

# Oli: Link canal

From Page 1 Col 5

country. He said as the same BNP government was now in power in Bangladesh, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao could explore those proposals again to settle the problem.

Oli Ahmed said that Rao had told Begum Khaleda Zia during her visit to New Delhi in May last year that India would not cause any hardship to Bangladesh. But he regretted that Bangladesh had received the lowest-ever quantum of water this dry season.

He said if this situation continued, it would not only badly affect the people of Bangladesh, but would also cause serious environmental problems to India.

The Bangladesh minister said technical and secretary-level talks and exchange of data had been there for the last 22 years, but without any fruitful result. If this trend continued, another 20 years would not produce any result. So, he suggested that the problem be settled at the highest level without causing any irritation and direct or indirect damage to any country.

In this connection, he said Nepal being a member of the SAARC, can be involved in the solution to the problem. There can be discussion among irrigation ministers of the three countries for this purpose, he observed.

The Indian Water Resources Minister Shukla said India was willing to give and not take. He said India was ready to explore the possibilities for solving the problem.

## Repatriation of Chakma refugees

An earlier BSS report said, Oli Ahmed Tuesday also met the Indian Home Minister S B Chavan at his South Block office.

The two ministers discussed the repatriation of Chakma refugees housed in some camps in Tripura.

Oli Ahmed gave a briefing on the action taken by the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to resolve the issue of the Chakma refugees through an amicable political solution in the light of the discussions held between the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and India in May, 1992, and later from time to time.

Chavan appreciated the steps taken by the Bangladesh government and expressed his government's satisfaction. He categorically said that the Indian government would not like to interfere in the internal affairs of Bangladesh and would also not encourage any activity from the soil of India against Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh minister proposed to the Indian Home Minister that a schedule should be worked out for the repatriation of the Chakma refugees immediately. Chavan agreed and directed his officials to give the schedule to Oli Ahmed before his departure from India.

Oli Ahmed categorically denied the presence of any ULFA camps inside Bangladesh territory when Chavan brought up the topic.

The Bangladesh Minister assured Chavan that the government of Begum Zia would never encourage any activity against India from Bangladesh soil.

Both ministers agreed to maintain peace along the border and to strengthen the existing relations between the two countries in the SAARC spirit.

To this end, they agreed that there should be frequent visits by the ministers and officials of the two countries and exchange of information to ensure better understanding and remove all feelings.

Oli Ahmed thanked Chavan for the free and frank discussions which, he said, would pave the way for repatriation of the Chakmas to their homeland.

Oli Ahmed said in future unilateral action on any matter without prior discussion and agreement between the two governments should be avoided, a suggestion to which Chavan agreed.

## Delhi to import Hilsha

NEW DELHI, May 4: Indian Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee said here today that his ministry had given clearance for import of five thousand tonnes of Hilsha fish from Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He said this during his talks with visiting Bangladesh Communications Minister Oli Ahmed at his office.

# Tamils fleeing Colombo

From Page 1 Col 5

Eelam (LTTE). Detective Superintendent Lionel Gunatillake said police were interrogating a man whom they believe was closely linked to the suspected suicide bomber.

The arrested man was identified as K. Saman Sujewa, a Sinhalese grocer.

We hope he will be able to throw some light on the case, Gunatillake said.

Meanwhile, police raided a number of Tamil boarding houses here and picked up at least 20 young Tamil men for questioning, a police officer said.

Police also arrested a suspected Sri Lankan Tamil militant who had been jailed in India in connection with the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, police sources said today.

Sabapathypillai Ariyanayagam was arrested here Sunday for impersonating an army officer and has been remanded in custody for further investigation, the

sources said. Gunatillake said Sujewa was believed to be the 'contact man' for the attacker, who blew Premadasa to pieces and killed 23 other people including seven policemen forming the inner circle of presidential bodyguards.

Tamil sources said Premadasa's assassin was a Tamil youth who had come to Colombo two years ago from the northern Jaffna peninsula, where LTTE guerrillas are active.

Gunatillake said police had yet to firmly establish his identity but added that the youth may have been running a grocery store for Sujewa.

Local police, meanwhile, have sought the assistance of Scotland Yard to investigate Premadasa's murder.

A four-member team of detectives from Scotland Yard arrived here a week ago to investigate the April 23 killing of opposition leader Lalith Athulathudeni and has been asked to work on the latest case too, Gunatillake said.

# Manipur riots

From Page 1 Col 7

few, according to residents reached by telephone.

Eighty-six people were killed, including 11 women and nine children, police said, adding that the bodies were brought to two hospitals in Imphal. Nearly 500 people were injured in the clashes.

Police sources said they expected the death toll to rise as violence continued despite the curfew and the deployment of paramilitary troop reinforcements.

Offices, businesses, schools, colleges and banks were closed in Imphal and other tense parts of the state which has a population of 1.8 million and shares a border with Burma.

Some 2,000 people sheltered in makeshift relief camps opened in Imphal by the state government, controlled by Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's ruling Congress (I) Party.

The Hindu-Muslim violence was unprecedented in Manipur, where Hindus are in an overwhelming majority.

Police blamed the clashes on 'rumours spread by anti-social elements,' the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. One rumour said 20 women of one community were forcibly taken away by members of a different community, PTI added.

In keeping with Indian press conventions barring the identification of groups involved in communal clashes, the news agency did not name the communities involved.

Manipur Director-General of Police A V Liddle said the violence appeared to be a sequel to the beating of a Muslim gun-runner by Hindu members of a local underground organization.

The Muslim was thrashed when he failed to deliver weapons to the group as promised, Liddle said.



Leaders of the Bangladesh Employers' Association (BEA) visited The Daily Star office yesterday. Seated from left are: BEA president M Anis ud-Dowla, former Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries president Syed Manzur Elahi and MCCI secretary general C K Hyder.

## 2 killed, 3 hurt in Khulna road mishap

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 4: Two persons were killed and three others injured when an autorickshaw and a truck collided head-on near the Muzgunni bus Stand on the Khulna-Jessore road this morning.

According to eye witnesses, the speeding truck (KL-Ta-827) hit a Khulna-bound autorickshaw near Muzgunni, 10 km from Khulna city at about 6-30 am.

The autorickshaw driver Sekandar, 35, died on the spot and an unidentified passenger aged about 40 succumbed to his injuries on way to the hospital. One Shamir Saha, 35, another unidentified woman, 25, and a child, 5, were admitted to the Khulna Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Police arrested the truck driver and seized the truck.

## Cyclone may hit this month

One of a couple of depressions likely to form over the Bay of Bengal in the current month may turn into a cyclone, reports UNB.

The warning came in the monthly weather forecast by the Meteorological Department, which also said several more nor'westers might lash the country this month.

Predicting more rainfall this month, the weathermen said the Chittagong and Sylhet regions might experience flash floods towards the end of the month.

## Jayalalitha's fears

NEW DELHI, May 4: India's Tamil Nadu State Chief Minister Jayalalitha Jayaram has asked New Delhi to deploy anti-aircraft batteries at her home to protect her from a possible air attack by Sri Lankan Tamil rebels, reports AFP.

Jayalalitha also urged the federal government to create a 'no-fly zone' over her Poes Garden residence in Madras, the Tamil Nadu capital, and order aerial surveillance in its surroundings, press reports said today.

Her request followed the sighting of a small plane which flew over her house at low altitude before dawn Monday, the Pioneer newspaper said. The 'glider-type' plane had no lights and made two or three sorties, it said.

A press statement released by the Tamil Nadu administration was quoted as saying that police had previously feared 'there could be a threat to the Chief Minister's security from the LTTE using a microlite aircraft.'

## US, France agree

From Page 1 Col 5

Francis Leotard. Juppe said the forces of most major countries would participate in a peacekeeping operation 'that includes the United States and France.'

AFP says, the Security Council discussed steps to implement the peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina Monday as Canada suggested it would be willing to provide additional troops for the operation.

The 15-member Council hailed the signature of the Vance-Owen peace plan for Bosnia by the country's three warring parties and were considering how to put it into effect.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Monday cautiously welcomed the Bosnian Serb leader's signing of peace plan.

It is this signature is endorsed, it will be a step in the search for a negotiated solution in Bosnia-Herzegovina, OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabidi told AFP.

# BEA: SKOP strike

From Page 1 Col 7

wage at Taka 1400 per month. Many industries are just not in a position to absorb further wage increases, the BEA president said, and introduction of national minimum wages would force the closure of a large number of industrial units.

He added that attempts to force issues would neither benefit the workers nor help the causes of those who are waiting for employment opportunities. 'Moreover, unless you back up the economic side of wage determination with production there will be inflation.'

The BEA president was assisted during the interview by the Secretary General of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), C K Hyder, and former MCCI president Syed Manzur Elahi.

Dowla noted the formation of a committee with the consent of the SKOP—the tripartite National Consultative Committee on Labour Matters—to discuss how wage increases can be linked to productivity improvement.

'It is only fair to expect that the SKOP will not try to force their demands pending outcome of the efforts of the tripartite committee to find some decision on the linkage issue,' he pointed out.

Asked if the BEA is going to initiate talks with the political parties, Dowla replied: 'We have talked to them in the past and we will talk to them again' to persuade them not to lend support to any coercive attempts in the collective bargaining process.

The BEA leaders are likely to meet with leaders of the government and major political parties starting from today.

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## BATEXPO-'93 from today

From Page 1 Col 8

Speaking at a press conference on the eve of the fair, BGMEA president M Mosharraf Hossain said the country's garments sector earned 1.4 billion US dollar (five thousand and six hundred crore taka) in 1992.

'If law and order, and the present labour discipline situation remains the same, we'll be able to earn more than three billion dollar in 1995,' he hoped.

Outlining growth in the garments sector, the BGMEA chief said that the industry absorbed about two lakh people in 1992 and employs presently seven lakh workers.

Of the total, 85 per cent were female workers, he pointed out.

The total number of garments factories have also increased to 1450 in 1992 from 934 in 1991, Hossain said, adding that these factories imported more than 70 crore meters of cloth at a cost of 600 million US dollar.

The chief coordinator of BATEXPO '93 Feroz M Hassan, BGMEA executive committee member Jinnat Ali Mian, BGMEA vice president Al-haj Makbul Hossain, treasurer Shah Alam Chowdhury and member of the executive committee M A Taher were present, among others, at the press conference, held at the BGMEA office.

Mosharraf Hossain said that the apparel industries of Bangladesh, which exports to more than 45 countries, was exploring new opportunities to Japan, Australia, the Middle East and the commonwealth of Independent States.

Bangladesh was the largest shirt and T-shirt exporter to EC countries, the seventh largest ready-made garments

exporter to the United States and ninth largest to Canada, he pointed out.

The BGMEA president said that some 200 buying houses have been established to trade with Bangladesh.

Establishment of a backward linkage to the country's garments sector has become the prime need of the hour, he said, which would help create a competitive industry with the lift of the multi-fibre arrangement (MFA) after the Uruguay Round world trade talks.

He felt the need for importing high-quality grey cloth under the back-to-back L C to help use of local fabrics in the garments industries.

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## FM likely to lead team to Jakarta for NAM meeting

Star Report

The Non-aligned Movement (NAM) standing ministerial committee on economic cooperation is scheduled to begin in Indonesia on Monday next.

A high-level Bangladesh delegation is expected to attend the 3-day meeting, which would also be attended by 37 member nations.

Formed at the Harare NAM summit in 1986, the first meeting of the committee was held in 1988.

According to an official source, this would be the second session of the committee which could not meet after the former Yugoslav federation took over the NAM chairmanship in 1989.

However, he added, after Indonesia took over the NAM chairmanship last year it took great interest in rejuvenating the network to promote economic cooperation among member states.

At the Jakarta summit last September there was a growing awareness among the member nations to re-focus attention of the organisation in light of the changing international scenario, particularly the end of the cold war.

NAM leaders in Jakarta agreed that the organisation, which was formed as a consequence of the cold war, should henceforth put greater attention on economic issues and find ways and means to revitalize the North-South dialogue as well as to promote South-South cooperation.

The upcoming session of the committee is expected to be inaugurated by Indonesian President Suharto in Jakarta.

The session, the source said, is likely to be a brainstorming session with a view to focusing on identifying possible areas of economic cooperation among the member nations.

Foreign ministers of member states are members of the NAM standing ministerial committee on economic cooperation.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman is likely to lead the Bangladesh delegation which is scheduled to leave for Jakarta on Thursday, the official source said.

However, he added that as the Foreign Minister is accompanying Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the funeral of slain Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in Colombo on Thursday, his departure for Jakarta is likely to be delayed.

## BNP has no right to stay in power, says Hasina

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the ruling BNP's indulgence in 'corruption and nepotism' and its ineptitude had brought the country on the verge of ruin, reports UNB.

To substantiate her allegation, she referred to growing terrorism on the campus, repression on the opposition, failure of the BNP in fulfilling its election pledges, insecurity of public life and stagnation in the economy.

'Under the circumstances, the ruling party should have no moral right to continue in power,' Hasina told a group of Dhaka University students who came from Rokeya Hall to meet the Awami League chief at her 29 Minto Road official residence.

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## Muggers stab guard, snatch Tk 1.5 lakh

By DMCH Correspondent

A boarding house guard was stabbed and robbed of Tk 1.5 lakh at Captain Bazar in the city Tuesday morning.

The guard, Rahmat Ali, 45, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with stab injuries on his chest and abdomen.

Witnesses said one of the boats overturned after he collision in the midstream of the river, killing Anwar Khatun, 35, of Nayanpur village in Bera thana.

Seriously injured Latif Ali, 35, Hatem Ali, 38, and Asadul, 12, were admitted to Bera Health Complex.

Passengers said one Abul Kashem, 8, of Nakalia was among those missing.

The two boats were carrying about 40 passengers. Another report says, Three people and 32 cows were missing after two cargo boats sank in mid-Jamuna during storms today.

# The Midnight File

## Saddam asks Vatican to help lift UN sanctions

NICOSIA, May 4: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has appealed to the Vatican for help lifting the UN sanctions imposed on his country after it invaded Kuwait, the official Iraqi News Agency reported Tuesday. Cardinal Achille Silvestrini, the Vatican's prefect for the oriental churches who was in Iraq on a Middle East tour, met Monday with Saddam and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, the agency said. Saddam told the cardinal that the UN economic sanctions should have ended after Iraq relinquished Kuwait, which it invaded Aug 2, 1990, and occupied for seven months until a US-led multinational force pushed Iraqi troops out, reports AP.

# 40,000 Bosnians trapped in fire

SARAJEVO, May 4: The eastern Bosnian town of Zepa was reportedly in flames Tuesday, and Sarajevo radio broadcast an appeal for help for 40,000 trapped people, reports AP.

Zeljko Grubisic, a staff member of the Bosnian army's operations centre, said a general attack was launched against Zepa about 5 a.m. local time. 'The whole place is burning,' he said. 'It has been attacked by artillery, all size calibres...'

The attack came two days after Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic signed a UN-backed plan to bring peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Bosnian army communications officials intercepted a message that an order had been given to destroy Zepa before American troops ever get there, Grubisic said.

'Everything is on fire. Over 40,000 unarmed people are totally surrounded,' said the radio appeal by Zepa officials. 'We beg (Bosnian) President (Alija) Izetbegovic, the gov-

## Aga Khan

From Page 1 Col 4

Dhaka Monday on a four-day visit, signed the accord of co-operation between Bangladesh government and the Aga Khan Development Network, of which he is the chairman.

Foreign Minister Begum Khaleda Zia signed the accord on behalf of the Bangladesh government.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and Prince Agha Khan, younger brother of Prince Karim Aga Khan, signed the protocol of cooperation for development between the government and the Aga Khan Development Network.

The signing ceremony was preceded by an hour-long meeting between the Prince and the Prime Minister during they exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan and Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar called on the Aga Khan and discussed with him various facets of development cooperation between the Aga Khan Development Network and Bangladesh.

As in several other developing countries the network is engaged in socio-economic uplift of Bangladesh through various non-government organisations like the Grameen Bank, BRAC and the Proshika.

Earlier in the day, the Aga Khan flew by helicopter to Savar, 20 miles from Dhaka, and paid tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation War at the Jatiya Shaheed Smriti Shoudha.

He placed a wreath at the memorial and stood in solemn silence in reverence to the martyrs while the bugle played the last post.

## One drowned, 3 missing as boats collide in the Jamuna

PABNA, May 4: A woman drowned, three people were reported missing and 15 others injured after two engine boats collided in the Jamuna at Nakalia in Bera thana today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said one of the boats overturned after he collision in the midstream of the river, killing Anwar Khatun, 35, of Nayanpur village in Bera thana.

Seriously injured Latif Ali, 35, Hatem Ali, 38, and Asadul, 12, were admitted to Bera Health Complex.

Passengers said one Abul Kashem, 8, of Nakalia was among those missing.

The two boats were carrying about 40 passengers. Another report says, Three people and 32 cows were missing after two cargo boats sank in mid-Jamuna during storms today.

Police and witnesses said two mechanised boats with 91 cows and 9 people, including traders and crew, were bound for Sarajganj from Sariakandi in Bogra when the accident occurred around 4.30 pm near Jhunkail in Kazipur thana.

ernment and armed forces, UN commander in Bosnia Gen. Philippe Morillon, anybody who can send urgent help, to do so far for the sake of these innocent people.'

Sarajevo radio said Serb armoured and mechanized forces had been diverted to Zepa from the fronts around Srebrenica, Konjevic Polje and Zerska.

Besides Srebrenica, where a cease-fire has prevented the Serbs from overrunning the enclave sheltering tens of thousands of refugees, Zepa and Gorazde are the only Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia that have not been captured by the Serbs.

The report came a day after leaders of Bosnia's Serbs appealed to their own radicals to accept the UN plan.

## 2 young brothers drown in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two little brothers — Pitto and Munna — tragically drowned in a pond in the capital Tuesday morning.

Mohammad Mokim Pitto, 10, and Mohammad Taslim Munna, 12, met their tragic doom while trying to retrieve their football from a city-centre pond near the Bangabhaban, not very far from their Bangabandhu Avenue residence.

Passersby picked the boys from the pond and rushed them to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where attending doctors pronounced both dead.

Family members said that Pitto and Munna were students of class One and Two respectively of Little Jewels Kindergarten at Purana Paltan and they used to go to the park adjacent to the Bangabhaban for playing soccer every morning before going to school.

'They went to the park as usual this morning but when they did not return on time I started for the park myself only to see a big gathering centering around the body of Munna at around 7.30 am,' said one of the children's mortified older brothers.