From Page 1 Col 6 group fighting for independence in Shri Lanka for the as-

sassination. "The Tamil Tigers are the prime suspect in the assassination," said top police official

Lionell Gunatilleke. Speaking at a government news conference on Sunday evening, he pointed out that many other military officers and politicians have been killed by similar Tamil rebel suicide bombers, including former Indian Prime Minister Raity Gandhi of India

Meanwhile, Tamil separatist group denied involvement in the assassination.

'We deny categorically LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) involvement in the assassination," spokesman Lawrence Thilagar told AFP by telephone from the LTTE's office in Paris.

He said Premadasa might have been killed by supporters of opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali.

(Related story on Page 5.) [Editorial on Page 4] Paracetamol

From Page 1 Col 8 dhury and Justice K M Hasan, on a writ petition for the enforcement of fundamental rights and the right to life and safety against the use and marketing of spurious, poisonous, adulterated and toxic drugs.

The petition singled out paracetamol syrup for "causing deaths of hundreds and thousands of children by developing acute renal fatlure due to ingestion of paracetamol syrup containing 'diethylene glycol'.

According to a press release, the Court asked the government and the Drug Administration to reply to the show cause notice within the next seven days. The next hearing of the petition is scheduled for May 13.

The petition stated that since 1990 it was found that a large number of children died after consuming diethylene glycol, a solvent used in making paracetamol syrup. Diethylene glycol was used as a substitute for the more expensive propylene glycol.

It was also submitted in the petition that there has been conclusive proof by private testing done abroad by the Dhaka Shishu Hospital that diethylene glycol was the poisonous substance in the paracetamol syrup which caused acute renal failure in children.

The petition further submitted that paracetamol syrup containing diethylene glycol continues to be used and sold in the open market.

The petition was served by Syed Borhan Kabir, a journalist, and was moved in Court by Barrister Amir-ul Islam.

Respondents in the petition included Bangladesh, through the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Director and Government Inspector of Drug Administration, the Drug Control Committee through its Chairman and the Director of the Institute of Public Health and Drug Testing Laboratory at Mohakhali.

When the Court enquired about the locus standi of the petitioner as an aggrieved person, Barrister Islam replied that each and every citizen is an aggrieved person, as there exists a threat to life of every child in Bangladesh.

It was further argued by the counsel for the petitioner that the government owes a duty under the law to every citizen and consumer to ensure that the medicine available in the market is sale, efficacious and useful.

It was also submitted that there were 36 breaches of duties by the respondents both under common law and statutes, pursuant to the Drug Act of 1940, the Drug Control Ordinance of 1982 and Section 25 (C) of the Special Powers

Act of 1974. The counsel for the petitioner was assisted among others, by Tanya Amir, Abdul Baset Majumder, Mohsin Rashid, Khalilur Rahman, Nurul

Huda and Shirin A Choudhury. Rainfall

From Page 1 Col 5 and installed at Kallyanpur.

The capital experienced 99 mm of rainfall in 12 hours on the day.

When contacted over telephone, one official of the Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) said that the completed work was the first phase of a long term project by which the people of the Kallyanpur, Mirpur, part of Mohammadpur, Kalabagan and Green Road areas would be

He said that the second phase of the project with over 100 crore taka Asian Development Bank assistance

Life in the capital and its adjoining areas was disrupted because of heavy downpour. After the rain the major roads remained under water for several hours, stranding many people. Shantinagar, Rayer Bazar and Elephant Road areas were the worst affected.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia signing the condolence book opened at the Shri Lankan High - PID photo Commission in Dhaka yesterday.

From Page 1 Col 7

showed footage from his

speech at the inaugural session

Dhaka only 19 days before his

Shri Lankan leader, speaking

in laboured Bangla, had

charmed his Bangladeshi audi-

ernment and opposition politi-

cal parties condoled the death

of Premadasa and strongly

Biswas, in a condolerice mes-

sage, expressed his deep

shock and sorrow at the death

He termed Premadasa as a

President Biswas said the

The President said Prema-

He also conveyed his deep

dasa's death was also "a loss to

sympathies to the people of

Shri Lanka and members of

the bereaved family and prayed

for the salvation of the de-

Khaleda Zia, in a message to

the acting President of Shri

Lanka D B Wijetunge expressed

her deep shock and grief at

the death of President

She termed the assassina-

tion as a heinous act and added

that it had deprived the world

Fire on ship in

the Rupsha

From Staff Correspondent

out on a ship processing

owned by a fish company

which was anchored at the

River Rupsha here Saturday

fighters after a day-long effort

doused the fire on the MV

Hankan of Khulna Food Co. Ltd.

could not ascertain the cause

of fire or the extent of damage.

drew Tk 6 crore from a Agrani

Bank, Khulna, in credit against

the vessel 7 years ago. The

ship, however, remained aban-

doned at the Rupsha ghat for

The bank is learnt to have

filed a case to recover its

money and made arrange-

ments to sell the ship through

auction when the fire oc-

Smuggled goods

seized

By Staff Correspondent

seized a huge quantity of dates

and foreign sarees worth about

Tk 17.76 lakh from a parked

truck on Mukti Sarani near

Sayedabad in the city Saturday

Superintendent Milon Kanti

Datta seized the truck loaded

with the goods at 5 pm

Saturday but no one had

claimed the seized goods until

last night, an official source

A total of 1844 pieces of

intelligence led

Acting on a tip-off, Customs

A customs intelligence team

Khulna Fire Brigade officials

The owner of the company

None was injured as the fire

KHULNA, May 2: Fire broke

Prime Minister Begum

"great friend of Bangladesh,"

and added that Shri Lankan

contribution of the late lam-

ented leader to world peace

and co-operation would be

condemned the killing.

of the Shri Lankan leader.

had lost a great leader.

remembered by all.

parted soul.

Premadasa.

morning.

about 6 years.

curred.

Leaders of both the gov-

President Abdur Rahman

Shock grips Dhaka of a great leader. She also assured her firmness to stand by

their time of need. of 7th SSARC summit held in Begum Zia recalled Premadasa's role in forging death during which the late SAARC unity and termed him a remarkable leader.

the Shri Lankan people in

She prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and for his family to overcome the tragedy with fortitude.

Jativa Sangsad Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali expressing his shock at the assassination said the South Asian region had lost a great leader.

The Speaker also recalled his warm personal relationship with the late President and said his killing was a dastardly

He expressed his deep sympathies to the bereaved family of President Premadasa. Leader of the opposition in

Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina, in a message of condolence expressed her deep shock and condemned the assassination of President Premadasa. She said the late leader had

close rapport with the poor and fought for their well-being throughout his political career. "People of Shri Lanka lost a great leader in his death,"

Sheikh Hasina lamented. She recalled her meeting with President Premadasa during the Seventh SAARC Summit here last month and said he had deep love for the

people of Bangladesh. Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, expressing his deep sorrow at the assassination said "We seriously condemn this type of misdeeds."

"It is an act of terrorism and we hate it," Mostafiz said. He reiterated the need for a consensus among all SAARC countries to take steps to annihilate terrorism from this

region. Energy and Mineral Resources Minister. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Deputy Speaker of Parliament Humayun Khan Panni also expressed their condolences at the assassination of President Pre-

madasa. Senior Vice Chairman of the Jatiya Party, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, in a statement condoled the death of President Premadasa and said "His memories would remain ever fresh in our minds."

The Presidium of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), in a meeting, condoled the death of President Premadasa and said the SAARC countries will have to take concerted actions to stop such acts of terrorism.

Acting chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Abbas Ali Khan strongly condemned the killing of the Shri Lankan President.

In a condolence message Khan paid tributes to Premadasa and said he remembered with gratitude the significant role played by the late leader during the recent SAARC summit in Dhaka.

Abbas Ali Khan went to the Shri Lankan High Commission here this afternoon and signed the condolence book

Ahmedul Kabir and Md Afzal, President and General Secretary respectively of the Ganotantri Party expressed their profound shock at the assassination of Premadasa and conveyed their sympathy to the bereaved family.

profound sorrow at the killing

Leaders of Bangladesh La-

bour Party, Bangladesh Jati-

yatabadi Sramik Dal, Bang-

ladesh Bouddha Krishti Proc-

har Sangha and Bangladesh

Janata Dal issued statements

separately, condoling the

killing of President Premadasa.

Bar Association held a meeting

here yesterday with Vice

President Abdus Salam Khan in

the chair to condole the death

of the Shri Lankan President.

Bangladesh Supreme Court

of the Shri Lankan President.

Indian cotton and synthetic sarees were hidden under six Khandakar Moshtaque Ahmetric tons of dates in the med, Col (Rtd) Abdur Rashid and Anwar Zahid, Chairman, Executive Chairman and Secretary General respectively of the Nationalist Democratic Alliance (NDA) expressed

2 bread factories, 68 dwellings gutted in city

By Staff Correspondent A big fire broke out at a slum at Lalbagh in the city gut-

ting two bread factories and 68 thatched houses Saturday. Witnesses said that the fire at 56/A, Rajnarayan Road, Lalbagh, raged for at least on.

hour early Saturday morning rendering several hundred people homeless. The fire was caused by a faulty electric wire, said both

firemen and witnesses. There were no reports of any major injuries.



Star file photo of President Ranasinghe Premadasa and his wife with President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Bangabhaban during the Seventh SAARC Summit in Dhaka on April 10.

Steps taken to bring agri inputs within farmers' reach: Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here yesterday that her government would ensure better infrastructural facilities to the farmers for improving their condition and asked them to contribute to the process, reports BSS.

While inaugurating the ninth national conference of the Bangladesh Agricultural Economists' Association (BAEA) at the International Conference Centre (ICC), she said her government had identified the villages and the farmers as the targets of development and had been implementing various development programmes in this regard.

The Prime Minister listed several measures taken for the improvement of the conditions of the farmers including the building of socio-economic infrastructures, agricultural loan facilities and ensuring administrative steps and supervision for curbing mischief by touts and middlemen. She also mentioned that

steps had been taken to bring agricultural inputs within the reach of the farmers, and that a new seed policy had been approved to help farmers boost production.

Irrigation facilities are being made easier through the

NARAYANGANJ, May 2:

Leader of the Opposition in

parliament Sheikh Hasina

today (Sunday) demanded

drastic spending cuts in un-

productive sectors and in-

creased allocation in educa-

tion, health and other produc-

tive sectors for the well-being

of the common man, reports

lowing the donors' dictation in

terminating workers and

withdrawing subsidy but not

executing their prescription

for reducing spending in un-

productive sectors," she told a

Bangabandhu Road here in the

The Awami League presi-

dent accused the ruling party

of rampant corruption and

misusing foreign aid for the

last two years without formu-

lating proper policy to change

the economic condition of the

corruption but the Opposition

is not allowed to discuss it in

parliament," she told the

ganj City Awami League

president Prof Nazma Rahman,

the meeting was addressed,

among others, by Begum

Presided over by Narayan-

"The BNP has plunged into

deprived multitude.

afternoon.

meeting.

huge public meeting at

"The BNP is faithfully fol-

Hasina demands spending

cut in unproductive sectors

meeting.

to BSS.

rapid expansion of the rural electrification programmes, Begun. Zia said, adding emphasis had been given on agricultural research.

Agriculture Minister M Majid-ul Huq, president of BAEA Prof A M Moazzem H Hossain, Convener of the conference organising committee Dr S M Illyas and General Secretary of BAEA Dr M Shahadat Hossain also spoke at the inaugural function of the two-day conference.

The main theme of the conference is "Poverty alleviation through rural infrastructure and enterprise development."

At the beginning of the function a minute's silence was observed to pay respect to the memory of the assassinated Shri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The Prime Minister said four out of every five people of the country are farmers and added the landless and small farmers, who constitute the larger section of the peasantry, play a major role in agricultural production.

The landless and small farmers are deprived in the society and are hostage at the hands of the stage touts and middlemen, she as a. The situation would rot improve il

Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Zillur

Rahman and Amir Hossain

Jalil. Mozaffar Hossain Paltu.

Momtaz Hossain and Mostafa

Sarwar were present on the

dais. City General Secretary

Shamim Osman conducted the

Minister of wasting lakhs of

taka on helicopter trips every-

day and organising meetings to

unleash propaganda against

Referring to labour unrest

she said the government's fail-

ure to implement its agree-

ments with the SKOP had

forced the industrial workers

Hasina urged the government

to implement before May 11

the accord it had signed with

the Sramik Karmachari Oikya

Parishad (SKOP) accepting

certain demands of the work-

ers and employees, according

rally at the premises of the

Latif Bawani Jute Mills at

Demra in Dhaka she said it was

the government's moral obli-

gation to honour the agree-

ment it had signed with the

Addressing a big May Day

Earlier, on Saturday, Sheikh

to go for work stoppage.

opposition parties.

Hasina accused the Prime

Party central leaders Abdul

reports BSS. The Prime Minister said

this when leaders o **Engineering University Central** Students Union (EUCSU) and eight residential hall unions Implement accord with SKOP before May 11 met her at Sugandha office in Dhaka last night.

> Vice-Chancellor Prof M Shahjahan and Prof Ainnun Nishat, who were present during the meeting, said, "We are eagerly waiting to welcome you at the convocation ceremony on May 8."

such things continue, she

ernment had taken up the task

of formulating an agricultural

policy and urged the agricul

tural economists to give rec-

ommendations in the formula-

tion of the policy. She also

urged them to help increase

the production of agricultural

and non-agricultural goods,

expansion of foreign trade and

the proper utilisation of for-

eign assistance in the agricul-

At the meeting, Dr M N

Huda and Prof Shamsul Islam

were posthumously given the

BAEA's gold medal for their

outstanding contributions to

EUCSU delegation

meets PM

Khaleda Zia last night said that

educational institutions offer-

ing education properly and

maintaining congenial aca-

demic atmosphere would get

increased attention and assis

tance from the government,

Prime Minister Begum

agricultural economics.

ture sector.

Begum Zia said her gov

EUCSU VP Neamul Huda Khan Touhid and EUCSU General Secretary Salauddin Ahmed also spoke.

Aga Khan From Page 1 Col 8

Airport, officials said Sunday, adding that the Aga Khan will head an eight-member delega-

His younger brother Amyn Aga Khan will also accompany During his stay in

Bangladesh, he will hold talks with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, President Abdur Rahman Biswas, the Foreign Minister Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar and industries Minister Shamsul

Begum Zia and Karim Aga Khan will sign an accord on expansion of cooperation between Bangladesh and Aga Khan Development Network during the visit. This will be his fifth visit to

this country since 1977. He visited Bangladesh last in

Besides meeting with the leaders of some 10,000 Ismailies, Prince Karim Aga Khan will place wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar, and visit some projects of BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) and Grameen Bank in Manikganj, which are financed by the Aga Khan Foundation.

During the visit the Prince will stay at the state guest house "Korotoa."

Prince Karim Aga Khan (57) succeeded his grand father at the age of 20. He is the 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Imam of Ismaili Muslims.

UNHCR aid From Page 1 Col 8

the refugees from Myanmar.

A proposal for providing such assistance has already been placed to the government of Bangladesh and it was being examined, the sources said. Most of the UNHCR aid will

go for providing the refugees with food, shelter, medicare, sanitation and supply of drinking water, the sources said, adding that the UNHCR will also help towards the repatriation of the Rohingyas.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the UNHCR assistance is expected to be signed between Bangladesh and the UNHCR Mission during the forthcoming visit to Bangladesh by High Commissioner Sadako Ogata.

The Midnight Eile

Polling opens in Congo

BRAZZAVILLE, May 2: Voting opened in Congo today to replace the national assembly dissolved last November by President Pascal Lissouba. In a broadcast election message he urged voters "to pay no more attention to those who have pillaged the country." He said that under previous leaders, there had been plunder at all levels, reports AFP.

ME talks cost Israel \$3m

JERUSALEM, May 2: The Middle East peace talks have already cost Israel three million dollars in expenses alone, a newspaper reported today. Each session of the bilateral negotiations - the ninth is underway now in Washington has cost an average of 150,000 to 200,000 dollars for a team of 80-100 officials, in hotel rooms, office space, food, telephones and taxis, the Yediot Aharanot said, reports AFP.

5.1 pc growth projected

From Page 1 Col 3 the year, the report pointed out, and dropped to 2.4 per cent from 2.7 per cent in 1990-91. Agricultural production fell short of the target by 3.5 per cent. The report noted that be-

cause of the prevailing stagnation in the private sector the expected growth in investments failed to gain momentum despite a Taka 100 crore fund being released to commercial banks to provide industrial investment loans and overall additional liquidity in the banking sector.

The external trade balance deficit during 1991-92 decreased by 242 million US dollar and stood at 1,559 million dollar while import expenditure shrank by 0.2 per cent, from 3,470 million dollar, and stood at 3,463 million dollar.

Export earnings increased by 235 million dollar and amounted to 1,904 million Of the total export earnings,

traditional items accounted for 23.3 per cent while non-traditional items accounted for 76.7 per cent of the exports. The contribution of traditional and non-traditional items in the export earnings during the previous fiscal stood at 26.5 per cent and 73.5 per cent respectively.

In addition to feady-made garments, exports of tea, jute products, leather and other goods also recorded increase. However, fertiliser and raw jute export dropped by 31 mil-

lion dollar and 14 million dol lar respectively. Shantibahini

companied by the Secretary for Special Affairs, on May 8, official sources said. The Parliamentary Commi-

From Page 1 Col 7

ttee along with the Secretary for Special Affairs, are expected to leave for Tripura on May 8 to visit the camps as well as to prevail upon the refugees and their leaders to return to their homeland in CHT at an early date, sources informed.

Prior to travelling to Tripura Col (Rtd) Oli will met his Indian counterpart and attend other scheduled programme. The minister and his team are expected to return on May 9.

However, under the present democratic government two other peace talks were held earlier to resolve the 18-yearold insurrection problem. The first round of talks was held on November 5, 1992, at the Khagrachhari Circuit House and the second round was held on December 26, 1992 at the same venue. The talks were attended by the Parliamentary Committee headed by Communications Minister Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed and a PCJSS team led by its president J B Larma, alias Shantoo Larma.

During Ershad's rule six rounds of talks were held between the Shantibahini and Bangladesh security officials but all of them ended inconclusively since the demands placed by the Shantibahini in the talks infringed the sovereignty and the Constitution of the country.

The report pointed out that Bangladesh's cumulative foreign debt as of June 30, 1992 amounted to 11,636 million dollar or 48.7 per cent of the GDP. The country spent 337 million dollar in 1991-92 for debt servicing, which was 17.8 per cent of the export earning during the year. The central bank report

depicted a stagnant situation in the nation's capital market. In 1991-92, the Dhaka Stock Exchange saw turnover of shares and debentures of Taka 26.11 crore, down by about 15 per cent from 1990-91.

The report observed that to encourage domestic and foreign investment in the country it is essential to have practical reflection of the consensus on the national economic guidelines for an overall congenial atmosphere, peaceful law and order situation and the desired labour-employer relationship.

Sharif

From Page 1 Col 4

The former premier is currently engaged in a nationwide campaign to mobilize people against the president's action. He has also challenged the dissolution in courts. AP from Karachi adds: The

governor of Pakistan's southern Sindh province resigned Saturday, officials said.

Mahmood Haroon refused to say why he stepped down, but many believed it was an attempt to force President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to dismiss the Sindh provincial legisla-

World leaders

From Page 1 Col 7

umoon Abdul Gayoom declared three days of national mour-The Maldives High Commi-

ssion (embassy) in Colombo said in a statement that Gayoom was 'shocked and dismaved to hear about the brutal assassination' of Premadasa. In a message of condolence

to acting president Wijetunga, he also condemned, 'this insidious act to terrorism,' and hailed Premadasa as a man who was committed to helping

the poor. In Bangladesh, where flags flew at half mast, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said in a televised statement that Bangladesh had lost a true friend and the South Asian region's one billion people 'a far sighted and welfare-oriented

leader. 'It is a tragedy for both Bangladesh and the SAARC,'

Bosnia

From Page 1 Col 4 Bosnia's Muslims and Croats have already approved the

But Karadzic had vowed not to sign without concessions on the key issue of a territorial link between the Serbian provinces in the east and west of the republic. Serbs forces have occupied about 70 per cent of Bosnia.

It was not immediately clear whether Karadzic had forced any changes in the

VESSEL REQUIRES

THE LIBERIAN SHIP M. V. "TONY BEST" AGGROUN DED OFF MONGLA FAIRWAY AT POSITION LATITUDE 21 DEGREES 29 MINUTES NORTH LONGITUDE 90 DEGREES 30 MINUTES EAST (25 MILES AWAY FROM KUAKATA, PATUAKHALI AND 70 MILES AWAY FROM MONGLA FAIRWAY) REQUIRES SUPPLY OF FOOD AND FRESH WATER ON EMERGENCY BASIS. INTERESTED PARTIES ARE REQUESTED TO

IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE LOCAL AGENT : **AEKASHIPPINGLINES**

D-312

TEL: OFF: 22471/20755-RES: 20942 FAX: 880-41-61279

11, DHARMASAVA CROSS ROAD, KHULNA.

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

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May Day observed From Page 1 Col 4 Mannan Bhuiyan. torate observed the day

through separate programmes. It was a public holiday. Newspapers published special articles highlighting the significance of the day.

Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh also put out special programmes. President Abdur Rahman

Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, and Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the Speakers at the rallies un-

creasing production in mills and factories for improving the lot of the working class. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) held a discussion at its central office at Nayapa-Itan Saturday in observance of

the day.

derscored the need for in-

Presided over by Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Iskandar Ali, the discussion was participated, among others, by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and Secretary General of the BNP Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar and Labour and upon the working people to

cooperate with the government to materialise the dream of late President Ziaur Rah BNP Joint Secretary Gene-

ral and Energy Minister Dr Khondokar Mosharraf Hossain who also addressed the gathering urged all to help raise the productivity and create more job opportunities for the uplift of the 112 million people within the framework of market economy. Jatiya Sramik League held a

rally of the working people at Demra in observance of the May Day. Awami League chief and

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, Presidium Me*ber Amir Hossain Amu and Maraffar Hossain Paltu addressed the rally. May Day was observed in

Chittagong Saturday with a call to establish the rights of the working people. parties held discussions, ral-

Trade unions and political lies and processions through out the day.

Manpower Minister Abdu Barrister Talukdar called