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Police identify Premadasa's killer as Tamil guerilla

COLOMBO, May 3: Police on Monday identified the suicide bomber who assassinated President Ranasinghe Premadasa as a Tamil guerilla who lived in the capital, a news agency said, report AP, AFP.

Police made the announcement after questioning two people who saw a picture of the assassin's severed head and told authorities that he had lived in a boarding house near Premadasa's residence for two years, the official Lankapuvath news agency reported.

Police closed the home and placed guards around it, but they refused to say what the two people they interviewed

had told them.

The assassin himself has been identified as a Tamil named Babu.

The two men who had been friends of Babu were questioned and released, the sources said.

The picture of the killer showed a virtually unmarked face, with eyes closed and mouth open. The head appeared to be resting on the street or against a wall.

Police Superintendent Lionell Gunatilleke said the assassination bore the trademarks of a Tiger operation.

Premadasa's assassin was found with a broken cyanide

capsule embedded in his neck. Tamil Tigers are sworn to commit suicide rather than be captured, and all recruits are issued poison capsules which they wear on chains.

There have been reports that the LTTE has infiltrated the city to carry out more suicide missions. So we are on maximum alert," a senior police official said.

Heavily armed soldiers had set up communications equipment at city entry points and were carrying out random checks on vehicles for bombs smuggled.

Shri Lanka went into mourning today for assassinated

President as thousands of police and troops withdrawn from the island's war zone were deployed here to prevent violence, officials said.

State institutions flew the national flag at half mast and put up white flags as a sign of respect on the first working day since Premadasa was assassinated on Saturday.

Thousands of mourners flocked today to the downtown Colombo residence of Premadasa.

Most schools were open and it was virtually business as usual for a city which has learned to live with bloodshed. See Page 12 Col 4

Govt adjustment efforts slow, says ADB

Star Report

Progress of the government's adjustment efforts to reduce macro-economic imbalances and to create an environment conducive to growth remains slow, observes the Asian Development Bank (ADB) annual report.

The foremost challenge facing the Bangladesh economy is to achieve sufficient growth on a sustained basis to reduce poverty and to create jobs for over a million new entrants into the labour force each year," said the report

'ADB Outlook 1993' released recently.

It noted that although the current account balance is likely to worsen to 0.4 per cent and negative 0.7 per cent of the GDP in 1993 and 1994 respectively, foreign assistance inflows are expected to be 'strong'.

As such, the report added, the reserve position would remain comfortable at the equivalent of nearly five months' imports.

See Page 12 Col 1

Internal savings double in '91-92

Star Report

The country's internal savings made a big leap during fiscal 1991-92 and stood at Taka 7343 crore at current market value.

According to the annual report of the Bangladesh Bank for 1991-92, the increase in savings was Taka 3703 crore on 101.7 per cent.

The report says that the ratio of savings to the GDP increased from 4.4 per cent in 1990-91 to 8.1 per cent in 1991-92.

The amount of total investment also increased by 20 per cent or Taka 1886 crore during the year and stood at Taka 11025 crore, it says. As a result, the percentage of investment in relation to the GDP increased from 11 per cent to 12.1 per cent in 1991-92.

Cabinet reviews annual report on ministries

The annual report on the activities of different ministries for 1991-92 was placed before the cabinet for discussion yesterday, reports BSS.

The report was prepared by the cabinet division and placed in the regular weekly meeting of the cabinet held yesterday at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Khaleida Zia in the chair.

The reports of 30 out of 45 ministries and divisions were discussed in yesterday's cabinet meeting. It was apprised that the progress of implementation of development projects undertaken by the ministries and divisions under review in 1991-92 showed improvement over the previous year.

The disposal of disciplinary and corruption cases was also found much better than the previous year.

Team to negotiate WB loan for jute sector leaves May 15

By Staff Correspondent

A high-level government team is expected to leave for Washington on May 15 to negotiate with the World Bank (WB) on a proposed loan for restructuring the jute sector, authoritative sources said.

The team will negotiate a 300 million US dollar loan.

Among others, the team will include the Finance Secretary, the Jute Secretary and the ERD Secretary.

Sources said part of the loan will be used to off-set the already highly burdened interest. See Page 12 Col 7

Import policy revision FBCCI asks govt to consult the private sector

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) has recommended consultation with the private sector prior to bringing any revision in the import policy, reports UNB.

In its 15-point recommendation to the government on the three-year Import Policy for 1993-96, the FBCCI observed that acceptability of any interim revision in the import policy would increase if the private sector was consulted.

Recommendations of the country's apex chamber will be discussed in the meeting of the Import Consultative Committee to be held at a local level. See Page 12 Col 8

HC stays tribunal decision on Ctg-7 election

A High Court Division bench of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed for 10 weeks the decision of the Election Tribunal, Chittagong, declaring void the election of CPB parliamentary member M Yusuf, reports UNB.

Yusuf was declared elected Member of Parliament from Chittagong-7 constituency in the February 27, 1991 election as a nominee of the Awami League-led 15-Party Alliance.

Defeated candidate Giasuddin Qader Chowdhury challenged the result of the election in the Election Tribunal constituted by the Election. See Page 12 Col 2



A little girl presents a bouquet to Prince Karim Aga Khan on his arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday on a four-day visit to Bangladesh. —Star photo

Aga Khan in city, meets PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prince Karim Aga Khan, spiritual leader of the Ismailia Muslim community, arrived Monday on a four-day official goodwill visit to this country during which he will sign an accord on economic cooperation with Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman greeted him at the airport when the 57-year old prince flew in from Paris on a special private jet.

State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, Additional Foreign Secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed and president of local Aga Khan Council Hasan Ali Ajami were also present at the airport.

Colourfully dressed men, women and children of the community including leaders of the Shia Ismaili Community for Bangladesh welcomed their Imam with garlands and bouquets.

The Aga Khan heads an eight-member delegation which will sign an accord on economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). His younger brother prince Ameen Aga Khan is also accompanying him.

Attired in a dark blue suit with matching tie, the Aga Khan was presented a bouquet by a little girl when he came down from the "Gumman-IV" executive jet.

Some 50 Ismailia community elite lined along the red carpet nodding their heads in solemn respect while a group. See Page 12 Col 6

Bosnian Serb Parliament set to reject peace plan US, allies to keep pressure up

WASHINGTON, May 3: President Clinton said Monday meetings with United States allies are 'going great,' and the parties have agreed to form a united front against Bosnian Serbs, reports AP.

Despite a less optimistic reading of allied positions from Secretary of State Warren Christopher, now in Europe, Clinton said he is satisfied with efforts to seek support for military action against the Serbs.

"We have agreed that we're going to keep the pressure up and have a united front and move forward, and we're developing our policy now," Clinton said, after ticking off a list of world leaders he has talked to recently.

He did not say whether the allies have actually agreed to specific plans for military intervention.

Reiterating the administration's skepticism of the Bosnian Serb decision Sunday to sign an international peace plan, Clinton said "I want to evaluate them by their actions. We'll see what they do."

The president said he was anxious to see if the self-styled Bosnian Serb parliament ap-

proves the peace plan Wednesday.

AFP adds: The parliament of the Bosnian Serbs is seen in Sarajevo as virtually certain to reject political leader Radovan Karadzic's conditional signature Sunday of an international peace plan for Bosnia Herzegovina.

A typical comment was "here we go again" as Serb gunners on surrounding

mountain sides fired salvos of shells into the centre of the valley city at 7:45 pm (1745 GMT), some hours after the news came through.

At least one person was killed, and wounded were being taken to hospital.

Bosnian Serb leaders expressed doubts about the Vance-Owen peace plan, hours after it was signed.

The Prime Minister in the self-proclaimed parliament, Vladimir Lukic, cited by Tanjug, said that "if certain changes are not made to the plan, the parliament will not be able, despite its good will, to accept it."

Momcilo Krajcinik, the Speaker of the parliament said the Vance-Owen plan was "unacceptable as it stands."

Meanwhile, Yugoslav presidential aide Dragoslav Rancic denied today having said Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic had signed his own death warrant by approving the peace plan for Bosnia.

The aide said he had only told reporters Karadzic may have committed 'political suicide' when he signed the peace plan.

Public Works Department employees protesting retrenchment yesterday threatened to suspend water and electricity supply to government offices.

The employees, under the leadership of the Bangladesh Ganaputra Adhidaptar Jattya Karmachari Sangsad, brought out a procession protesting the government's decision to retrench 2400 "work charged" employees from the Public Works Department.

The procession was followed by a brief rally.

Addressing the gathering the Sangsad's senior vice pres-

See Page 12 Col 3

All thana hqs to have direct dialing system in '93-94 FY

All the thana headquarters of the country will come under direct dialing facilities through the operator trunk dialing system of Bangladesh T and T Board during the 1993-94 fiscal year, an authoritative source of the T and T Board told BSS here yesterday.

He said the system has already been established in 198 thana headquarters since it was launched in October last year. It is expected to be expanded upto 250 thana headquarters by June 30 this year. The engineers of T and T

Board have devised plans and designs with the help of indigenous equipment to modernise the telephonic communication network to bring all thana headquarters under the "Operator Trunk Dialing System."

Meanwhile, the T and T Board has taken up a programme to expand telephone facilities to five districts — Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet — by establishing 1.30 lakh digital connections there. The source said the project of around 600

million US dollar, if approved by the government, would take two years to complete. "The T and T Board will be able to pay back the involvement from its income to be generated from these connections within five years," he said.

The source said the government was also contemplating providing funds to the project from its own resources and a decision, whether to receive foreign funds or channel money from own resources to the project, was expected to

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PWD employees threaten action

By Staff Correspondent

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See Page 12 Col 3

Over 30 killed in Manipur riots

NEW DELHI, May 3: More than 30 people were killed today in an unprecedented outbreak of Hindu-Muslim violence in the far-eastern Indian state of Manipur, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, reports AFP.

Police clamped an indefinite curfew in several areas of the Hindu-majority province following the violence, which the news agency said was "spreading like wildfire" after leaving some 150 people injured.

The dead included women and children, officials said.

Unofficial sources said the toll could be as high as 70, adding security forces were recovering "more and more bodies" from large areas in the districts of Imphal and Thoubal.

PTI said five people were burnt to death inside a vehicle in the Manipur University complex in Imphal, capital of the state of 1.8 million where Hindus are in an overwhelming majority.

Details of other deaths were not available.