Dr Mizanul Haq MP, Syed Abul Hossain MP, Mahbubur Rahman.

Habibur Rahman Habib and Nurul Amin Ruhul. Education and Cultural Sub-Committee: Chairman: Kamruzzaman, Member-Secretary: Obaidul Kader, Members: Alamgir Kulkarni, K M Jahangir MP, Rafiqul Islam MP, Shah-e-Alam and S M Mosarref Hossain.

Industry and Commerce Sub-Committee: Chairman: Tofael Ahmed MP, Member-Secretary: Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury MP, Members: Sultanul Kabir Chudhury MP, Khorsheed Alam Sujan and S M Kamal Hossain.

Information and Research Sub-Committee: Chairman: Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Member-Secretary: Prof Abu Sayed, Members: Abul Kalam MP, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, B M Mozammel Haq and Shahriar Rumi.

Relief, Social Welfare and Human Resources Development Sub-Committee: Chairman: Mohiuddin Ahmed MP, Member-Secretary: Moutaz Hossain, Members: Raziuddin Ahmed Razu, Promod Mankhin MP, Syed Siddiqur Rahman, Solaiman Ali and Saiful Ahad Selim.

International Relations Sub-Committee: Chairman: Abdus Samad Azad MP, Member-Secretary: Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP, Members: Akhtaruzzaman, Nurul Fazal Bulbul and Habibur Rahman Khan.

Law Affairs Sub-Committee: Chairman: Dr Mohammad Selim, Member-Secretary: Barrister K S Nabi, Members: Advocate Shahara Khatun, A B M Taleb Ali, Zobeid Ali MP, Mostafa Amin, Enayetur Rahim and Momtaz Uddin Meheddi.

Health, Population and Environment Sub-Committee: Chairman: Abdul Mannan, Member-Secretary: Dr Mustafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Members: Dr Kazi Yusuf MP, Babu Kalpanarajan Chakma MP, Dr Jahangir Sattar Tinku and Kamruzzaman Ansari.

# 12 hurt as armed group attacks shopowner

Twelve people were injured when an armed group attacked a shopowner and his family members at Paderghat Bazar in Kishoreganj Sunday, reports UNB.

Police and local people said the 100-strong group of Adarshapara attacked Eshamuddin, a shopowner of the bazar, reportedly following a tussle over the possession of his shop.

The family members of Eshamuddin, who live next doors, were also injured when they came in rescue hearing a hue and cry. The group used lethal weapons in the attack at about 11 am.

Eshamuddin, his wife Rahmunnessa, sons Kanchan and Mostafa, daughters Manzila Khatun, Helena and Fatema and daughter-in-law Amena Khatun were admitted to the Sadar Hospital where their condition was stated critical.

# Qatar withdraws troops from Gulf security force

RIYADH, Oct 5: Qatar has withdrawn its 200 soldiers from a joint Gulf security force in the wake of a border dispute with Saudi Arabia, a senior Gulf official said today, reports AFP.

The official, who requested anonymity, said the troops returned home on Sunday from Kuwait, where they formed part of the Gulf cooperation council's 'Peninsula Shield' force created in 1985 during the Iran-Iraq war.

The move was directly related to a border dispute which has flared up between Riyadh and Andoha the official said. He feared that Qatar might end up quitting the GCC, which has grouped the six Gulf monarchies of the Arabian Peninsula since 1981.

The GCC also comprises Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Editor: S. M. Ali Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at the Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynebee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX- 246023-4, 245061-2. Advertisement: 245063 & Ext. 20. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box. No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.



The overturned BRTC bus after it skidded off the road and fell into a ditch at Adhuria yesterday. Story on page 1 —Star photo

# 5 killed in wall collapse

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 5: Five members of a family including four minors died and three others were injured when a wall of their house collapsed at Sitatpara of Choto Moheshkhali Union under Moheshkhali island early this morning, reports BSS.

According to Moheshkhali police the members of the family had been living in a dilapidated mud wall house. One of the walls suddenly collapsed today killing the five instantly.

The victims were identified as Ali Hossain (50) owner of house and his children Abdus Saboor (10), Fatema Begum (8), Ershadullah (6) and Saiddullah (4).

The incident took place when a procession brought out by the supporters of a chairman candidate Ashraf Ali was resisted by a rival group of Shah Alam at village Sangacha.

In the ensuing clash 17 persons received injuries five of them critically.

The injured persons were removed to nearby Health Complex.

Police rounded up six persons in this connection. UNB adds from Sherpur: Police fired in the air as a group of people attacked a polling centre and snatched 3 ballot boxes Sunday night after Union Parishad election.

# 52 injured in UP poll violence

By Staff Correspondent

At least 52 people including four policemen were injured in clashes during the second phase of Union Parishad elections in Gaibanda, Sherpur and Satkhira on Saturday and Sunday.

Our Gaibanda Correspondent adds: Seventeen persons sustained injuries in election violence between two rival groups at Salmara Union under Gobindaganj thana Sunday.

The violence ensued between the supporters of two rival candidates. During the clash crackers were blasted, brickbats and lethal weapons were used.

Police on duty opened blank shots to disperse the mob and brought the situation under control.

Police and witnesses said at least 20 people, including the Presiding Officer, were injured in the melee at the Boga Ichapur School voting centre in Rupanarayanpur union of Nalbartar.

Police fired five blank shots and baton-charged the troublemakers, sources said. The Returning Officer, however, didn't cancelled the polls in the centre.

A case has been filed with Nalbartar police in this connection. None was yet arrested.

In Satkhira, at least 15 people including four policemen were injured in Union Parishad polls violence at north Parulia-centre in Debhata thana Saturday evening.

The violence ensued between the supporters of two rival candidates. During the clash crackers were blasted, brickbats and lethal weapons were used.

Police on duty opened blank shots to disperse the mob and brought the situation under control.



Aerial view of the place where an EL AL cargo Boeing crashed Sunday. The plane hit the building, wiping away some 80 houses in Amsterdam. Story on page 1 —AFP photo

# Children's day observed

The 'World Children's Day' was observed in the country yesterday with a renewed pledge to establish the rights of children.

The day is observed October 5 every year around the globe with a view to implementing the United Nation convention on the rights of children.

In Bangladesh, the day was marked by colourful processions by children and discussion meetings on the significance of the day.

Different children's organisations brought out processions which paraded the city thoroughfares carrying banners and placards containing demands of the children.

Central Khelegar Asar held discussion meeting at the National Book Centre on the day.

Adviser of the organisation Gazil Haq addressed the meeting as chief guest. Other discussants included noted singer Kalim Sharafi, Journalist Shawqat Anwar and Ziauddin Ahmed, President of the Asar Prof Ali Asgar chaired the function.

In observance of the day, Bangladesh Chhatra Kalyan Sangstha organised a token hunger strike participated by children in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the morning. Child artiste and leader of the Sangstha Rumana Rashid Isha led the strike.

President of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Reazuddin Ahmed formally ended the two-hour hunger strike by feeding the strikers.

# Fresh fighting in Afghanistan

By Staff Correspondent

KABUL, Oct 5: Fighting has erupted in two northern provinces between forces of the Islamic government and dissent rebels who are being armed by Pakistan, military and diplomatic sources said Monday, reports AP.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the fighting started Friday in the provinces of Konoz, bordering the former Soviet Union, and Herat, which borders Iran.

Defense Ministry spokesman Yunis Qanuni said government troops killed at least 30 rebels of the renegade Hezb-e-Islami faction and that five government soldiers were killed and 120 injured in the fighting.

Hezb-e-Islami, however, claimed it had killed at least 150 government soldiers and captured 200 more. Neither claim could be independently verified.

Hezb-e-Islami was expelled from the interim Islamic government in August in a struggle for power between the various rebel factions that ousted the Soviet-installed government last April.

The sources said Pakistan, despite its claims of wanting a stable Afghanistan, has sent weapons to Hezb-e-Islami bases south of Kabul.

# World Habitat Day observed

The World Habitat Day was observed in the country yesterday in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

The day's theme was "shelter for Sustainable Development".

Various governmental and non-governmental organisations held elaborate programmes to mark the day.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas attended the inaugural function of the World Habitat Day programme organised by the Works Ministry.

The function held at the Osmani Memorial Hall was also attended by Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia and Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah-Al-Noman as the special guests.

The Public Works Engineers Association held a seminar on the occasion at the Purta Bhaban.

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia attended the seminar as the chief guest while Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Prof Mobashwer Ali and Shah Alam Zahiruddin addressed it.

The Rehabilitation and Development Organisation for the Landless (RADOL), a non-governmental organisation, arranged a walkathon to mark the day from the Shishu Academy premises to the Osmani Memorial Hall in the morning.

LORD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar inaugurated the programme while Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia spoke on the occasion.

The Bangladesh Citizens Right Committee in cooperation with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), will hold a seminar at 4 pm today at the UNIC premises.

# AL believes in equal rights of all religious groups: Hasina

Sheikh Hasina yesterday conveyed her Bijoja greetings to the members of the Hindu community, reports UNB.

In a message, the Awami League President said that through the ages, the Hindus have been celebrating Durga Puja, their major religious festival, as the symbol of victory of truth, humanity and good forces against the demonic forces.

Like the previous years, goddess Durga arrived to the Hindu community with a message of happiness. Despite economic hardship, the Hindu community was observing the festival with enthusiasm and religious fervour, she said.

Recalling the contribution of people of all religious faiths to the country's war of liberation in 1971, Hasina said that secularism, one of the four state principles, were banished and politics of communalism was revived after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib in 1975.

Awami League believes in equal rights of all religious groups, Hasina said and called for continuing the movement to restore the values of the liberation war and establish truth, justice and humanity -- the essence of all religions.

# Resource bank

From Page 1 Col 5

While his attention was drawn to the outcome of proposed South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA), the SAARC Chairman said it was still at the formulating stage. A draft agreement has been prepared and the commerce ministers of SAARC countries will meet in November to work out the final framework for approval of the seventh summit in Dhaka.

He believed SAPTA is in the mutual interest of South Asian countries, because intra-regional trade is very small now. Trade liberalisation is very much needed among SAARC countries for the mutual benefit of all.

Premadasa stressed the need for working out arrangement to set up a resource bank for promotion of trade among the SAARC countries.

Replying to a question about SAARC opposition leaders' meeting in Karachi, Premadasa said he has no information as to what had taken place there. He said a SAARC parliamentary group may be organised and parliaments of these countries may apply to the next summit for recognition of such a group. In that case, members of the opposition will automatically be involved, he said.

The SAARC Chairman emphasised the need for exchange of visits among members of chamber of commerce, lawyers and journalists to promote better understanding.

Replying to a question about a newspaper report that Iran and Myanmar have applied for SAARC membership, Premadasa said he has no official information but if they apply, their applications would receive due consideration.

# The Midnight File

## Troops surround Zaire's parliament building

KINSHASA, Oct 5: Troops and paramilitary police surrounded Zaire's parliament building with tanks and armoured cars today, apparently to protect a rebel session of the country's ousted national assembly, witnesses said, reports Reuter.

## Russian jets down Georgian chopper

TBILISI, Georgia, Oct 5: Russian jets shot down a Georgian military helicopter Monday in the separatist region of Abkhazia, killing two crewmen, the government said. The increasing tensions between Georgia and Russia over the Abkhazian conflict brought the two countries closer to open battle -- potentially one of the most dangerous confrontations since the collapse of the Soviet Union, reports AP.

## Myanmar announces end of military 'offensive'

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 5: Myanmar on Monday announced the suspension of all 'offensive' military operation against rebel forces in an effort to claim ethnic strife in the country, a third of which is in revolt against the ruling junta.

Burmese Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw, in his speech to the General Assembly, also rejected Western criticism of Burma's human rights practices or the military junta's slow progress toward restoring democracy, reports AP.

# Khaleda, Premadasa

From Page 1 Col 5 The SAARC Chairman noted most of the member countries had already passed legislation to combat the menace of terrorism as per earlier summit decision.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said during he talks, Premadasa paid rich tributes to Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman who took the initiative in launching a forum for cooperation in South Asia.

Premadasa specially complimented President Maumoon Abdul Gayum of the Maldives and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for contributing positively towards further strengthening the seven-nation forum through various institutional measures.

The President of the island-country greeted Begum Zia for demonstrating dynamic and courageous leadership during her visit to Sri Lanka last year, which would be 'everlasting in the minds of our people'.

The outgoing SAARC Chairman expressed the hope that Begum Zia, who will become the next chairperson of the forum, would give it 'a trusted leadership'.

'Your leadership will succeed in delivering good to the people in the region,' Premadasa anticipated.

The visiting President expressed his gratitude for warm welcome and the highest order of hospitality extended to himself, his wife and members of his entourage in Dhaka. 'It's great honour for my country and the people.'

Begum Zia, the spokesman said, lauded the dynamic leadership of President Premadasa as chairman of SAARC and for undertaking various important initiatives for bolstering cooperation under the grouping.

The Prime Minister apprised the Lankan President of Bangladesh's various efforts for poverty alleviation, with particular reference to the important role played by Grameen Bank.

She attached great impor-

## Sick units Premadasa leaves for home today

From Page 1 Col 7

the banks to bring back discipline in the financial sector. The meeting also reiterated the government opinion that the rehabilitation process should run on bank-client relationship and said that the government would not pressurise the banks into providing loans to the sick units.

In the backdrop of this bank-client relationship a number of persons concerned with the Sick Industries Revival and Rehabilitation Cell felt that the process of rehabilitation would bog down because of the attitude of the government.

They also observed that the government, particularly the Finance Ministry was trying to rehabilitate only a section of the sick units ignoring the recommendations of the Cell.

The banks that financed the sick projects have in the meantime sent letters to their clients asking them to repay their dues and in case of inconvenience to contact personally with specific proposals for their rehabilitation.

The recommendations of the Cell, formed in the first half of last year as per the directive of the Prime Minister, identified 1555 sick units that could be rehabilitated.

The Cell also prepared sector-based and unit-based recommendations to rehabilitate the sick units and prevent further sickness of those and

## House wife killed

By DMCH Correspondent One Amena Begum, 22, was allegedly killed by her father-in-law as she purchased some household utensils without prior permission from her in-laws, the victim's relatives said Monday at the PG Hospital.

## Premadasa leaves for home today

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa leaves for home today (Tuesday) ending his three-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Premadasa, current Chairman of the seven-nation SAARC, came here Sunday to apprise Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia of the forum's activities since he took over as its Chairman at the sixth summit in Colombo last year.

He came to talk SAARC affairs ahead of the next summit scheduled for December 12-14 in Dhaka.

## Sarajevo

From Page 1 Col 4

think very very carefully before he goes forward... He would be burning bridges in what would be a very unwise way. Karadzic has complained in a letter that a UN-enforced 'no-fly' zone would upset the strategic balance in Bosnia-Herzegovina because the Serbs, the only ethnic group with planes, need them because their ground forces are out numbered.

Western allies have called for a UN-declared ban on Bosnian military flights over Bosnia. Last Friday Bush said the United States would enforce such a ban unilaterally if necessary.

Vance and Britain's Lord Owen, the co-chairmen of the peace conference, said a Karadzic withdrawal would scuttle talks scheduled to begin Tuesday among military commanders in Sarajevo for a step-by-step demilitarization of the Bosnian capital.