

Unprecedented security network for summit

An unprecedented security network has been built in the capital for staging the April 10-11 SAARC summit which is going to take place amidst tension in the region.

The authorities have constituted a high-power committee drawn from the armed forces, police, BDR, Ansar and different intelligence agencies to look into the security, competent sources said.

Additional Inspector General of Police Azizul Huq will act as Coordinator of the committee.

The Special Security Force (SSF) and President Guard Regiment will be on special duty for the top dignitaries, a police source told UNB yesterday.

Under the security measures, an army camp has been set up near the Zia International Airport and Ramna Park beside Hotel Sheraton where the SAARC guests will be accommodated.

A commando group of Bangladesh Army will also be standby, the source said.

Tight security walls have been put up around the Zia Airport, Hotel Sheraton and the SAARC Conference Centre.

Meanwhile, advanced groups from Pakistan and India have visited Dhaka to see for themselves the security arrangements made for the 7th SAARC summit.

Indian Prime Minister P V

Narasimha Rao, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa will bring their personal securities.

Police officers who were earlier posted in Dhaka but now working outside the capital have been called back in the city.

Security personnel have already taken over Hotel Sheraton and other important places.

Thousands of security men spread over different parts of the city besides the places of importance to ensure tight security.

Meanwhile, the government has put ban on holding meeting, rally and procession from today till April 12.

The government also imposed restriction on visitors and people at the Zia International Airport and adjoining security area from 6:00 am today till 10:00 pm on April 12, a government hand-out said yesterday.

Only passengers carrying air tickets and persons holding valid security passes will be allowed in specific areas.

No vehicles will be allowed to park in airport parking place. Passengers coming to the airport will, however, be allowed to be dropped in the airport security area. Vehicles carrying them will immediately leave the security belt.

No accord on SAPTA

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The final session of the Programming Committee meeting was continuing till the writing of this report late last night.

Bangladesh, as the host, had prepared and circulated the first draft of the declaration among the member nations in December, when the Seventh SAARC Summit was postponed only days ahead of its scheduled start.

At the time, Rahim informed at the press briefing, the draft declaration could not be reviewed due to the lack of time and an uncertainty.

He pointed out that the draft declaration covered three broad areas and as part of the regional cooperation included the Integrated Programme of Action (IPA), that incorporated cooperation in the fields of trade, manufacturing, services and a number of other social areas.

The other areas included in the draft declaration involved international, political and economic issues.

However, when pressed for details, Rahim declined, saying that he was not authorised to disclose any more than what he did on the contents of the draft declaration.

He said that participants at the day's meeting had agreed on most of the IPA related parts of the draft declaration.

Rahim noted that the Programming Committee would be able to conclude the meeting on a note of consensus on most issues included in the draft declaration while a few unresolved issues would be left for the meeting of the Council of Ministers.

Although senior officials could not resolve some issues, he added: "I am hopeful that it can be resolved at the ministerial meeting."

When asked, Rahim noted that the meeting could not agree on a consensus formation on SAPTA, differences on which, he said, were "well known". He declined to be more specific on the points of difference, among the members, on SAPTA.

Earlier last year, the member countries had reached a broad consensus on SAPTA and identified two specific areas to initiate the process, which were, a 10 per cent tariff concession to selected imports from member countries and a commitment that no new non-tariff barriers would be introduced for intra-SAARC trade.

However, the local business community gave lukewarm support to the proposed initiative under SAPTA and alleged that the government had failed to consult them on the proposal.

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), at the time, had said that although there were no conceptual contradictions, there were inadequacies arising mainly out of the government's inability to comprehend that the South Asian countries remained at different stages of economic and industrial development.

"It appears that the prevailing realities have been ignored as trade and industry, at least in Bangladesh, which stand to be affected, have not been consulted," MCCI noted in a statement last year.

Dinesh

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summit in Dhaka spoke for itself the significance and progress of the forum.

Singh, who is in Dhaka for the first time, said he was highly delighted to be here and that too for an event like the SAARC summit.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman received his Indian counterpart in the airport.

Replying to questions, he said the 'Ayodhya' developments were 'unfortunate' for India because India was meant to be a peaceful place of living for all the communities.

He referred to late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's concept of 'new and modern India', and said it would march forward with Panditji's philosophy, leaving behind the experiences of 1947.

Singh said the demolition of the mosque in Ayodhya was an aberration for India but the country must not be judged by only one incident. There were troubles in some Indian cities and towns but the countryside was calm and that reflects the mood of the Indian people to live in peace," minister said.

Answering another question about SAARC vis-a-vis bilateral disputes, he said SAARC would help settle these problems like the ASEAN had done in many occasions.

He hoped that mutual trust and cooperation would gradually replace mistrust and inhibitions.

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, Indian Foreign Secretary J N Dixit, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Farooq Sobhan and Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh K Raghunath were present at airport.

I am looking forward to a successful summit: Zaki

SAARC Secretary General Ibrahim H Zaki said here yesterday that the SAARC summit would discuss various important issues aimed at promoting welfare of the people of this region, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport on arrival, Zaki expressed his optimism that the Dhaka summit would be very successful. "I am looking forward to a very successful summit in Dhaka," he said.

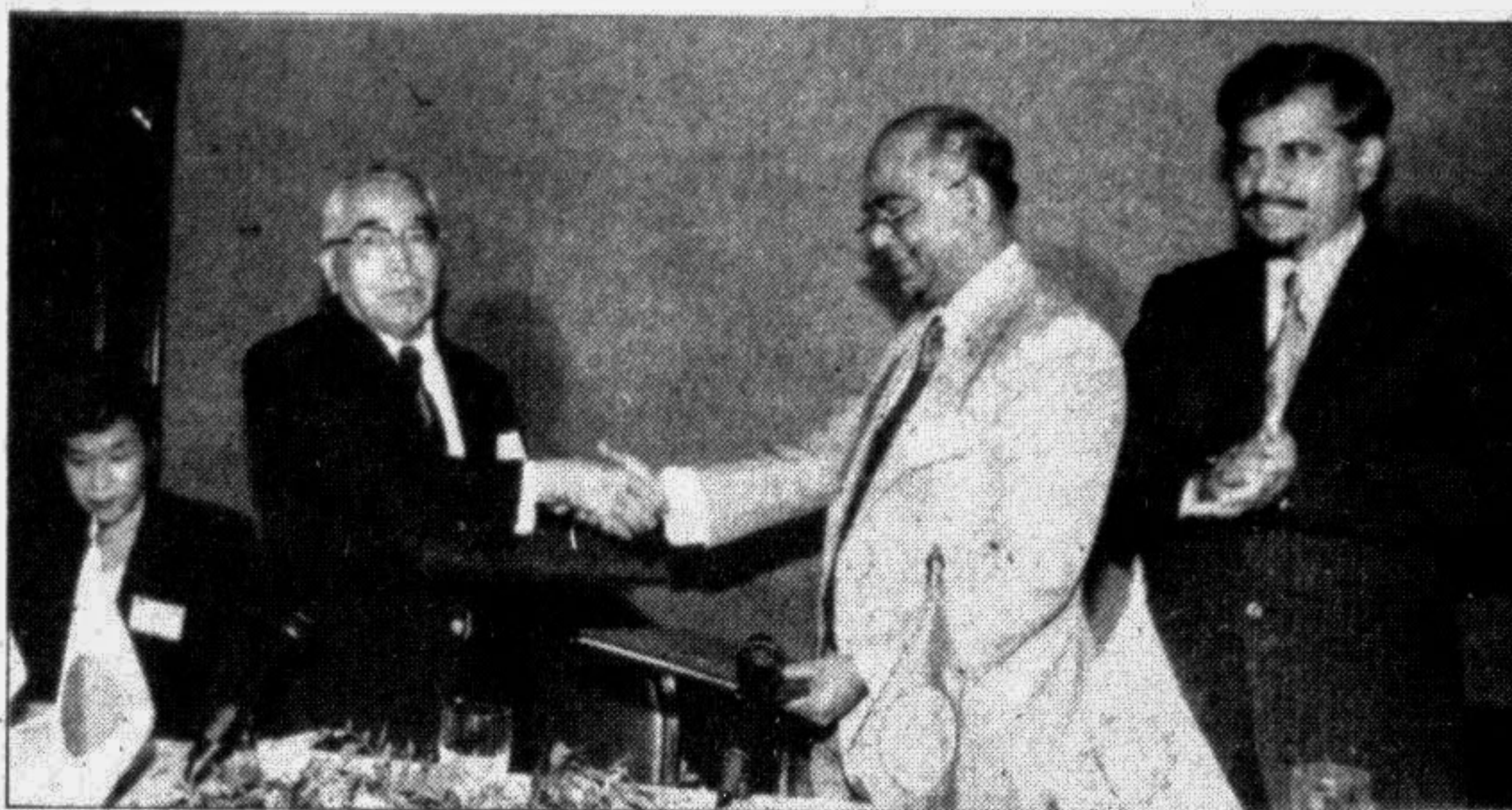
He said issues like South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAFTA), South Asian Development Fund (SADF) would be discussed in the summit. Besides, he said, the report on poverty alleviation would also be placed before the summit.

Replying to a question about the size of the proposed fund, the SAARC Secretary General said: "The amount has not yet been fixed."

He told a questioner that waiving of visa system for journalists visiting SAARC countries would be taken up at an appropriate time.

BCL (M-I) activist held in Sylhet

SYLHET, Apr 7: An activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) was arrested after a clash between two rival factions of the organisation here today (Wednesday), reports UNB.



FBCCI President Mahbubur Rahman (in white jacket) and leader of Japanese delegation Kikuo Ikeda exchanging documents after signing the agreed minutes of the sixth meeting of Bangladesh-Japan Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

Programmes to celebrate Bangla year 1400

By Staff Correspondent

The Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, and 13 other organisations jointly chalked out a seven-day programme to celebrate the Bangla Year 1400 which falls on April 14.

The programmes, set to begin near the Public Library at Shahbagh at 5:00 pm on the first day of Bangla month Boishakh with a song based on a Bangla poem, "Aji Hotey Shotobarsha Agye" (hundred years ago) written by Kazi Nazrul Islam, will end on the seventh of the month.

This was announced at a press conference by the Committee for Observing the Bangla Year 1400 at the Institute of Fine Arts last evening.

The press conference was addressed by Kamal Lohani, Foyez Ahmed and two artists — Imadad Hossain and Rafiqunnabi.

The committee comprised of 767 members including 318 students of the institute was headed by artist Kazi Abdul Basit, the convener.

The participating organisations are Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, Bangladesh Chhatra Shilpi Sangsad, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Jatiya Kabita Parishad, Gram Theatre, Pothonatak Parishad, Mukta Natak Dal, Gonotantrik Chhatra Oikya, Muktijoddha

ECNEC

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ground water lines procurement of residential metres and providing new connections.

The ECNEC also approved a research and development project for Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission to be completed by June, 1995 at a projected cost of Taka eight crore. The objectives of the project include peaceful application of nuclear technology in the fields of agriculture, food, medicine and electricity generation, and infrastructural development of nuclear technology and education and training on the subject for socio-economic development of the country.

The meeting also discussed the procedure for formulation, processing and approval of projects and introduced some changes on trial basis for better conceptualization and speedier processing of project proposals.

Saifur: Secretaries

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imbalance in one causes imbalance in the other. For supply response at micro level, we need to invest more, and for this reason we need to raise our investment-GDP ratio and tax-GDP ratio, he opined.

The Minister pointed out that investment-GDP ratio in the country is currently estimated to be 14 per cent up from 10 per cent during the autocratic rule. But to raise this ratio to 20 per cent by the year 2000 AD and to achieve our development goals we need to steadily raise the volume of investment, he said.

Rahman said that to develop a market economy we need to carry forward the privatisation process, undertake labour market reform, and liberalise certain areas in our monetary and fiscal regime.

He said there were excess and unnecessary manpower in the civil service and the situation had seriously aggravated during the nine years of autocracy when the bureaucracy underwent extravagant expansion in structure and function.

He asserted that resource wastage in unproductive sector must be reduced, through rational review and evaluation.

The bureaucracy must be restructured suiting the needs of changing times and circumstances, he added.

He said that the government is contemplating formation of a committee to recommend measures for cutting down the size of bureaucracy.

Chhatra Command, Television Natyakar and Natyashilpi Sangsad, Betar Television Shilpi Sangstha, Chhayano and Udichi.

The programmes will include folk and classical songs, recitation, plays, jatra, painting and photography exhibitions, the committee said.

Chhayano will hold its traditional programme under the old banyan tree at the Ramna Park just after the dawn on the day and join the colourful procession of the institute later at 8:30 am.

The main programmes will begin at 5:00 pm and will continue for five hours everyday except Boishakh 2, 3 and 7.

On second and third Boishakh two jatra will be staged after 10:00 pm, while a whole-night folk-song programme has been chalked out for the seventh.

Besides, painting and photography exhibitions will be held at the institute and portraits of 20 noted persons of the century will put on at the institute on the occasion, the committee said.

AL, allies

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the Opposition Leader March 29 to discuss their action against the government role regarding the Samannaya Body.

Earlier, Police used force to block two rallies of the committee and injured many leaders and workers of the organisation including its chief Jahanara Iman.

Central and city-level leaders of the said parties meantime held several rounds of talks on the preparation of today's meeting and how to achieve total success. During the talks, the leaders also discussed 'tough action' to resist any fresh act of repression on the Samannaya Committee and other pro-liberation forces.

Central leaders of the parties also met last night with Sheikh Hasina in the chair at her Mint Road official residence.

ROK traders visit BOI

The South Korean business delegation visited the Board of Investment here yesterday and showed keen interest to invest in the country in near future, reports UNB.

Mystery shrouds Divya's death

NEW DELHI, Apr 7: Indian movie heart-throb Divya Bharati was cremated today as mystery continued to shroud the circumstances of her death, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, says AFP.

Some 500 colleagues, relatives and admirers attended the cremation of the 19-year-old actress, considered, until her death Tuesday, to be the fastest-rising young star in the world's biggest film industry.

Her husband, Sajid Nadiawalla, who married her last year in a wedding that never was announced, reportedly fainted after lighting the bier. He collapsed and was hospitalised after he had heard of her death.

Bharati, who last week won a top award as the outstanding new face of the year, fell from her fifth floor apartment in the early hours of Tuesday.

Some reports said she had been perched on a window sill in an intoxicated state after drinking white rum with guests and fell after losing her balance, while others said she had accidentally walked through a full-length open window or toppled over while leaning on her balcony railing, drink in hand.

Still other reports speculated about suicide of foul play in an industry that thrives on scandal and intrigue.

PM: Democracy

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has to be made self-reliant through increasing production in fields and factories. The country has many problems, but little resources. Hence, she said, production has to be increased in every sector for alleviation of poverty.

She called for setting up small and cottage industries in every nook and corner of the country. "These will help the local people through creating employment as well as increasing production."

"Those who say BNP is doing nothing are actually misleading the people", she said asserting that the present government has initiated development process throughout the country.

The Prime Minister said that along with increasing of production, importance should also be given to improvement of the education sector.

Begum Zia assured of the government's initiative to improve the health sector and announced that the local health complex would be given an ambulance.

She also mentioned the programmes taken by the government to improve the country's communication network. She said the Meghna-Gumati Bridge on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway which also links Laksam will be completed by next year.

Referring to the local demands, Begum Zia said steps will be taken to nationalise the Laksam Pilot High School and a regulator will be set up on the Dakatia river to save the area from flooding and help irrigation.

Golam Azam

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The Attorney General said that Azam firmly believed that 'Islam' will have a permanent bond between West Pakistan and erstwhile East Pakistan and therefore those who fought for the Independence of Bangladesh were nothing but 'miscreants'.

And the miscreants were incapable to achieve a free Bangladesh, Azam believed, the Attorney General pointed out.

Aminul Huq said that it could be safely assumed that the government had exercised power in notifying that Azam was not a citizen of Bangladesh in a responsible and reasonable manner, and for public interest.

Huq said that the highest executive decision should not be taken lightly.

Referring his secret intelligence report Huq reiterated that Azam's anti-Bangladesh activities were evident in the report and that they were because he was a Pakistani citizen.

During the argument the Attorney General recalled some historical events of Bangladesh in which he also mentioned the surrendering ceremony of the Pakistani forces.

Huq said that there was a misgiving that the Pakistani forces had surrendered to the Indian General but the fact was that the defeated forces surrendered to the Chief of the Joint Command.

General Osmani was the Commander of Bangladesh forces but Arora led the Joint Command, Huq added.

Huq kept on saying that enough blood had been shed for the birth of Bangladesh and that this case was now a public issue.

Justice Chowdhury said that he would not involve himself in any political issue and would just consider and analyse the law regarding the citizenship issue to deliver judgement.

Agreed minutes

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very cool response from Tokyo to the Bangladesh Biman's request to allow second weekly flight to Narita in order to have faster movements of business people, Sawaki said that he had heard it here and would request his country's Transportation Ministry to allow Biman to operate second weekly flight to Narita.

Bangladesh requested at the joint committee meeting to withdraw quota restrictions on its exports of silk fabrics to Japan and the deputy leader of the Japanese delegation said that they would raise it with the Japanese government.

The Japanese government, he said, had master plans and detailed programmes for Asian countries including Bangladesh, designed to create new industries that would earn foreign exchange.

A master plan, Sawaki said, for the first stage was established in 1990 and the Japanese government was waiting to receive Bangladesh government's request for commencement of the second stage.

PM: Edn sector

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lial hall for the female students, which will be constructed at an estimated cost of Taka 7 crore on a five acre of land.

This will be the second residential hall for female students in the university which will accommodate about 500 students.

The Prime Minister said the nation must achieve economic emancipation to make its independence meaningful.

She said the main formula of attaining economic freedom is education as it can consolidate democracy and break the cycle of poverty.

On campus violence, Begum Zia said her government had given necessary directives to curb terrorism sternly and assurances to all educational institutions including the universities to extend all cooperation to check it. She expressed her firm commitment to free the campuses from terrorism saying "we cannot allow to keep the country's future hostages at the hands of terrorists."

Begum Zia also sought co-operation of all political parties and the teachers to eradicate terrorism from the campuses.

Deans and provosts proposed the amendment to the university act to remove misunderstanding and groupings among the teachers.

Groupings crop up centering the elections of senate, syndicate and academic councils, they said.

The Prime Minister urged them to help mobilise public opinions against terrorism and maintain academic atmosphere for the betterment of the students.

The Prime Minister declared that a sports complex would be built at the university providing athletic tracts and swimming pool.

She assured that other demands of the university teachers and students would be resolved in phases.

The function was addressed among others by Forest and Environment Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, Pro-VC Prof Badul Alam, Dean of Science Faculty Prof Sultan Ahmed, Director of the Institute of Forestry Strajul Huq and Mayor of Chittagong Municipal Corporation Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin.

Meanwhile the members of Chittagong University Jatyatabadi Teachers Parishad called on the Prime Minister and supported the government's steps to curb terrorism.

Prof Mahfuzul Huq, Dr Mahbubullah, Prof Badul Alam and Prof Abul Kamal were among others who spoke on the occasion.

The Midnight File

NATO puts off plans to enforce no-fly zone over Bosnia

BRUSSELS, Apr 7: NATO allies put off final approval for plans to use fighters to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia today, after France said it wanted closer coordination with the United Nations on the mission, reports Reuter.

Canada closing several missions to cut expense

OTTAWA, Apr 7: Canada is closing several embassies and diplomatic missions in the United States, Europe and elsewhere due to government spending cuts, a spokesman for the Department of External Affairs said today. Embassies in Iraq, Zaire, and the high commission in Namibia will also close, department spokesman Rodney Moore said, reports Reuter.

Shamsul's killers

From Page 1 Col 3

week's remand. They are Niaz Ahmed Pintu alias Masud (24) of village Kartikpur in Shariatpur district, Ismail Mamun (23) of village Aminabad in Bhoila, Mostafa Razu (25) of Baranopara in Munsiganj and Akkas Ali Liton (24) of village Katabania in Moreganj thana of Bagerhat district.

The other accused, Saidu Rahman Shaheed (22) of Mohammadpur area in the city, was sent to the central jail after his confessional statement before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate M A Hannan.

Jamaat

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and Farakka issues in the agenda of ensuing SAARC summit in Dhaka.

He said Jamaat will observe Farakka Day on April 9 outside Dhaka and will hold demonstration on April 16 for release of Golam Azam throughout the country.

Presided over by A T M Azharul Islam, the rally was addressed by Mohammad Kamruzzaman, Abdul Kader Mollah, Jasimuddin Sarkar and Dr Abdullah Mohammad Taher.

The rally was followed by a procession.

Student leader

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clashed over construction work of Asian Highway. UNB said, the clash erupted when a group of about 15 youths asked labourers to stop the construction work and another group of 25-30 youths opposed them. The two groups fired 15-20 rounds of gunshot and exploded crackers for about 20 minutes.

Vehicular movement on the Jhenidaha-Bogra road was halted for two hours following the clash.

Nepali Minister

From Page 1 Col 4


Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman received Acharya at the airport.

Acharya said the summit has acquired additional significance because of two disruptions in its schedule and expressed the hope that SAARC would emerge stronger from the seventh summit.

Replying to a question about the joint efforts by the countries of the region in harnessing the water resources of the Himalayas, the Nepalese minister said the venture could be of great help to the people of the region.

Nepalese ambassador in Bangladesh Lokhabadur Srestha was present at the airport.

Bangladesh ambassador to Nepal Syed Mahmud Hossain also flew in here by the same flight.



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However, for the convenience of the respectable consumers, the company being kind often publishes disconnection notice with request for timely payment of bill in different newspapers. Besides, in case of all defaulting industrial/commercial consumers, separate notices are issued and to ensure that the notice reaches the addressee, it is sent under certificate of posting/guaranteed post by paying additional charges to Bangladesh Post Department.

Anyway, the gas line is not disconnected even if the consumer is in the defaulters' list but produces the arrear gas bill payment receipt on the spot of consumption to the disconnecting squad. It may be specially noted that on disconnection by mistake, immediate steps to reconnect are also taken.

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DFF (BA) 2780-4/4
G-471

Authority

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: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmondi R/A., Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.