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A Daily Star Special

by Ashok Mitra

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Notice

The Daily Star office remained without power from 10:10 pm (Thursday) to 12:30 am (Friday) which hampered our normal functioning. We regret inconvenience caused to our readers due to delay in publication of today's issue.

NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina visits Zahir's house

Awami League President and leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina last evening visited the Dhanmondi residence of Lion Humayun Zahir, Chairman of Bangladesh Lion Foundation, who was shot dead by miscreants at his house yesterday (Thursday), reports UNB.

SC examinee commits suicide

MADARIPUR, Apr 8: An SSC examinee of Alhaj Aminuddin High School in the town has allegedly committed suicide by taking insecticide. Family sources said the examinee Kabir (18), son of Moslem Miah of Panichha area, had been suffering from severe headache. He could not prosecute his studies for the last few days due to the disease and was suffering from mental agony, reports UNB.

20 hurt as rival groups clash

LALMONIRHAT, Apr 8: At least 20 people were injured, six seriously, in a clash between two rival groups in Kishamat Chandrapur Government Primary School premises in Aditmari thana today, reports UNB.

3 killed in Feni road mishaps

FENI, Apr 8: At least three people were killed including a minor boy in three separate road accidents within the span of 48 hours, reports UNB.

Consensus on other major points SAARC ministers fail to reach accord on SAPTA

By Staff Correspondent

The SAARC Council of Ministers Thursday also failed to reach a consensus on the contentious South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA) during an hour-long meeting, said a senior Foreign Office official.

However, Chief Coordinator of the SAARC summit Programming Committee Q M A Rahim, briefing newsmen after the evening meeting, said that almost all other points of differences on the draft declaration had been resolved.

The draft declaration is to be adopted at the end of the seventh SAARC summit

which begins Saturday.

Rahim added that the ministers, after being unable to resolve differences on a single paragraph relating to SAPTA, ultimately decided to send it to the Standing Committee to iron out differences on the issue at stake.

The SAARC Standing Committee, consisting of the foreign secretaries of the seven member nations, were meeting at the time of the briefing, he added.

Earlier, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Council of Ministers, comprising foreign

ministers and state ministers for foreign affairs of member countries, meet informally from 5 pm at the Sheraton Hotel.

Rahim noted that the ministers expressed satisfaction at the work done by senior officials in preparing the draft declaration to be adopted at the conclusion of the summit on Sunday.

The SAARC Programming Committee, he said, met again Thursday morning in an attempt to narrow down the differences on the draft declaration. The committee had earlier met in three sessions

Wednesday, but failed to reach a consensus on SAPTA.

Members of the committee, all senior officials of member nations, Rahim added, had managed to bring down the differences to only one paragraph after "redoubling their effort. The efforts were worthwhile."

Replying to a question, Rahim informed that the paragraph containing the setting up of the South Asian Development Fund (SADF) was finalised after minor differences had been resolved.

Rahim, who heads the



Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman presiding over the meeting of SAARC Council of Ministers at Hotel Sheraton yesterday. —PID photo

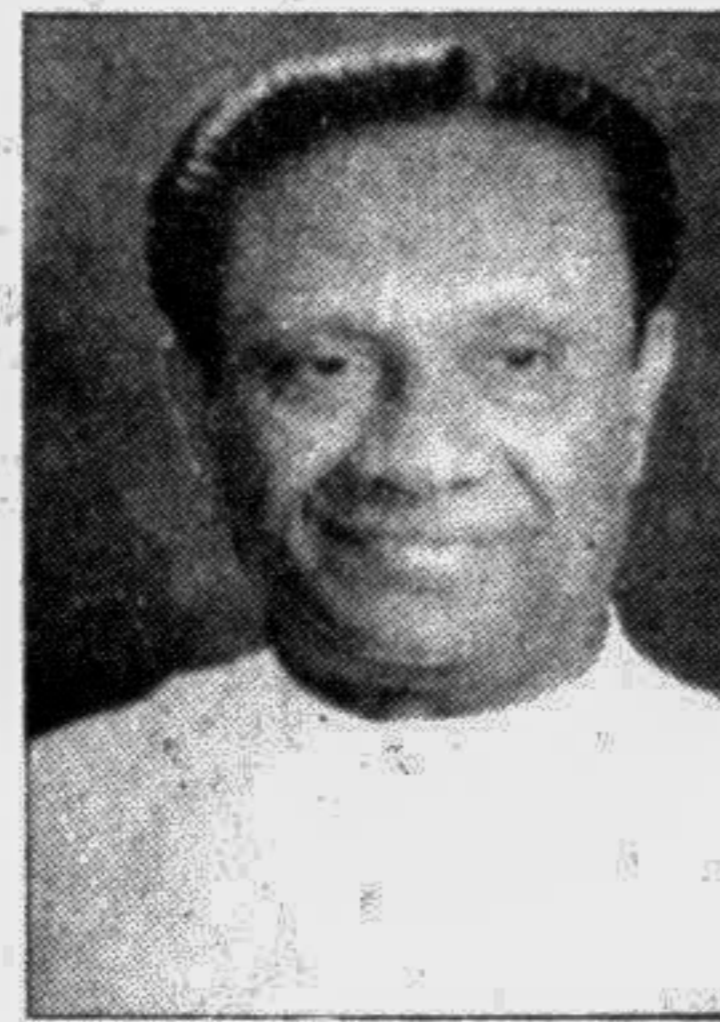
Premadasa in city

'Our programmes must ensure prosperity'

Shri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa said here last night that with the beginning of its second cycle of summits SAARC would devote to achieve prosperity for the people of the region, reports BSS.

"We need not live in poverty since our region has resources, so it is our duty to ensure prosperity of our peoples through our programmes," President Premadasa said while talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport on his arrival to attend the Seventh SAARC Summit.

President Premadasa, who is the current Chairman of SAARC, said "we are looking



Premadasa

Four leaders due today

By Staff Correspondent

Heads of state and government of four member countries are scheduled to arrive in the capital today to attend the 7th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) beginning here on Saturday, a Foreign Office official said yesterday.

Prime Minister Girtija Prasad Koirala of Nepal is due here in the morning while King Jigme Singhe Wangchuk of Bhutan and President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives will arrive in the city in the afternoon on the day.

Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan is scheduled to reach the capital this evening.

Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, currently on a visit to Thailand, will arrive

SAARC summit programmes

Star Report

The Seventh Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) begins in the capital tomorrow (Saturday).

Following are the programmes of the two-day SAARC Summit:

The first day's programmes begin at 9 in the morning. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will receive the six leaders at the International Conference Centre (ICC) at Tejgaon. The SAARC leaders will be given separate guard of honour at the ICC, the venue for inaugural and concluding ceremony of the Summit.

Inauguration ceremony of the Summit begins at 10:00 am at the ICC.

After the half-hour inauguration ceremony the SAARC leaders will plant saplings at

3000-strong security cell

Star Report

Tight security has been enforced since Thursday in the capital, the venue of the Seventh Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) which begins Saturday.

Bangladesh, host to the two-day meet of the heads of government and state, has taken all possible steps to ensure security to the delegates and guests, officials said.

The special measures have been taken in the backdrop of the recent series of bomb blasts across India, and continued violence and terrorist

Opposition in Parliament

Top businessman shot dead in city: One held

By Staff Correspondent

A millionaire businessman, Humayun Zahir, was shot dead by two young men at his Dhanmondi residence Thursday morning.

Two revolver bullets pierced Zahir's head and right side of the chest.

Immediately after the murder, police with the help of local people apprehended one of the two young men identified as Fazlur Rahman Tonmoy, 20, within a radius of a hundred yards of the House No 33 at Dhanmondi, Road No 8. Police also recovered the revolver with three rounds of bullets from Tonmoy, said Dhanmondi police.

Zahir, 45, Sponsor-Director and Vice Chairman of United Commercial Bank Limited was also Managing Director of Bimpe Limited, Bimpex Apparels Limited, Ananta Properties Limited and Chief Legal Adviser of Janata Insurance Company Limited. He was a Director of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Besides, Zahir was Chairman of Bangladesh Lions Foundation, Dhaka Mahila College and Bangladesh Nature Society. He was also the immediate past Governor of Lions District 315A.

Family members and relatives suspected that the murder was the consequence of a feud among the directors of United Commercial Bank Limited and Janata Insurance Company Limited. A member of the opposition in parliament Akhtaruzzaman Babu, who is also a director of the bank,

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Humayun Zahir



Fazlur Rahman Tonmoy held with gun yesterday

Country without power for 25 minutes

Most parts of the country, including the capital, plunged into darkness due to national power grid failure during storm last night, reports UNB.

Excepting some areas where there are local plants, the entire country remained under the blackout for about 25 minutes since 10.10 pm, officials said.

Power Development Board authorities could not find out the cause of the sudden power disruption. Power could not be restored in some areas till midnight.

Powermen were trying to restore it. PDB Chairman Faizur Razzak told UNB over telephone that they were making all-out efforts to restore electricity.

The problem might have been caused by trouble at the Asuganj Power Plant, country's major power supply station, he apprehended.

1 killed, 35 hurt as Nor'wester lashes Pabna, Sirajganj

By Staff Correspondent

Nor'wester lashed Pabna, and Sirajganj districts Thursday evening, killing at least one person and injuring 35 people, including two women.

UNB adds: Nor'wester lashed Pabna districts in the evening killing one person and injuring 20 others.

Witnesses said Halima Khatun (53) of Mollarchar village in Sadar thana died in roof collapse during the storm that battered some 400 thatched houses.

Badly affected thanas are Sadar, Bhuguna, Faridpur, Santhia and Sujanagar.

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Involve science with production: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the scientists to build up a strong science movement for attaining self-reliance, reports BSS.

Addressing the sixteenth annual conference of Bangladesh Chemical Society at BCIC auditorium here the Prime Minister stressed the need for the science movement integrating all its branches of knowledge to create genuine attitude for development among people.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the scientific research in the country still remained at academic level. She said, this should be involved with the production as well as commercial level to gain maximum benefit from the country's constraint resource.

The Prime Minister said her government was working to build up a modern democratic society. It had adopted the policy to involve science and technology with its production process with a view to removing poverty and increasing employment opportunity and production, she said.

Begum Zia said the scientists could help in making the educational implements easily available and providing nutrition for the poor through research. She said the scientists could cooperate in increasing crop production through ensuring proper utilisation of fertiliser and pesticides.

The Prime Minister also reminded the scientists that they could contribute significantly to family planning, health and medicare.

Welcoming the private sec-

tor initiative in promoting science and technology the Prime Minister said "we are giving importance to private sector initiatives. It is against the spirit of democracy that everything should remain under the control of the government," she said.

The Prime Minister said the government had taken steps to create enthusiasm for cultivating science and given stress on scientific and technical education. She mentioned that her government had made bilateral agreements with 20 countries for promoting scientific and technical education.

Begum Zia welcomed the theme of the conference of the Bangladesh Chemical Society—role of chemists in developing countries—and hoped that the 'two-day annual conference, which will enable the members of the society to ex-

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Sharif's order to form special team to nab Bombay blast suspects

ISLAMABAD, Apr 8: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif ordered the Interior Ministry today to set up a special team to arrest suspects sought by India for the recent Bombay explosions that left some 300 people dead, reports AFP.

Sharif had "instructed the Interior Ministry to establish immediately a task force to arrest the suspects of the Bombay explosions if they are indeed in Pakistan," an official statement said.

The Pakistani premier had reiterated Islamabad's condemnation of all acts of terrorism and offered cooperation to Indian authorities to trace the suspects in response to information that they may be in Pakistan, it added.

"He directed the Ministry of Interior to employ all possible resources," the statement said.

WE MOURN



WE DEEPLY MOURN THE SAD DEMISE OF HUMAYUN ZAHIR VICE-CHAIRMAN OF OUR BANK WHO WAS SHOT DEAD IN FRONT OF HIS DHANMONDI RESIDENCE IN THE MORNING OF THURSDAY THE 8TH APRIL, 1993

(INNALLILLAHE RAJEUN). WE THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ALL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BANK ARE DEEPLY SHOCKED AND GRIEVED AT HIS SAD DEMISE. WE PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY ALLAH FOR THE SALVATION AND ETERNAL PEACE OF THE DEPARTED SOUL AND EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE BEREAVED FAMILY.

UNITED COMMERCIAL BANK LTD. A Pace-setter in private sector banking.

NATO enforces no-fly zone over Bosnia Monday

WASHINGTON, Apr 8: Twenty four US fighter planes will join NATO's enforcement of the no-fly zone over Bosnia starting on Monday, the Defence Department announced today, reports Reuters.

It said 12 Navy F/A-18 fighter bombers on the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt will fly patrols in the no-fly zone along with 12 F-15 air force fighter planes that have already moved from Germany to Italy to stand ready for patrols.

France has earmarked 14

warplanes for the operation, the Netherlands eight, according to sources in Brussels, NATO's headquarters.

Pentagon spokesman Bob Hall said he understood the force of NATO allied planes enforcing the no-fly zone will increase from 60 to 70.

The United Nations banned flights over Bosnia last October primarily to prevent Serbian air attacks against Bosnians but there have been 500 violations since then by all sides and the United Nations voted last week to enforce the ban.

The air force planes and their 430 pilots, crews and support people will be turned over to NATO and the navy planes will be directed by NATO controllers during no-fly operations, Hall said.

He said the United States will also provide five KC-135 aircraft refuelling tanker planes to the no-fly operation.

Other US military people and equipment, particularly on the aircraft carrier, will support the operation but remain under US control, Hall said.

AL-led opposition holds rally SAARC states urged to ban communal politics

By Staff Correspondent

A largely attended public meeting organised by the Awami League-led opposition parties in the capital yesterday demanded that the upcoming Seventh SAARC Summit endorse a resolution banning communal politics in the member states of the regional forum. Tens of thousands of people raised their hands to say "yes" to a resolution of the meeting when Sheikh Hasina, the AL chief and Leader of the

asked for their opinion on the issue.

The resolution welcomed the SAARC leaders to the two-day summit, beginning Saturday and hoped its success.

We note with deep concern that the rise of communal forces under the cover of politics in the SAARC states is about to give a ferocious blow to the universal values of democracy, secularism and humanity," read the resolution.

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