Indians humble

From Page 1 Col 8

of the first SAARC cricket tournament at the Dhaka

Put in to bat, the Pakistan

Basit Ali top scored with 42

Aamer Hantf got 37 off 54

Rajesh Chauvan and Ajay

Chasing a modest total India

made 199 in 40.4 overs with

nine wickets to spare, thanks

to a brilliant 100-run opening

stand between Sidhu and

95, made with the help of 10

fours and a six while Vinod

Kambli scored an unbeaten 46.

trapped lbw by Shahid Anwar

man-of-the-match for his bril-

Sidhu remained not out on

Surendra Bhave was

Sidhu was adjudged the-

Hosts Bangladesh take on

Detailed reports on Page 10.

Pakistan XI in today's match

XI were all out for 195 in 44.2 overs, four balls short of the

off 46 balls, an innings that in-

deliveries while skipper Moin

Khan and Shahid Anwar scored

Sharma bagged three wickets

cluded five hits to the fence.

23 and 20 respectively.

apiece for the India XI.

Surendra Bhave.

after making 42.

starting at 9:30 am.

liant 95.

Stadium yesterday.

stipulated 45 overs.

DOWN TO EARTH

Dhaka gets face-lift for SAARC summit

By AS M Nurunnabi

There has been some criticism of the lavish expenditure being made on certain aspects of the face lift work for the city on the eve of SAARC summit. There will be no two opinions that Bangladesh as the host country should make befitting arrangements for the dignitaries visiting on the occasion of the meet. In this connection, however, questions have arisen whether, keeping in view our resource position, we have been overdoing things and whether we have observed due priorities in undertaking the various works of renovation and improvement against the background of our other essential needs.

Particular aspects of the beautification work which came under the criticism include installing fountains at huge costs, breaking up fairly good pavements for redoing. recarpeting of otherwise good road surfaces, erecting a long row of new road dividers at considerable costs.

Observers wonder whether, being one of the world's poorest countries, any inferiority complex has been operating in our mind which has led us to show off that we are not really in straightened circumstances. This is devoid of realism, since the heads of governments and states, delegates and observers whom we are trying to impress, are already well ac-

ARIFWALA, Pakistan, Dec 4

Ousted Prime Minister Benazir

Bhutto on Friday launched an-

other 'street power' campaign

to try to bring down the con-

servative Islamic government

and revive her waning popu-

from her left-leaning Pakistan

People's Party (PPP) in the

central city of Multan and then

set out on a 300-kilometre

(190-mile) march across

Punjab Province, the country's

farmbelt and the home of more

In small villages along the

than half of its 120 million

dusty road, Benazir urged

people to rally and help her

oust the 2-year-old govern-

Sharif. Only she and her party

can identify with the needs of

the country's largely impover-

ished people, she said at each

premier told a gathering of

Arifwala, a town of about

Saturday with a rally in the

eastern city of Lahore, the

Punjabi capital and Sharif's po-

litical power base.

capital Islamabad.

The march is to end

Benazir launched her anti-

The government reacted by

government campaign on

November 18 in the federal

jailing thousands of her party

workers, arresting Ms Bhutto

when she attempted to lead a

protest march on parliament

and then baning her from the

capital for 30 days. The ban

was lifted after a week and her

supporters were released.

2,000

50,000.

"People cannot tolerate

government anymore,

39-year-old former

to 3,000 people in

ment of Prime Minister Nawaz

Benazir joined workers

larity, reports AP.

quainted with our socio-economic situation. Thus we seem to be possessed with the psychology of a poor relative who seeks to entertain his other relatives and friends beyond the limit of his means.

In the present democratic set-up it was felt that the concerned authorities would not be a victim of misplaced priorities, as in the earlier regime. The authorities must be aware that there are many roads, lanes and bylanes in the city which are in a very bad state of repairs. Even some of the busy roads in the new part of the city, for example the New Elephant Road, have continued to remain neglected for months for reasons of resource constraints. A resident of the old part of the city lamented: "We have hard luck, for no itinerary of dignitaries includes our area.

In our zeal for presenting a front spick and span, it appears that we are doing certain things which seem to be bevond our common sense. For example, what is the point in digging up certain lengths of footpaths for planting trees or erecting grills on certain other lengths which make such pavements cramped. Road dividers in two sizes are being set up: one a little higher than the other. One expert motorist opined that the higher ones are alright but the lower ones

Benazir's attempts to oust

Sharif have rallied her left-

leaning Pakistan People's

Party, which is often divided

and in disarray. However, she

has failed to generate an out-

pouring of support for her de-

mands to change Pakistan's

thousands of supporters, a

dismal showing for a politician

who once easily drew a crowd

Her rallies have attracted

Benazir to says the Sharif

government is an "illegal and

illegitimate regime" and wants

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan

dismiss the government and

tutional power in August 1990

to sack Benazir administration

on charges of corruption and

nepotism. Three months

later. Sharif's Islamic

Democratic Alliance swept to

power in polls that Benazir

cused Benazir of trying to

create anarchy with her call

for the ouster of a democrati-

cally elected government.

Sharif, meanwhile, has ac-

contends were rigged.

Ishaq Khan used his consti-

call elections.

leadership.

of up to 1 million.

Benazir starts another

street-power campaign

pose danger to passing vehicles. The lower ones have sloping contours and if any vehicle should by chance dash against them, there is every likelihood of its turning over and causing accident. The road planners may look into this aspect. Looking at the road dividers, one observer commented satirically that these would provide conveniently long and permanent canvas for painting graffiti and slogans of which Dhakites are so fond of.

Certain difficulties are reportedly slowing down the pace of the on-going renovation work. While fancy road tiles are being laid at one end, the newly laid ones at the other get displaced under the heavy tread of the passersby. There also reportedly some cases of pilferage of the fancy road tiles. As much of the extensive renovation work still remains to be completed, it will require much more hectic pace of work to complete it before the deadline.

With our tradition of friendship and hospitality, it is but natural that we shall go all out to accord a befitting welcome to our distinguished visitors. Criticism has arisen only because in some respects we seem to have lost our sense of balance and proportion in the context of our socio-economic

traffickers on remand

By Staff Correspondent Three persons arrested in

women to Dubai Thursday were remanded in the cantonment police custody for interrogation Friday.

shid and Abdur Rashid were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrat's court yesterday and on a prayer the police remand for each for

were arrested at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) Thursday before flying for Dubai by a Pakistan airlines flight were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail, said police.

Dacoity at Monipuripara

Armed dacoits at a house at Monipuripara in the city looted cash and valuables worth about

Breaking open the grilled fence they stormed into the house at 7/1 Monipuripara at around 4:30 am, tied up the members of the house and decamped with cash and gold ornaments.

A case was lodged with Tejgaon Police by one Galib Ahmed in this connection

ing this report last night.

10 hurt as goods train derails in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 4: At least ten people travelling on roof top of a goods train were injured when its two boggies derailed near Dilpashar Railway station at noon today (Friday), witnesses said, reports UNB.

The Chapainawabganj bound goods train from Sirajganj met with the accident as wheels of the boggies detached. The injured were treated at local

SAARC programme

for the annual SAARC activities and the Kathmandu-based secretariat's administrative mat-

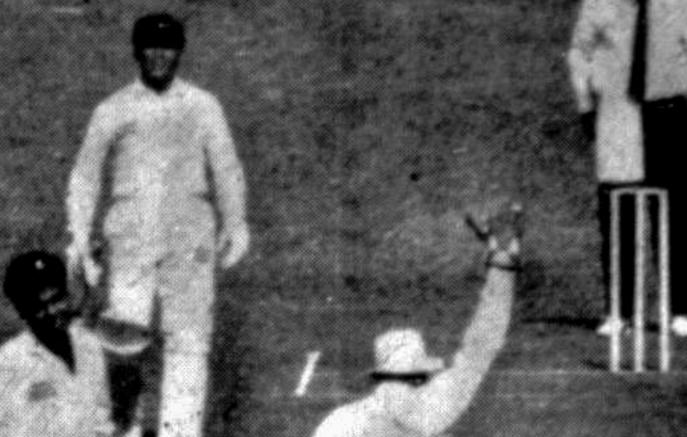
The recommendations of the Sunday's meeting will be scrutinised by the standing committee that goes into a

arrive tomorrow. Most of the substantive matters including the drafting of the "Dhaka Declaration II" and

handled by the Foreign Secretaries. The Council of Ministers or the Foreign Ministers meet

Thursday and Friday to give final touches to the recommendations of the Foreign Secre-

reach Dhaka Wednesday. The heads of state and government hold their seventh annual meeting next Saturday and Sunday. They all arrive the day before, Friday.



Pakistan's Saeed Azad is dismayed after his stumps were rattled by a Rajesh Chauvan delivery during yesterday's prestigious match of the first SAARC cricket tourney at the Dhaka Stadium

- Star photo SAARC fountain

Delhi rushes 'Black Cat' commandos to Ayodhya

AYODHYA, Dec 4: The ndian government rushed elite 'Black Cat' commandos to this northern city Thursday as Muslims fled their homes ahead of a Hindu deadline to start building a temple on the site of a mosque, reports AFP.

Indian Muslim leaders urged members of the country's largest minority community to exercise restraint as tens of thousands of Hindus descend upon Ayodhya with plans to begin erecting a temple on Sunday.

The deployment of the army commandos came after Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan asserted that New Delhi had the legal right to send troops to oppositionruled Uttar Pradesh state, where Ayodhya is located.

"The Centre deployed troops in Ayodhya to ensure that the temple drive should not lead to communal clashes," Chavan said, adding that he hoped both Hindus and Muslims would try to avert a looming crisis over the shrine. "I am sure all political par-

Int'l Volunteer

Day today

The International Volunteer

Day (IVD) will be observed to-

day in Bangladesh as elsewhere

in the world to pay tribute to

hundreds of UN volunteers

working for economic and so-

cial development in more than

half the countries of the globe,

Judges

From Page 1 Col 8

620 judicial officers which had

plan to boycott the court after

November 30 to press home

their 5-point demand softened

their attitude following assur-

ance by the Additional Law

Secretary that some of their

demands were under active

consideration of the govern-

gave a broad hint at the meet-

ing that government will meet

their housing demand and

Association Shahidul Haq said

they will go with the action

programme if other demands

are not fulfilled by March 31.

The demands include security

of tribunal, district and divi-

Secretary General of the

provide transport.

The Law Ministry official

The association of about

reports BSS.

ment.

ties, organisations and groups extend their support in defusing the situation," Chavan said in New Delhi.

Defence Ministry sources said the commandos would back the 15,000 armed paramilitary troops already in Ayodhya, and that more were on standby.

The Supreme Court has banned any construction on the disputed site and Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao said Thursday that New Delhi would act only if the court order was violated.

Hindus say the granite-andlimestone mosque was built after Moghul invaders razed a temple to the God Rama on the site in 1528. They also claim the site as the birthplace of Rama, a mythological Hindu warrior-king. Muslims dispute the claims. As more than 80,000

Hindus from across the country roamed the streets of Ayodhya shouting slogans and carrying banners, Muslim residents evacuated their homes.

One killed as

at Banogram Lane in the city Friday following a row between two groups of muscle-men at Sutrapur.

was stabbed and chopped with meat-cleaver reportedly by a group of armed men on the Banogram main road at around 2:45 pm, witnesses said.

succumbed to his injuries. Before the murder, two

area exploding crackers, wit-

spot after half an hour of the clash and picked up three persons from the area, according

the DMCH morgue for autopsy. He was a barber and a resident of Banogram. Police said the three persons

Rustam Ali, 16 nabbed in connection with the incident

were detained in the Sutrapur Police Station for questioning.

this year.

through proper investigations. Rono said that the probe into the incident would remain incomplete and the threats to other democratic leaders would not go unless the popular belief that Jamaat-Shibir-

apart from these anti-liberation forces, others including the Sarbahara Party elements might have had links with the incident.

Rono told the reporters that the bill for Menon's treatment at the London Hospital came to nearly 27,000 pounds. Besides, a large amount was also spent for his trip to London and treatment at the out-patient department of the London Hospital and also in Bangkok.

He resented that despite the Prime Minister's assurance of help nothing had been done so far.

the government to bear all expenses for treatment of a national leader and Member of Parliament who was "attacked by anti-liberation and anti-

and members of the party's Politbure including Saiful Haque and Shah Alam were also present.

AYODHYA, India, Dec 4: Hindu zealots pledged today to go ahead with the planned construction of a temple on the site of a 16th-century Muslim shrine here as their explosive crusade neared a climax. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP -World Hindu Council) said the temple-building would start as planned Sunday, claiming 200,000 Hindus had reached the holy town to join the drive, reports AFP.

The Midnight File

VHP to go ahead with

temple construction

Pak police arrest 400 Kurds

ISLAMABAD, Dec 4: Pakistani police arrested some 400 Iraqi Kurds in a predawn raid today and removed their makeshift camps set up in front of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office here. Pervaiz Rathore, Senior Superintendent of Police, was quoted by the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) as describing the operation as successful, reports AFP.

Clouds of doubt

From Page 1 Col 7 So far, we have not seen much willingness on the part of the government to do that," says Jyotindralal Tripura, a former leader of the Jana Sanghati Samity who quit the movement and came back in 1983.

Jyotindralai, who is currently the chief editor of a local weekly paper which is accused by other tribals of being controlled by a government agency, fears that the ceasefire and talks may be a "tactical move" by the faction-ridden PCJSS to buy time.

But he still sees no hope of an alternative leadership emerging in Khagrachhari which might challenge the Samity's influence.

"The Shantibahini has some highly dedicated cadres, but it is still difficult to say how resolute Shantu Larma, the PCJSS president, will be in carrying on with the struggle," he says.

Some leaders of the Bangalce community feel that the tribals have much to lose if they persist with their demands and struggle. Abul Kashem, president of

district unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party says it is "up to the Paharis" to protect their cultural identities through peaceful co-existence with Bangalees. "If they choose the path of conflict, then they risk losing everything," he warns.

Others such as Zahidul Alam, district general secretary of the Awami League, feel that the migrants of '79-83 were brought in without adhering to the rules and settled in a haphazard manner But he says a total eviction would be impractical.

They have to be re-settled on government khas land, and

Commentary

From Page 1 Col 4 cial policy, the less said the

Isn't it possible that a village in Goalpara, a predominantly Assamese speaking distriet, would regard a newcomer from Bangla-speaking Indian district of Karimganj or Cachhar as a Bangladeshi and persuade the authorities to treat him or his family as such? Again, a family from Nadia, a district in West Bengal, that moves to Burdwan in search of better economic

life may also get caught in the have been given their own ration cards or included in the voters' list? Where would Dixit

place them? Within the eight to nine and a half million illegal immigrants or outside? There are two other points raised in the Dixit interview,

with the answers given by the Foreign Secretary, which we find particularly disturbing. ment of Bangladesh had been

alerted about the "push-out" drive, the Indian official talks a great deal about "continuous consultation" among officials of the two countries, but stops short of answering the question in firm affirmative. About putting up a scnce

flects the SAARC spirit. It also ignores the psychological impact on the people of Bangladesh who may discover one morning that their country has been fenced off on virtually three sides.

and short-term basis.

The Dixit interview has done little to remove these

will have to be worked out by everyone concerned, including the PCJSS. The Local Government Council has failed totally," Alam says.

Alam warns that if the major national parties such as BNP and AL fail to meet the aspirations of the Pahari people, then a more radical regional force may emerge in the

Minorities leave country due to torture: Datta

Speakers at a discussion on human rights in Dhaka yesterday demanded repeal of the **Enemy Property Act to restore** the rights of the minority groups, reports UNB. Organised by Hindu,

Bouddha and Christian Oikyo Parishad the discussion meeting at Engineers Institution was presided over by T

Former Chief Justice

Kemaluddin Hossain, Justice Debesh Bhattachariya, Sudangsu Shekhar Halder, Major General (Retd) C R Datta, Dr Rangalal Sen, Advocate Shtril Shikder, Father Tim, Nim Chandra Bhoumik, Provakar Barua, Anil Nath and Moulana Abdul Awal were among those spoke at the function.

C R Datta, the president of the Parishad, said that the minority groups were leaving the country for India due to torture inflicted upon them by the majority.

He alleged that homes of the minority groups were being set ablaze and their properties forcibly occupied.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 7 from the agricultural sector, she satd.

Again, what about those who

When asked if the Govern-

along the Indo-Bangladesh border. New Delhi does not see the need for an agreement with Dhaka. Dixit asks bluntly, "Why should we have to get an agreement from a foreign country when we are putting up a fence on our side of the border?" The response hardly re-

While New Delhi talks about putting up a fence, presumably at an enormous cost, it has also made a case for securing transit facilities to Chittagong to ease the pressure on the Port of Calcutta, pleads for more inter-action between people and offers scopes for more trade and even joint ventures.

When one identifies these contradictions in the overall Indian policy towards Bangladesh, there are inevitable doubts about New Delhi's commitments to better relations with Dhaka on both long-term

doubts.

"The country's economy is no longer progressing . . . 90 per cent of the foreign aid is

The Awami League president resented the government's subservient foreign policy and said that the country's

independence was at stake. "Think of the recent agreement between Khaleda and Narasimha Rao . . . push today the market is flooded

in to our hungry belly. Presided over by Ibrahim

Dixit's claim

going to do this. Turning to the forthcoming

SAARC Summit which Dhaka hosts next week, the Foreign Secretary agreed with this correspondent that the Indo-Bangladesh problems cast a shadow over the regional

Dixit said, "These problems certainly prevent SAARC from achieving its full potential at a faster pace. However, the very fact that despite these problems, the grouping continues to gain strength in some of its activities provides a proof that SAARC has been making determined efforts to remove the

hope that through consolidation of programmes and projects discussed at the Colombo Summit, SAARC member countries would achieve their targets in many fields, including increased trade and commerce within the region.

Robbery in three Sylhet houses

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 4: A gun along with ten rounds of ammunition, gold ornaments, cash and other valuables worth about Taka seven lakh were looted by armed miscreants from three houses here in the

early hours today. According to sources, a gang of armed men attacked the house of Abdul Aziz Khan at 'A' block of Shahialal

Uposhahar area at about 4 am. They beat the inmates of the house mercilessly and took away one shot gun along with ten rounds of ammunition, seventeen tolas of gold ornaments, Taka eleven thousand in cash and other valuables worth over Taka three lakh

Muhibur Rahman, 22, an inmate of a nearby house, received serious injuries as the dacoits barged into it and hit him with a sharp weapon.

from his house at gun-point.

He was admitted to a pri-

vate clinic. Rahman was injured when the armed men attacked the house of Abdus Sattar at 'C' block in the same area from where they took away 12 tolas gold ornaments, Taka eight thousand in cash and other valuables worth about Taka two

Earlier the dacoits attacked the house of Misbahun Neer, Regional Agricultural Informa tion Officer at Kajalhaor area a about 3 am.

The miscreants took away 9 tolas of gold ornaments, Taka 5 thousand in cash and other valuables worth about Taka one and a half lakh from this house.

Separate cases have been

lodged with Sylhet Kotwali Thana. However, no arrest has yet been made in connection with the dacoities.

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Arrested women

connection with trafficking 17

Nazimuddin, Harunur Ramagistrate granted three-day

questioning, said police. Seventeen women who

By Staff Correspondent

Taka 2.64 lakh early Friday.

Teigaon Police said they could not recover the looted goods or arrest any one till fil-

From Page 1 Col 5

three-day meeting Monday. The Foreign Secretaries

agenda of the summit will be

The Foreign Ministers

armed groups clash in city

By Staff Correspondent A young man was murdered

The victim Ashraf Ali, 20.

Ashraf was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he

armed groups of Banogram and Taherbagh under Sutrapur Police Station clashed in the

nesses said. Sutrapur police reached the

Body of Ashraf was sent to

Abir, 19, Abdul Karim, 20, and

sional judges, telephone facilities and promotion. Parley for nominations

From Page 1 Col 8 nearly two years ago will rise to 15, the record number in country's history.

Awami League is consider-

Badiuzzaman, a son-in-law of late Harun Mollah, as its candidate for the seat. According to party sources, the AL central leaders have meantime met to discuss the

ing the nomination of Dr

by-election issue. Dr Zaman who contested the JS elections of 1990 from the same constituency as an independent candidate recently joined AL getting green signal from some party leaders, insiders said. Party Chief and Leader of Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina was present at the meeting.

didate was rejected by majority of the leaders. However, sources said, the AL would invite persons willing to contest the by-poll after its date was announced.

Sources said that Dr Kamal

Hossain's selection as AL can-

Besides, some other persons including Mohammad Ekhlus, son of late Harun Mollah, have in the meantime showed interest in contesting the seat with AL ticket, they added. At least four leaders of BNP

including an incumbent State

Minister and an ex-minister

are lobbying with the party's policy planners to get nomination for the seat, party sources said adding that the intending candidates were regularly visiting the PM's Secretariat and her Sugandha office in a bid to fulfil their desires. They are Tanweer Ahmed Siddigi, former minister in Ziaur Rahman's government,

Goyeshwar Roy, State Minister

for Environment, Barrister

Mohsin, son of JP leader S A Khaleque and Kazi Emran. A minister in the Ershad government, Col. (retd) M A Malek and Toyebur Rahman are trying to get JP ticket, party sources said.

inaugurated "SAARC fountain", one of the landmarks added for the

beautification of the metropolis on the occasion of holding the 7th SAARC summit was inaugurated last evening by Works Minister Rafigul Islam Mia, reports BSS. Designed by country's

renowned painter cum sculptor Nitun Kundu, the fountain is a symbol of bond among seven-member nations expressed through a modern sculpture. 35 feet high seven stainless pillared, fountain rising above its water level carry seven "wings of butterflies" made molecular-like stainless

Mostafiz From Page 1 Col 5

measures to protect the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina from

inhuman atrocities. He said Bangladesh played an important role in the conference by reiterating its firm and unequivocal position on the Bosnia issue and making a call for setting up special tribunals to try Individuals for committing inhuman atrocities like killings and torture there.

"We have supported the ongoing efforts by the United Nations and other international forums for a settlement of the Bosnian issue and called upon all for taking several other measures which are needed for the purpose," the

Foreign Minister said.

Rahman led a three-member delegation to the session.

From Page 1 Col 5 Menon was shot and critically injured by the assailants near the Party Office on-Tophkana Road on August 17

Rono's concern

After an initial surgery and treatment at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka, Menon was later transferred to the Kings College Hospital in London where he underwent another surgery. Recently he was shifted to a

hospital in Bangkok. Addressing the news conference, Rono said that it was very urgent to unearth the mystery that led to the attempt on Menon's life prior to his return. He demanded of the Prime Minister to identify and bring to book all the culprits involved in the attack

Juba Command had a hand in the incident was proved false. Rono also apprehended that

It is the responsibility of

democratic elements. " WPB President Amal Sen going back to the donors un-

back operation began immediately after her return home . . . with Indian sugar and eggs . . . India is not taking away our country . . . it is making its way

Pradhan, a Baktabali Union AL leader, the meeting was also addressed by Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman, presidium members Abdur Razzak MP, Amir Hossain Amu, and AL leaders Abdul Mannan, Momtaz Hossain, Mofizul Islam, Ansar Ali, Jahangir Alam and Giasuddin Ahmed.

From Page 1 Col 4 moderate line, he added, "We really do not know whether tt will put an end to the problem, but it will, in some measure, reduce its intensity. Bangladesh has been aware of this plan. It has been announced publicly that we are

grouping.

shadows which remain." He, then, expressed the