

7 leaders make joint call on President

SAARC leaders made a joint call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

The leaders were Prime Minister and SAARC Chairperson Begum Zia, King Jigme Singye Wangchuk, President Ranasinghe Premadasa, Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala.

They exchanged pleasantries with President Biswas and Begum Zia.

During brief discussions the President expressed optimism about the outcome of the Dhaka Summit in consolidating the bonds of friendships and cooperation among the SAARC nations.

He said that poverty was the main problem of the South Asian Nations and all should have to work together to alleviate poverty through the societies.

The SAARC heads of states

and the governments expressed their gratitude for successful holding of the Seventh SAARC Summit in Bangladesh and the warm reception and cordiality accorded to them by the government and the people of the country.

President Biswas and Begum Zia yesterday also hosted luncheon at Bangabhaban in honour of the SAARC leaders.

Besides the seven leaders Speaker Shakh Razzaque Ali, Minister, Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, MPs, the Chief Election Commissioner, Judges, editors, members of the entourages of the SAARC leaders and high civil and military officials attended the party.

The luncheon was followed by a colourful cultural function, participated by renowned artists of the country.



SAARC Foreign Ministers signing South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAFTA) at the ICC yesterday (Story on Page 1).

Rao, Sharif leave

Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan PV Narasimha Rao and Mian Nawaz Sharif left Dhaka yesterday after attending the 7th SAARC summit, reports agencies.

Rao drove in a ceremonial motorcade straight to Zia International Airport yesterday evening from the International Conference Centre immediately after the summit's concluding session.

He was given a hearty send off at the airport where he was seen off by Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman.

The Indian Prime Minister, prior to his departure for home, made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and congratulated her on her election as the new Chairperson of SAARC.

Sharif drove in a ceremonial motorcade straight to the airport from the ICC last night.

He was given a hearty send off at the airport by Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman.

Sharif on the eve of his departure described the just concluded summit as very successful, saying that it provided greater opportunities to establish contacts with member countries.

Sharif said he was very happy particularly for the Dhaka Declaration signed by the member countries.

"We had many meaningful discussions yesterday during the retreat", he said. Replying to a question on the prospect of SAARC when there were many bilateral issues remaining unresolved, the Pakistan Prime Minister said "I personally feel that SAARC will yield better results if the member countries are able to establish better bilateral understanding among themselves". He said SAARC provided all the opportunities to hold bilateral meeting separately.

Earlier, Sharif made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The Pakistani leader felicitated Begum Zia on her election as the new chairperson of SAARC.

Nor'wester hits Sirajganj: 45 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 11: Nor'wester, accompanied by hailstorm, lashed the district yesterday afternoon, injuring at least 45 people, seven of them seriously, reports UNB.

The storm that swept all the nine thanas (Police stations) of the district at a speed of 70-80 miles per hour also caused extensive damage to thatched houses and crops.

In Kaptipura thana alone, 700 houses were battered in some 60 villages. Over 500 houses were damaged in Natowarpara, the worst affected union of the thana. Four primary schools were also destroyed by the nor'wester in the union, UP Chairman Mozammel Haque said.

Standing crops like Boro paddy and potato were extensively damaged by the hailstorm. Agriculture Extension Department said.

Smuggled goods recovered from foreign ship

CHITTAGONG, Apr 11: A foreign vessel was impounded with smuggled goods worth Tk 60 lakh this morning at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port during an anti-smuggling drive, official sources said.

The Ukraine flag carrying ship MV K. Jespersen was caught by the anti-smuggling patrol team comprising customs and BDR personnel as it arrived at the outer anchorage for unloading the smuggled goods, sources added.

The seized smuggled items included 148 pieces of TV, 61 pieces of VCR and VCP, 56 master cartons of foreign cigarettes, 25 cartons of whisky, 720 cartons of Beer and 100 cartons of soaps, according to official sources.

The anti-smuggling patrol team was also aided by Navy personnel and the ship was brought to Jetty No. 13 this afternoon.

Mongla port users go on indefinite strike today

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 11: All the port users of this region will go on strike at Mongla Port for indefinite period from tomorrow to press home their demands including removal of the Collector of Customs and some officials of Dock Workers Management Board for their alleged involvement in corruption and unlawful activities.

The port users have already stopped all transactions with the Customs authority from yesterday.

The port users declared this programme at a press conference held at Chamber's conference hall yesterday.

They specifically alleged that few officials, including the Collector of Customs and Vice President of Dock Workers Management Board demands gratification from the port users which hampers export and import.

Yeltsin orders tighter control over N-plants

MOSCOW, Apr 11: President Boris Yeltsin has ordered tighter control over all nuclear facilities, including defence plants, following an explosion at a secret Siberian weapons complex, Yeltsin's decree, dated Friday and published Saturday, is his first official response to the explosion Tuesday of a tank of radioactive waste at the Siberian Chemical Complex near Tomsk-7. Also Saturday, a spokesman for the Atomic Energy Ministry said investigators expect to find traces of highly toxic plutonium around the plant. AP.

Azeri villages

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came under a Grad missile attack that injured 12 people, and Armenian forces were about 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) from its outskirts, the ministry said.

The capture of Fizuli would allow Armenia to further isolate the Azerbaijan territory of Nakhichevan, which is surrounded by Armenia and Iran.

Azerbaijan lost 12 soldiers in the fighting as well as one tank and a missile installation, the Armenian ministry said. The Azerbaijan Defence Ministry denied the report, but provided no casualty figures in its report.

Nasib Nasibzade, the Azerbaijan ambassador to Iran, was quoted by the Iran news agency as saying the fall of Fizuli would be a "great tragedy" that would leave thousands of people homeless and asked for "material and spiritual assistance" from Iran.

Gen Asif

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curred on account of administration of such a poison which narrows the veins and produces death in a span of three months that may appear to be a heart attack," she said.

Her husband's refusal to become involved in politics had made enemies among politicians eager for army backing, she said.

The army has ruled Pakistan for most of its 45 years since independence and the chief of army staff is regarded as the most powerful pillar in the ruling troika with the President and Prime Minister.

Gayoom makes farewell call on Khaleda

Maldive President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom made a farewell call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her suite at Hotel Sheraton yesterday night, reports BSS.

During the call on the Maldives President congratulated Bangladesh for successfully holding the seventh SAARC Summit. He also congratulated Begum Khaleda Zia for her assumption of SAARC Chairpersonship and expressed his hope that SAARC would grow stronger under her able leadership.

Gayoom thanked the people and the government of Bangladesh for the warm hospitality extended to him and members of his delegation during their stay in Dhaka.

Smuggler shot dead in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Apr 11: An unidentified smuggler was shot dead and five others were arrested by BDR personnel last night at Ramkrishnapur village under Kalaroa police station here.

The arrested were identified as Mohabbat (27), Monirul (27), Moktar (30), Nurul Islam and Abul Hossain.

The smugglers numbering about 60 were proceeding through the village at midnight when BDR men acting on a tip ambushed them.

When challenged, the smugglers tried to attack the BDR personnel. At one stage the BDR men opened fire on the group of smugglers killing one of them.

Bold move: Khaleda

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Persons.

"Our countries have pledged to explore possibilities of greater cooperation on environment and disaster mitigation" and further encourage people-to-people contact in the region, Begum Zia pointed out.

Referring to the growing global inter-dependence and the current international political and economic trends for South Asia, she said, "we all agreed that we should act together to counter the threat of marginalisation of our interests."

Expressing her gratitude for the understanding and help of the summit leaders, the SAARC chairperson said "your cooperation made my task as your chairperson an easy and a pleasant one".

She also thanked the SAARC Secretary General Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, officials of the SAARC Secretariat and members of the Council of Ministers for their contribution in making the summit a success.

Assuring to sustain the momentum generated at the summit, the SAARC chairperson noted "I am sure that, in discharging my responsibilities, I shall have your support, understanding and cooperation."

Noting that it was a honour and privilege for Bangladesh to host the summit, Prime Minister Begum Zia said "the Seventh SAARC Summit will be remembered as an occasion when, despite our many problems and limitations, we acted meaningfully in order to address our common challenges".

The Seventh SAARC Summit ended at 5:35 pm with the military band playing the national anthem of the seven member nations.

Promotion of subjudges: Hearing adjourned

By Staff Correspondent

The writ petition challenging the government decision on the promotion of Sub-Judges was adjourned Sunday and will now be referred back to the Chief Justice as one of the two judges hearing the petition withdrew.

Filed in November last year by 12 members of the Bar, the petition was being heard at the Divisional Bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Anwarul Haq Choudhury and Justice K M Hasan.

During the days hearing, Justice Hasan said that he will not bear petition as he felt "embarrassed", as a result of which the hearing was adjourned.

At this stage Justice Choudhury said that the matter will now be referred back to the Chief Justice for constituting a new court.

Fundamentalists kill 3 policemen in Egypt

CAIRO, Apr 11: Suspected Muslim fundamentalist gunmen killed a high-ranking Egyptian police officer and two policemen in southern Egypt today, police said, reports AFP.

General Mohammad Abdel Latif El-Shimi (eds: correct), assistant director for security in the south, died with his driver and a bodyguard as they waited in a car outside a police station in Abu Tig.

The last incident in Abu Tig, about 400 kilometers (240 miles) south of Cairo, occurred on March 24 when police killed a Muslim fundamentalist suspect they were trying to arrest.

Police also reported that two transport workers were seriously injured early Sunday when a bomb apparently planted by Muslim fundamentalists exploded aboard a bus in a suburb and Cairo station.

The bomb went off when the driver and a conductor opened a package which they had found under a seat after the bus arrived in the Madiant Nasr station around 2.00 am (0000 GMT), police said.



SAARC leaders laying wreath at the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman yesterday. — Star photo

SAARC leaders place wreaths at Zia's mazar

The seven SAARC leaders visited the mazar of late President Ziaur Rahman yesterday morning to pay tributes to the dreamer of the regional forum, reports BSS.

The regional leaders placed wreaths at the Mazar of the late President, who had envisioned and broached the idea of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Earlier, the SAARC Chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia received King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan, Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa at the Mazar premises.

Meanwhile, the SAARC leaders recalled the contribution of late Ziaur Rahman towards forming a regional forum to foster greater understanding among the countries of this region.

Pakistan wants to revive Afghan peace accord

KABUL, Apr 11: A senior Pakistani diplomat said on Saturday he hoped to revive a flagging peace pact after a night of the fiercest fighting in the shell-shattered Afghan capital for weeks, reports Reuters.

I think the political situation seems hopeful, Akra Zaki, Pakistani Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, told reporters after talks with President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his arch foe Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Zaki, Pakistan's most senior diplomat, said the aim of his visit was to break a deadlock among the fractious Mujahideen parties in implementing Pakistani-brokered peace accord they signed in Islamabad last month.

"The main objective of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran in working for the Islamabad accord was to ensure there was no military conflict to re-

Rao

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The Indian Prime Minister lauded the outcome of the summit saying that the leaders have learnt to understand each other better and increased thereby the collective determination to ensure the success of the association.

"None of this would have been possible had it not been for the ever-attentive, ever-solicitous nature of our host, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, and the consideration shown by her colleagues in the government of Bangladesh," Rao said while speaking on behalf of the leaders attending the summit.

The Indian Prime Minister thanked the SAARC Secretary General III Zaki, his team of directors and the technical staff of the Secretariat for their hard work and considerable agility in preserving an uninterrupted flow of documents for the meeting.

"South Asians are known to be wordy people and yet, the capacity to reduce the words accurately and intelligibly to paper is surely not given to all of us," said Rao adding that the Secretariat had served the conference well in this regard.

The Indian Prime Minister, whose country will host the next summit, appreciated the unanimous gesture made by all the member states of entrusting India with the Chairmanship of the eighth summit.

He said that India would redeem the trust reposed in it to the best of ability when time comes and added that he was looking forward to welcome all in Indian for the next summit.

The Midnight File

Karachi blasts: 8 arrested

KARACHI, Apr 11: Police today arrested eight suspects in several explosions in different parts of Karachi, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said. The agency quoted a police official as saying that a total of 10 people were injured in at least nine explosions, reports AFP.

Rabin, Mubarak to meet in Egypt Wednesday

JERUSALEM, Apr 11: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will meet in Egypt on Wednesday to try to put Middle East peace talks back on track, Rabin's spokesman said today. Tentatively such a meeting is scheduled and now we are just waiting for an official announcement from Egypt, Rabin spokesman Gad Benari told Reuters. He said the meeting would take place in Ismailia but added Egypt had to make the formal announcement because it initiated the summit.

200 protesters held at US base in Australia

CANBERRA, Apr 11: About 200 protesters were arrested at a remote US base in south Australia today after a scuffle in which police dogs and horses were used, a police spokesman said, reports Reuters.

Leaders to hold talks

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actively be considered in finalising and implementing the SAFTA accord.

She expressed pleasure and happiness over her assuming the Chairmanship of SAARC which was the vision of her late husband president Ziaur Rahman.

As the SAARC Chairperson, she said, poverty alleviation, trade and development of women and children in the region were her priority among other issues incorporated in the Dhaka Declaration.

She said that an inter-governmental expert group has been entrusted with the responsibility of defining the size, structure, possible resources and operational modalities of the South Asian Development Fund (SADF).

She said that the seven countries would continue to work actively to forge a collective South Asian perspective on many issues now being discussed in an attempt to elaborate a new world agenda for peace.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Information Minister Nazmul Huda and Secretary of SAARC III Zaki were present at the conference.

Two million rupees reward for capture of Veerappan

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NEW DELHI, Apr 11: Two southern Indian state announced a reward of two million rupees (66,600 US dollars) each today for the capture of notorious bandit Veerappan, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The announcement by the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka state governments came two days after 21 police officers were killed in a landmine explosion while they were on the trail of Veerappan.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha Jayaram and her Karnataka counterpart Verrappa Moily, who met in Madras today, also put a reward of one million rupees (33,300 dollars) each on the head of "any member" of Veerappan's gang, PTI said.

বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন
Bangladesh Shipping Corporation

আপনার কনটেইনার নিরাপদে-নিশ্চয়তার সংগে গন্তব্য স্থানে পৌঁছে দেবার দায়িত্বে বি এস সি'র নিয়মিত ফিডার জাহাজ

"এম, ভি, বাংলার রবিকে" ব্যবহার করুন

১৪ই এপ্রিল '৯৩ ইং ১লা বৈশাখ ১৪০০ সাল রোজ বুধবার বঙ্গের দিনে বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশনের বাণিজ্যিক ও ফিডার কার্যক্রমের হাফকদের সুবিধার্থে নিম্নলিখিত কর্মকর্তাগণকে যোগাযোগের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইলঃ-

১। সৈয়দ আমিন উল্লাহ	০২২২৯৫, ০১০২৮৮	ঢাকা
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২। আনোমঃ ছালেক	০৫০৫৬২-৯/২৪০	
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