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# The Daily Star

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## Link canal not feasible, Dhaka tells Delhi again

NEW DELHI, May 4: Bangladesh Communications Minister Oli Ahmed said here today that the proposal of a link canal for augmenting the flow of the Ganges was not feasible for Bangladesh as it would affect the districts which produce surplus food-grains for the deficit areas, reports BSS.

The minister said this when he met the Indian Minister for Water Resources, V C Shukla, at his parliament chamber. Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Farooq Sobhan, Indian Water Resources Secretary Thatte and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh K Raghunath were also present.

The visiting Bangladesh minister pointed out that there was great difference in the land holding systems in the two countries. Bangladesh is much smaller in size than India and it had consequently very smaller land holdings.

The link canal, if constructed, would take away valuable chunks of land causing great hardship to the people of Bangladesh, he said, and proposed that India and Bangladesh should hold free and frank talks to solve the water problem.

Oli Ahmed told Shukla that Bangladesh was not asking for anything new. The Ganges had been flowing through the country for hundreds of years and the people had been enjoying its benefits. But, he said, the unilateral withdrawal of waters of the river at different places in India was causing great hardship to the people of Bangladesh.

The Communications Minister recalled that during Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman's time proposals had been made and discussed for augmenting the flow of water without causing any hardship or political problem to any

## BEA wants political parties to oppose SKOP strike

By SY Bakht

Leaders of the Bangladesh Employers' Association (BEA) Tuesday revealed that they were going to initiate talks with major political parties to persuade them to take a firm stand against the threatened 72-hour strike called by the SKOP later this month.

In an interview to The Daily Star, BEA president M Anis ud-Dowla made a strong plea to "de-politicise" the move made by the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP).

Terming it as a coercive move, he said "Coercion has no place in industrial relations and trade unionism."

Earlier last month, the SKOP called for a 72-hour nationwide industrial strike starting May 11 to press home the demand for announcing the Wages Commission award fixing the national minimum

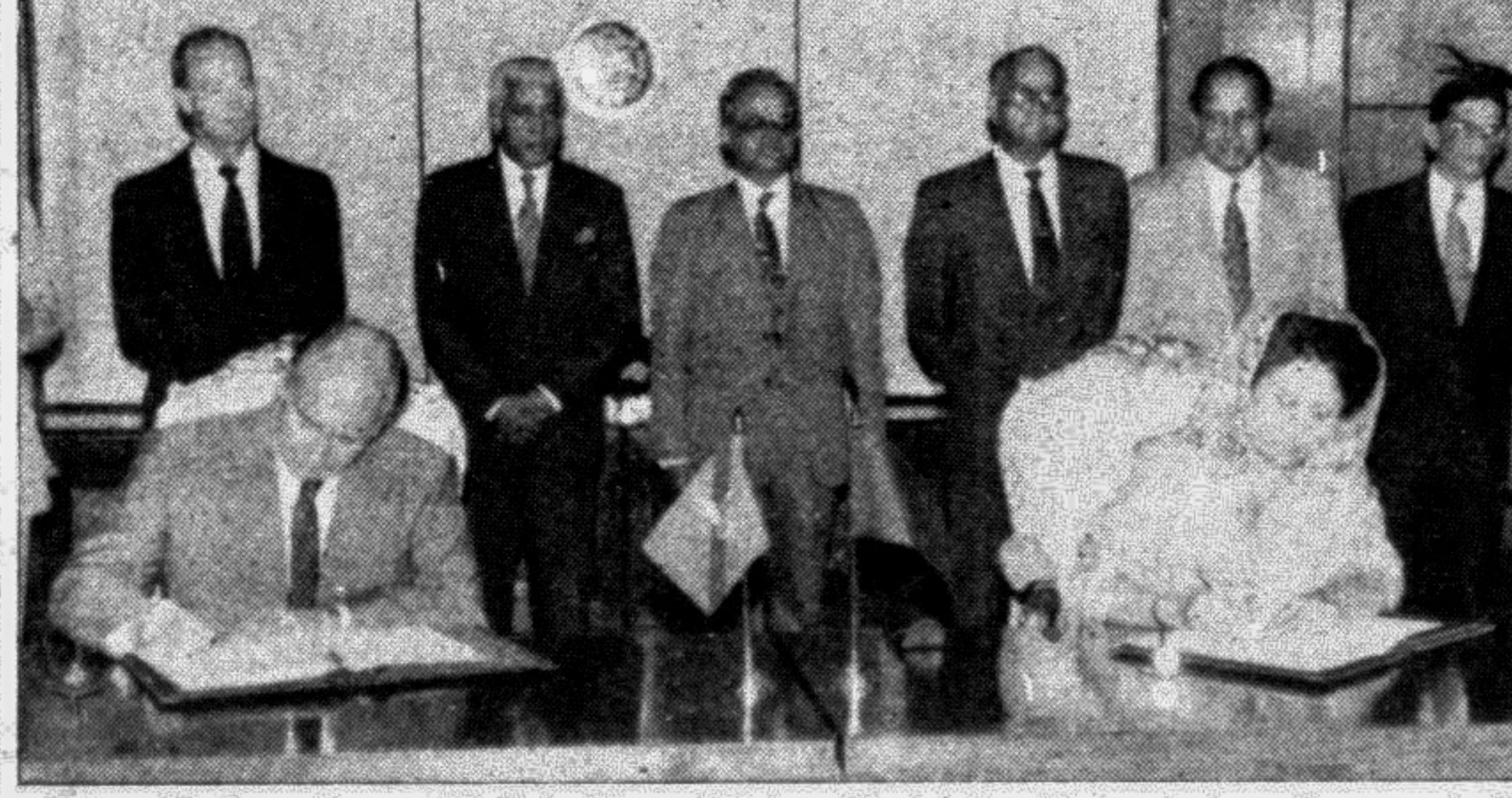
## BATEXPO-'93 from today

By Staff Correspondent

The 4th Bangladesh Apparel and Textiles Exposition-'93 (BATEXPO '93) begins today at Sonargaon Hotel.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the four-day BATEXPO, the annual international event of the apparel and textile manufacturers and exporters of the country.

This year's apparel fair is being held under the sole auspices of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BGMEA) in which participants from India, Pakistan and South Korea are taking part for the first time.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Prince Karim Aga Khan signing the accord of cooperation for development between Bangladesh and the Aga Khan Development Network at the International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

## PM, Aga Khan sign accord

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh which had ensured market economy and adopted liberal policy in order to attract direct foreign investments, would always welcome the Ismaili community's initiatives to set up small, medium and large scale industries in Bangladesh since this would serve the twin objective of creating jobs and transferring modern technology.

She said the accord and protocol signed by Bangladesh and the Network yesterday was to formally institutionalise the already existing cooperation between Bangladesh and the Aga Khan Development Network.

She said: "we hope that under your wise and dynamic leadership the enterprising Ismaili community will continue to play the vital role in the progress and prosperity of Bangladesh."

Ministers, Members of Parliament, chiefs of three services, diplomats, high civil and military officials attended the dinner.

**Accord signed**

The Aga Khan spent a busy day yesterday, signing an accord of cooperation with the Bangladesh government, paying tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation War at the Jatiya Shaheed Smriti Shoukha and discussing matters relating to development works in Bangladesh with three ministers.

The Aga Khan, who flew to Dhaka yesterday, signed an accord of cooperation for development between Bangladesh and the Aga Khan Development Network at the International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

## US freezes assets of 5 countries for aiding terrorists

WASHINGTON, May 4: The government has frozen \$2.1 billion in assets in the United States belonging to five countries accused of sponsoring international terrorism, according to a Treasury Department report, reports AP.

It's the first time the Treasury has detailed the assets of foreign governments blocked over the years in US accounts. The listing is part of a congressional effort "to do more than just embarrass terrorists with a court judgement. We must be able to go after

## 200 killed as riots in Manipur spread

NEW DELHI, May 4: Unprecedented Hindu-Muslim violence in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur entered its second day Tuesday, with the official death toll rising to at least 86, police and residents said, report AFP, PTI and AP.

United News of India said in an unattributed report that 200 people were killed.

Clashes spread to new areas this morning.

The sources said more bodies were likely to be recovered. However, it would take time to recover all the bodies as the incidents had taken place in different areas.

After the day-long violence Monday, curfew was imposed in three districts of Manipur.

About 3,000 troops and thousands of policemen were patrolling the riot-torn districts.

Police in Guwahati, the capital of Assam state, had said earlier that the clashes were mainly between members of two warring groups of tribal militants, but this was contradicted by Manipur authorities.

Members of the two communities torched shops and buses and fought pitched battles in the state capital of Imphal and surrounding areas, defying a police-imposed curfew.

## Soldier killed in Shantibahini ambush

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 4: Tribal rebels ambushed and killed a soldier and injured another this morning in the southeastern hill district of Khagrachhari, security officials said.

Quaid-e-Azam, 26, a Lance Naik, died on the spot from bullet wounds when the rebels, known as Shantibahini, made a fresh attack on an army patrol at Babuchara village under Dighinala thana at 9:00 am today, officials added.

Another sepoy, Ramzan Ali, who was also injured during the attack by the Shantibahini

## Pak military intelligence chief fired

ISLAMABAD, May 4: Lieutenant General Javed Nasir, who led Pakistan's powerful military intelligence agency under deposed Premier Nawaz Sharif, has been fired, a Defence Ministry official said Tuesday, reports AFP, Xinhua.

Nasir was removed from active service on Monday after leading the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) for 13 months. He has already been replaced by Lieutenant General Javed Ashraf (51), who assumed the office of Director General of ISI on Monday, the official said.

Sources here said Nasir was fired six months ahead of expected retirement.

Nasir was considered close to Sharif, whose attempts to clip the Presidency's sweeping powers led to his government's dismissal on April 18.

## Contact man of Premadasa's killer held Tamils fleeing Colombo fearing backlash

COLOMBO, May 4: Thousands of Tamils fearing reprisals for the murder of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa fled Colombo today as police announced the first arrest in connection with the slaying, reports AFP.

Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga was poised meanwhile, to take over as head of state of the island nation after parliament agreed to elect a successor to the assassinated president on Friday.

The election of the 71-year-old Wijetunga to serve the remaining 19 months of Premadasa's term is considered formality since the ruling United National Party has a solid majority in parliament.

Tamil sources said about 5,000 Tamils had packed their bags and fled the capital from Premadasa's home constituency of Keselwatte amid fears of a violent backlash by members of the majority Sinhalese community.

Tens of thousands of mourners have been pouring into Colombo for the past few days to pay their last respects to Premadasa, a Sinhalese, and attend what is expected to be an emotional state funeral on Thursday.

Premadasa who had ruled Sri Lanka since January 1989, was assassinated by a suspected Tamil guerilla with explosives strapped to his waist who waked up to the president during a May Day parade and detonated the explosives.

Police have said the suicide bomber was a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

## US, France agree to send peacekeepers to Bosnia

PARIS, May 4: The United States and France side-stepped a decision Tuesday about using military force against Bosnian Serbs, but agreed to send peacekeepers into the Bosnia if a peace agreement holds up, reports AP.

Apparently running into continued allied resistance, Christopher said after five hours of talks that "urgent consultations would be held on military measures only if the agreement signed by Bosnian Serbs on Sunday fell apart."

He had encountered similar resistance in London to President Clinton's decision to use a combination of air attacks on Serb artillery and the easing of an arms embargo against Bosnia's Muslim-led government.

Christopher, in a joint news conference with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said, "I think we found common ground to implement the UN peace plan to end the fighting, establish a provisional government in Sarajevo and divide Bosnia into 10 ethnically based cantons."

It would reward the Serbs with much of the territory they gained in a 13-month war on Muslim cities and villages. An estimated 134,000 people are dead or missing.

Christopher also held talks with President Francois Mitterrand, Premier Edouard Balladur and Defence Minister

**ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন**  
 ঢাকা  
 আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন  
 আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বিদ্যুতের গোড ম্যানেজমেন্ট সম্পর্কে কতিপয় সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন, যাহা ঢাকা মহানগরী এলাকার শিল্প কারখানা, মার্কেট সমূহ, সপিং সেন্টার ইত্যাদি প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিক, কর্মচারী ও সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের বেলায় প্রযোজ্য হইবে।

নিম্নে সিদ্ধান্ত সমূহ উল্লেখ করা হইলঃ—

(ক) শুধু, কাচা বাজার ও কাচা মালের পাইকারী বাজার, খাবার দোকান ব্যতীত সকল ধরনের দোকানপাট, সপিং সেন্টার সমূহ রাত ৮.০০ টার পর বন্ধ রাখিতে হইবে।

(খ) সরকার কর্তৃক ঘোষিত বিশেষ উৎসবের দিন ব্যতিরেকে অন্যান্য দিনে সব ধরনের আলোক সজ্জা বন্ধ রাখিতে হইবে।

(গ) এক শিফটে চালু শিল্প কারখানাগুলি পিক আওয়ারে অর্থাৎ সন্ধ্যা ৬.০০ টা হইতে রাত ১০.০০ টা পর্যন্ত বন্ধ রাখিতে হইবে।

অতএব, শিল্প কারখানা, সপিং সেন্টার, মার্কেট, দোকানপাট ইত্যাদি প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহের মালিক ও কর্মচারী এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে উল্লেখিত শর্তাবলী যথাযথভাবে প্রতিপালনের জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হইল।

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 (তারপ্রাধ),  
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\* আবেদন ফরমসহ সকল প্রকার বিক্রয়যোগ্য ফরম কর্পোরেশন ভবনে অবস্থিত জনতা ব্যাংকের শাখা হতে ক্রয় করা যাবে। ঋণের কিস্তিও উপরোক্ত শাখায় গৃহীত হবে।

\* নতুন ঋণ গ্রহিতাদের জন্য পরামর্শ (কাউনসেলিং) কাউন্টার খোলা হয়েছে।

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