The Midnight File

OIC sets up office in

Kabul to monitor truce

has set up an office in the battered Afghan capital to monitor

cease-fire among the warring factions, a spokesman said

Saturday. The OIC office will be staffed by 50 to 60 represen-

tatives, including military observers and other experts, said

Mohammed Ibrahim Bakhar, the group's assistant secretary-

general. The OIC, based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, represents a

Dasrarath Deb sworn in

group of Islamic states worldwide, reports AP.

KABUL, Apr 10: The Organization of Islamic Conference

Tornado kills 130 in West Bengal

CALCUTTA, Apr 10: A powerful tornado hit five villages in an eastern state, killing more than 130 people and injuring about 370, newspapers reported Saturday, says AP.

Police confirmed only 57 deaths but local dailies said many were trapped under the debris of houses flattened by the strong winds on Friday.

With no power, rescuers worked through the night using old-fashioned gas laps and car headlights.

The storm uprooted electric poles and bent transmission towers out of shape in the Murshidabad district, the worst-hit area 180 kilometers (110- miles) north of Calcutta.

"I saw the storm coming and took shelter at a roadside house. Suddenly, there was a deafening noise and the house collapsed with all of us trapped inside," said Nasreen Begum,

Nasreen and other injured residents were taken to hospi-

tal in an open truck. With no ambulances available, local authorities requisitioned police vans, trucks and even rickshaws to get the injured to the closest hospital, 40 kilometers (about 22 miles) away.

Residents of Kandi, one of

the five villages, said the tornado swept away hundreds of thatched huts and ripped through two-story concrete buildings in 15 minutes of

dust rose from near the through Murshidabad and headed towards the village, witnesses said.

gers was blown off the highway, killing many of the travellers, police said.

lashing the open river-basin area for three days.

hospital Saturday, police said.

SAARC: Fresh thrust

From page 1 col 7 Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and Begum Zia, were given separate guards of honour on their arrival at the centre.

Continuing her key-note address. Begum Zia com mended the work done by the Independent Commission on Poverty Alleviation, formed during the Colombo Summit. "We must seriously examine its findings and recommendations, we must now seek comprehensive action programmes to take up in the next phase."

She emphasised the need to provide adequate safetynets for the vulnerable groups specially the children and women, by setting up institutions and legal frameworks with a built-in bias for the

Advocating a pro-poor di rection with definite poverty alleviation goals in all development programmes, Begum Zia said: "We must take bold and imaginative steps to implement the dal-bhat or basic needs approach I proposed earlier.

The _eader of the Opposition in Parliament, Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader of the House Professor A Q M Badruddoza Choudhury, mem bers of the Cabinet, Parliament Members, leaders of political parties, Judges of the Supreme Court, the three services chiefs, heads of diplomatic mission, senior officials, business leaders and other dignitaries were present on the

Underlining the urgency of making gradual move for appreciable progress in hard core economic areas, the Prime Minister said cooperation in this area could only be ignored to the detriment of national interests.

Referring to the proposal for establishment of a South Asia Development Fund, she said Bangladesh would constructively participate in all our common actions on this and other related subjects.

She noted with satisfaction that good progress had been achieved in working out details of a SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA). "It now remains for us to reach an agreement on this important fssue", Begum Zia said.

She said it is an ambitious goal to approach in view of the differences of size, levels of development and degree of diversification in our countries.

The Prime Minister called for taking decisions on this important matter on the clear recognition of mutual interests and benefits of all our countries. "We must also make consclous efforts to promote great complementarities among economies by carefully imple-

menting selective steps". Dwelling in brief on the urgency of conserving environment, Begum Zia noted with satisfaction that SAARC had completed a number of important studies on environment and natural disasters.

A strong partnership must be forged among our governments and people to go ahead with concrete actions in these areas. She suggested a close

Resolution

From Page 1 Col 8

constituted for secular and universal human values. This development is endangering communal harmony and affecting adversely the environment for achieving the goals of fruitful co-operation, genuine understanding and friendship between the members of states of the association, it added.

The meeting called upon the SAARC to ban communal polities which is posting a threat to the lives and property of vast number of people and imperilling regional peace and stability.

A huge cone of spiralling Dwarka river that flows

A bus carrying 80 passen-

Rain and gales have been

More than 125 were still in

scrutiny of the recommendations of various studies completed in these areas for initiating appropriate and practical cooperation. Making a passing reference

to cooperation in the IPA related activities and in promoting people-to-people contact, the Bangladesh leader said her country was going to join hands with other South Asian countries to celebrate 1993 as the SAARC year of disabled

We are also looking forward to further consolidating our action programmes on women and children in South Asia. Progress in these areas has been considerable. She called for making further efforts to widen their out-reach and

deepen their impact. Referring to collective effort of the SAARC states in cultural, educational, scientific and technological fields, Begum Zia said our present programmes in these areas must be followed up with other collective steps.

Recently, the world has made gigantic strides in human resources development, education, science and technology. She said we must not also fail to pool our rich experience and existing capacities to achieve progress in these vital directions.

Before concluding her ad dress, the Prime Minister said SAARC member states should not allow any gap to develop in their bilateral relations and called for initiatives to pro-

mote regional cooperation. "We must frankly recognise that persistence of contentious bilateral irritants and problems often impact negatively on our efforts to strengthen regional cooperation in South Asia", she

The Bangladesh leader concluded with the hope that member states would act dectsively to make SAARC a true vehicle of peace, progress and stability in South Asia.

Koirala

From Page 1 Col 3 objectives in the wider politico-economic context to clear the association from "the prevailing climate of fear and suspicion.

"We have a world now with reduced superpower tension but increase regional tensions in South Asia," he said!

However, Koirala added there is a welcoming political trend in this region towards a vision of society unfolded by democratic values. Koirala observed that the

SAARC fund for regional proiects based on internal regional resources should continue to hold priority.

He also viewed that there was a need for greater degree of co-operation among the SAARC member states in the field of population activities.

"Population is one area where adequate attention does not seem to have been focused on a regional basis," he stated.

Referring to the changed international economic system, Kotrala said it is desirable that SAARC adjusts its own perception of the future in recognition of these changes and of the fact that the post cold war South Asia is freer and less externally encumbered to shape its own destiny.

He said SAARC has overcome many obstacles that stood in its way and our commitment to the SAARC ideal should become a way of life and thought in South Asia.

Supporting the initiative of SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement, Koirala suggested expeditious adoption and ratification of the draft of SAPTA by member states. It will initiate a new era of greater regional engagement

on this important subject." The Nepalese premier also suggested concentration to the welfare of children in the region as well as environmental



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia speaking at the banquet she hosted last night at Hotel -PID photo Sonargaon in honour of the SAARC guests.

A break aboard Ostrich

The seven South Asian leaders went on a retreat in the river Meghna to have the glimpses of the scenic beauty of the riverine country, reports

King of Bhutan, Presidents of Shri Lanka and The Maldives, Prime Ministers of India, Pakistan and Nepal and the Summit host Prime Minister of Bangladesh got together in the 'Ostrich' for the river cruise.

Earlier the seven leaders went to Char Bheta, situated on the southern side of Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge, to board the traditional steamer 'Ostrich'. Char Bheta was decorated with the big size portraits of the seven SAARC leaders and the national flags of the member countries. The steamer 'Ostrich' de-

parted Meghnaghat after the boarding of the seven regional leaders and sailed towards the down stream Meghna.

The steamer then reversed its course and returned to Char Bheta.

During the two-hour voyage the distinguish guests enjoyed the picturesque beauty of the villages on both sides of the River Meghna.

Leaders plant

The seven SAARC leaders yesterday planted a sapling of Bakul' in the lush green premises of Bangladesh Prime Minister's office after they ended the first day session of the two-day Seventh SAARC Summit at the ICC here, reports BSS.

Common challenges

From Page 1 Col 8

"We must constructively work to solve all our outstanding and emerging problems. We must not hesitate to undertake a critical appraisal of our past achievements... at the same time, also set precise targets to further SAARC objectives," she added.

"This is the single most important challenge before the Seventh SAARC Summit. We must live upto this challenge", emphasised Begum Zia.

She said SAARC is a unique instrument at our disposal to together common stratégies to overcome our development constraints, especially poverty, over population and environmental degrada-"Our people have reposed

great faith in the SAARC process. As we approach the end of this century, we must increasingly utilise SAARC to come up to their high expectations.

The Prime Minister said efforts of the member states must be maximised "through realistic planning, serious followup and continued reappraisal."

She reaffirmed Bangladesh's deep commitment to this approach.

Begum Zia, who took over as chairperson of the seven-nation forum, called for rededicating to bring SAARC closer to the needs and aspirations of the people. They should commit to live in peace, harmony and friendship and pledge to close ranks and face common challenges together.

Speaking at the Banquet Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao called for com

of SAARC member countries with concrete programmes of regional development to achieve common objectives.

He said the SAARC which was created eight years ago showed the members states and the rest of the world that countries of the region could get together to achieve common objectives.

evolving common development strategies in terms of development imperatives to solve common problems of the re-

SAARC countries are determined to provide active collaboration and assistance to each other in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields, he said.

son. . . with SAARC, we sought to begin the process of regarding ourselves as part of a wider group whose similarities and complementaries could reinforce each other to reach desired ends.

the new chairperson of SAARC, of India's cooperation to strengthen the organisation and its institutions.

bining energies of the people

"As leaders of a region beset by poverty and blessed with potential, we would be missing a historic opportunity if we do not combine our energies and direct them progressively to concrete programmes of regional development", he said.

Rao stressed the need for

"Internationally, our voice is better heard if spoken in uni-

Rao assured Khaleda Zia,

The Indian Prime Minister,

however, observed that technical and cultural cooperation alone may languish for lack of more solid foundations of cooperation in economic areas.

Rao

From Page 1 Col 2 Association for Regional

Cooperation (SAARC). Stating that the rate of cooperation among the SAARC countries had been slower than stipulated, Rao said, "We must purposefully forge co-operation in areas of common interest and of more profound relevance to the well-being of our peoples".

"We have to direct our energies to resolve persistent problems of poverty, literacy, healthcare etc. which affect the quality of life of our peoples," the Indian Prime Minister said.

Praising the initiatives to establish South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA), Rao assured that his country would join the collaborative endeavour to implement decisions in this regard within the stipulated timeframe.

In his 16-minute speech the Indian Prime Minister referred to the worldwide qualitative changes that took place in the last few years and said that SAARC must evolve meaningful policy approaches to deal with global trends in regional cooperation and economic groupings.

"Our economic well-being and development objectives are subject to the limitations of the disparities in economic, technological and fiscal conditions that exist within our own region", Rao observed.

He added that tasks should be taken for a structured balanced relationship and at the same time sincere efforts should be given to move away from adversary competition.

"Let not our modest beginnings as a regional cooperation movement belie the great potential there is for cooperation," Rao appealed, "If we believe this, the difficulties we face should not deter us from moving purposely towards the exponential benefits for our peoples that genuine regional cooperation would bring."

"Our needs, our products and the services that we can orchestrate can be mutually complementary if backed up by positive political will, mutual trust and confidence, the Indian Prime Minister said.

He also called for harnessing unconventional sources of energy and searching and utilising natural resources on land and coastal seas.

. He also stressed the need for co-operation in the field of vocational training, agricultural productivity and high technology.

as Tripura CM NEW DELHI, Apr 10: Newly-elected communist (M)-led left front legislators sworn in Dasrarath Deb as the new Chief Minister of India's eastern border state of Tripura today. The Tripura state, which used to be predominantly tribal-populated during the pre-independence period and now with tribals constituting 29 per cent of the state's population, will for the first time have a local tribal leader as Chief Minister of the state. Deb, 77, joined the undivided Communist Party of India in 1950 and was elected to the union lower house for four times from 1952 to 1988, reports Xinhua.

Consensus

From page 1 col 7 two years instead of the existing charter stipulation for at least one meeting a year.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will sum up the outcome of the SAARC Summit and the discussions among the leaders at a press conference today at 9 pm.

All the seven SAARC leaders will place wreaths at the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman this morning.

Gayoom

From Page 1 Col 2 tion of the development programmes and threaten the political stability of the countries concerned.

"The possible spill-over effects of such acts of violence in one country to neighbouring countries could jeopardise regional stability and security as well," he said adding that ethnic tension must be defused, communal hatred must be defeated."

Gayoom said that better understanding and cooperation among the SAARC countries will make the region a formidable growth centre in Asia.

Gayoom, who attended the inauguration of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit in 1985, said that the grouping was aimed at a better quality of life for the peoples of the South Asian nations.

"Undoubtedly, economic cooperation, supported by trade liberalisation, is the vital link in the process that lead to the achievement of that objectives", he added.

He stressed the need for accelerating the economic growth of the SAARC countries and said the signing of the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangements (SAPTA) will usher in a new and promising era of economic cooperation and intra-regional trade.

He also called for tackling the environmental issues like climate change, global warming, sea level rise, costal erosion and deforestation on collective basis.

President Gayoom proposed that 1994 be designated as "The SAARC Year of Youth" and proposed to host a meeting of the Youth Ministers of the SAARC countries to discuss the matter.

One more Pak minister quits

ISLAMABAD, Apr 10: Pakistan's Defence Production Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani resigned today, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said, reports

He is the sixth minister to guit the cabinet of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in the ongoing political crisis in the

From Page 1 Col 3

commitment to creating a new and balanced framework for peace and progress. "We must devote our efforts

to generate an atmosphere of understanding that would be conductive to the establishment of tension-free and cooperative ties amongst the member states of our Organisation," Sharif added. The leader of the 114.6

million people of Pakistan said that peace, security, development and freedom must be generated for all states, regardless of their size and re-In his address, the Pakistan

Prime Minister lauded the role of Bangladesh in strengthening the SAARC and particularly mentioned late President Ziaur Rahman for his "vision and deep devotion to the cause of regional cooperation."

"We should establish viable structures for regional peace and security based on the principles enshrined in the UN Charter," Sharif added. He recalled the responsibil-

ities of the SAARC and said that the South Asian nations must actively contribute to the process of a new, just and lasting international order. The Prime Minister of

Pakistan, an Islamic state, said that the SAARC-nations "must counter the menace of religious fanaticism and intolerance and seek to establish the supremacy of the rule of law and the principles of justice".

nomic cooperation 'bedrock' for regional cooperation, Sharif said that the SAARC had achieved its first and most important goal through South Asian Preferential Trading

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina along with Ministers attending the inaugural session of the Seventh SAARC Summit at the International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday. Also seen in picture (front row from left to right) Majidul Huq, Minister of Agriculture, Water Development and Irrigation, Dr A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House, Mirza Golam Hafiz, Minister for Law and Parliamentary - Star photo Affairs and Shaikh Razzak Ali, Speaker of the House.

Prodhan with 18 other demonstrators arrested

By Staff Correspondent Police yesterday arrested 18 more people including the Chief of Jatiya Gonotantrik Party (JAGPA) from two processions brought out in the city, defying government ban, to protest the arrival of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in the Seventh SAARC Summit

Police, so far arrested 36

demonstrators in the city during last two days. Twentyfive of them including JAGPA Chief Shafful Alam Prodhan and chief of Islami Shasantantra Andolon Maulana Azizul Haq were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday. Eleven others were detained in the Ramna Police Station.

in Dhaka.

15 students hurt as rival groups clash PABNA, Apr 10: At least 15

students were injured, three seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at Iswardi Government Degree college here today, witnesses said.

Premadasa: Modalities

From Page 1 Col 4 Asian leaders to work for an Asian community and said that the success of the forum de-

pended on three factors. Firstly, the viability of their individual efforts, within the region, towards achieving selfreliance. Secondly, the common endeavours for the pros perity and the well-being of the people should be carefully planned and well-coordinated. And the last factor is strengthening of the joint economic capacity both as market and

productivity area. Premadasa started his nearly hour-long speech in Sinhala, then made some comments in Bangla and delivered the rest of the speech in

The Shri Lankan President said that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation leaders should directly meet more often in informal meetings to remove the irritants that may arise in their relations. Specific irritants may arise

in our relations. They may

sometimes affect bilateral rela-

tions ... blunt the thrust of re-

gional cooperation," he said

adding that "in between the

formal summits, let us hold

quick short meetings. This could bring timely solutions... at least to contain the prob-

Besides his written speech, Premadasa made some extempore comments and observations and said that "We must now take decisive measures... our goal must be the elimination of poverty in all our countries by the end of the cen-

.The creative capacity of 450 million people of the region had been crippled by poverty, he said, adding that the common experience was that the empowerment of the poor would result in their productive participation. He regretted the two con-

Summit and said that "It would be useful to consider how we could, together, avoid such postponements in future." "The dream of SAARC still remains a promise. That promise has to be fulfilled," Pre-

secutive postponements of the

madasa said. He strongly supported SAPTA South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement) and pointed out "We will be signing this treaty here in Dhaka" making the commencement of the process.

Wangchuk From Page 1 Col 4

and implementing the integrated programme of action will not succeed without substantial capital inputs," the

King said. The Bhutanese King was speaking at the inaugural session of the seventh summit of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC).

Wangchuck also felt that the issue of environment should get top priority in the Dhaka Summit's agenda "as it will have far-reaching consequences for our future genera-

Wangchuck also tagged terrorism as a serious impediment to economic development and 'progress in the region. "The Dhaka Summit must

strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as it is an evil scourge sweeping across our region," the Bhutanese King said.

Wangchuk favoured SAPTA which, he said, will expand intra-regional trade through reduction of trade barriers, making the way of bringing tangible benefits to the 1 billion people of the region.

Dubbing trade and eco-Arrangement (SAPTA).

aremura व्यिष्टि कार्माक्यत Bangladesh Shirri

BSC CARRIES YOUR GOODS & GOODWILL BSC's FEEDER SERVICE

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR BSC TO ANNOUNCE

THAT FROM 22ND/23RD OF APRIL '93 BSC WILL LAUNCH WEEKLY SERVICE BY INDUCTING IT'S 2ND FEEDER VESSEL M V "BANGLAR MONI" IN ADDITION TO M V "BANGLAR ROBI". OUR VALUED PATRONS/IMPORTERS/EXPORTERS/

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO EXTEND THEIR FULL SUPPORT IN FAVOUR OF BSC'S FEEDER SERVICE FOR CARRYING CONTAINERS IN TIME. WE ARE ASSURING YOU OF PROVIDING OUR BEST OF SERVICES TO UNDERTAKE SAFE TRANSPOR-

TATION OF CONTAINERISED CARGO WITH PUNCTUALITY AND REGULARITY.

KINDLY CONTACT BSC'S CHITTAGONG AND

DHAKA OFFICE: DHAKA OFFICE CHITTAGONG OFFICE

BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong Telephone: 505062-9 PABX 501288, 502075, 502268, 502295 Telex: 66277, 66253,

66359 BSC BJ

Fax: 031-225506

28/1, Toyenbee Circular Road Motijheel, Dhaka.

Telephone: 258378, 250830, 251455, 251411 Telex: 632204 & 642231 BSC BJ Fax: 02-863950

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

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijhee 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.