5 Assam policemen killed

in road mishap

killed on the spot when the jeep in which they were travelling skidded and fell into a deep gorge near Sonapur in Meghalaya

on the Silchar-Shillong-Guwahati national highway, yesterday,

According to the Cachar district Superintendent of Police.

Mukesh Sahay, the vehicle, which was escorting the Assam

Public Health Engineering Minister Dinesh Prasad Goala proba-

Yeltsin's draft constitution

criticised

criticised President Boris Yeltsin's draft constitution Friday.

claiming it would give him unlimited powers. Yeltsin's oppo-

nents apparently were encouraged after the president backed off

a recent warning not to criticize the draft. Valery Zorkin, former

head of Russia's Constitutional Court, told a meeting of 1,500

representatives of 58 parties and movements the draft gives the

president "not only the executive, but legislative and judicial

PPP, allies win 6 NA

seats in by-polls

powers," reports AP.

ISLAMABAD, Dec 3: The

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto

won more than half the seats

contested in federal and provin-

cial by-elections, final results

six of the 12 contested National

Assembly (lower house) seats

and seven provincial con-

stituencies in Thursday's vot-

Muslim League (PML) of ex-

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

took three lower house seats

Independents won two Na-

tional Assembly seats. The re-

sult in the 12th lower house

race was withheld by a court

order. One provincial assembly

Sharif charged Bhutto's gov-

ernment with trying to rig the

elections after he escaped un-

hurt when gunmen opened fire

on his car during voting in the

central Punjab capital of Lahore

24 killed in

Kashmir

violence

injuries when the militants en-

gaged the latter at Shalimar

near Agriculture University

KARACHI, Dec 3: Pakistan

will end its open skies policy

campus on the outskirts of Sri-

seat went to an independent

and two in the provinces.

candidate.

The opposition Pakistan

The PPP and its allies won

showed today, reports Reuter.

MOSCOW, Dec 3: Communists and other hard-line parties

bly lost control when negotiating a curve, reports PTI.

SILIGURI, Dec 3: All five personnel of Assam police were

Neglected City's Infrastructure

To every observing citizen, Dhaka's roads, drains and sewerage system continue to remain in the same state of neglect and decay. There have been only sporadic and isolated efforts at improvement which in effect fail to bridge a major gap in the city's health, sanitation and environmental infrastruc-

There has been no dearth of media publicity of the public suffering and complaints for specific city areas in this regard. Yet the reaction of the concerned authorities has been, by and large, negative or indifferent. Observers are of the opinion that 90 per cent of the entire city road network outside the 10 per cent of VIP roads lie in a state of decay.

Following every rainy season the city roads become literally unusable. The incessant rain coupled with the heavy pressure of vehicular traffic damage the road surface, most of which develop large pot-holes and large-scale broken surface. Repairs are never promptly taken up, thereby creating conditions under which a ride over them in a transport is a painful experience.

The continuing default of the concerned agencies in the matter of repairs and reconstruction leads to a process of unabated decay which presents a

The 38th founding anniver-

sary of the Bangla Academy was

celebrated Friday with a call for

broadening the activities of the

glorious institution for further

The Bangla Academy author-

ities had earlier drawn up an

elaborate programme to mark

The day's programme began

with the placing of wreaths at

the Central Shaheed Minar and

at the pedestal of the Bangla

Academy by the officials and

orated on the occasion, re-

mained open to public since 10

am in the morning. Children

accompanied by their parents.

visited the historic Burdwan

House and witnessed exhibits

exhibitions were also arranged.

ities published a booklet on

"Bangla Academy at a Glance"

was arranged at the Batamul of

leased commemorative stamps

to mark the day. Post and

Telecommunications Minister

Tariqui Islam attended the

function as chief guest while

Prof Momtazur Rahman Taraf-

dar presented the key-note

Post and Telecommunications

Minister said the Bangla

Academy is the due heritage of

differences of opinion among us

but the Bangla Academy will

remain above all petty and

other's hand here and for a few

moments will forget all our dif-

ferences and narrowness in this

The minister said the pre-

sent government had given due

importance to this prestigious

organisation. He said a postal

He said,"We will hold each

The minister said there are

Speaking at the meeting, the

Video films and photography

The Bangla Academy author-

In the evening, a discussion

The Postal Department re-

The Academy, tastefully dec-

employees of the Academy.

benefit of the country.

the day.

put on display.

on the occasion.

the Academy.

speech.

the entire nation.

political interests.

sacred premises."

Bangla Academy plans

to broaden activities

By Staff Correspondent

By AS M Nurunnabi sorry picture of the major part

of the city's road network. The Mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation recently warned the engineers and area officials that they would he held responsible if the roads, after repairs, do not last at least for a period of five years. Literally crores of taka are wasted every year on poor road repair work. In the opinion of observers, mere warning alone will not improve matters. It is felt that if roads are to be repaired with quality material and in a way that will ensure durability, then the whole process - from selecting contractors, purchasing materials and supervising the work done - will have to be thoroughly reviewed.

Next to the roads are the drains equally dilapidated. There has been also no lack of media publicity about the poor functioning of the city's drainage system which has been a major cause of general suffering of the citizens. Replacement of the surface drains by storm sewers has apparently miscarried. Besides, expansion of the city drainage to cover areas with none yet has been the city's urgent problem.

The overall situation has turned so wretched that it is the biggest single cause of pollution of environment and a direct

Islam said the government

had sanctioned Tk 11 crore

during the last two and a half

years to bring dynamism into

the Academy's activities. He as-

sured of government's total fi-

nancial support for its develop-

already given Tk 3.14 crore for

modernisation of the Bangla

Academy press. He noted with

satisfaction that the Bangla

Academy had started a project

named Young Writers Project

for the first time in the country

involving Tk one and a haff

He said there would be no

dearth of fund for the Bangla

Academy to carry out its activi-

He said the government had

threat to health and sanitation of the city's population.

The sanitation situation is further made pitiable by the city's timeworn sewerage system. Some of the underground sewers date back to the twenties of the century. They need replacement urgently. An efficient sewerage system is regarded to be far more important from the sanitation point of view than even roads with good surfaces.

As it is, the state of city's sewerage is as horrifying as the drainage and road system is at its worst. The general public, the taxpayers in particular. have come to react with a growing sense of frustration over the inaction and inertia o the public utility agencies such as the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and the WASA (Water and Sewerage Authority). They have been found to be slowest in the performance of their essential functions. Citizens who have the misfortune of living in the old town and the older parts of the new continue to suffer the most.

In the result, observers tend to feel that here is a city in decay and immediate measures can be delayed only at great peril to the health and well-being of the entire populace of the

From Page 1 Col 2

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman received him at the airport. Pakistan Foreign Secretary Shahryar M Khan, High Commissioner to Bangladesh. Anwar Kemal and Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan. Q A M A Rahim, were also pre-

The Foreign Minister of Pakistan described the SAARC conference as "part of the process that was started in South Asia' and said. "We are not expecting anything earth shaking from it"

With regard to regional coopscope to do more.

Tarigul Islam said the Bangla Academy had suffered financial constraints as it did Pakistanis. not comply with the wishes of the autocratic regime in the

on repatriation he said it would be held between the governments of Bangladesh and Pakistan and added, "it is not a

ties for the development of intellect and talent. Eminent educationist Prof Tarafdar said there had been worldwide expansion of use of English not only in literature and culture but also in science and technology.

In this context, he advocated translation of research writings in Bangla. He said the Academy could publish in phases these kinds of writings in Bangla.

He also suggested that the English journal of the Bangla Academy could publish summary of articles of international standard in Bangla on science and humanities. He said the Academy could play a significant role in translating into English some creative writings of high quality in Bangla to reach them to the international mar-

Prof Tarafdar laid emphasis on freedom of thoughts as liberation of intellect for full development of national culture. He said changing rural social infrastructure might be a catalytic factor in creating new social values against the threat of distorted culture. He lauded the role of the Bangla Academy in advancing the cause of our lan-

Pak FM

wanted".

sent.

eration in South Asia because of SAARC, he said, "certainly there is progress, but there was

Replying to a question, her said he would discuss the issue of repatriation of the stranded

Replying to another question party issue"

Answering a question on the Kashmir issue, the Pakistan Foreign Minister said, "We cannot raise it at SAARC. But when opportunity arises we will like to stress upon the Foreign Minister of India about the importance of the solution of the Kashmir issue".

Body to identify users of dyethylin glycol' in paracetamol

A high-powered committee headed by the Health Secretary was constituted yesterday to identify the persons responsible for using poisonous 'dyethylin glycol' in paracetamol syrup manufactured by some pharmaceuticals, an official handout said, reports BSS.

The committee was formed at a meeting of the 'Petition Committee' of the Jatiya Sangsad with Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali in the chair.

The committee will submit its report by January 31.

Political stability

From Page 1 Col 4 Hasina, a number of ministers and representatives of trade bodies, the delegation visited the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.

Their scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Wednesday was cancelled by the PM's Secretariat citing the indisposition of the PM.

In reply to a question on talks with Sheikh Hasina, the Australian delegation leader said "She gave her views, narrated her party's policy and some problems in Bangladesh."

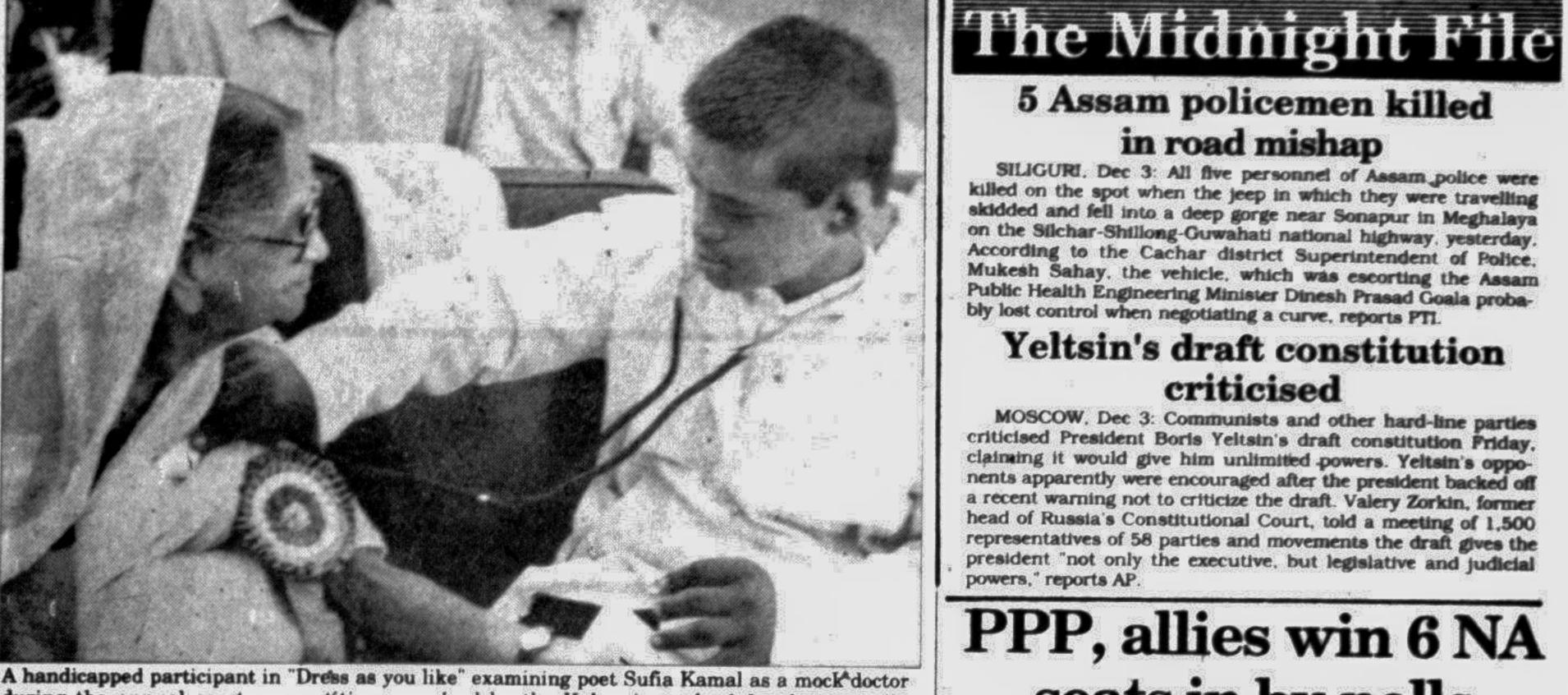
He did not elaborate. He said the democratic system in this South Asian country is improving gradually.

The members of the delegation, comprising the opposition and independent members, were: Stewart McArthur, Mrs Beverley McArthur, Collin Hollis, Mrs Silvia Smith, Jack Smith, Johan Bradford, Philip Cleary and John Carter.

The Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Kenneth Aspinall, was present at the

The Australian parliamentary delegation will submit a report to the Bangladesh Parlia-

ment which sponsored the visit.



during the annual sports competition organised by the Kalyani, a school for the mentally retarded, on the occasion of the World Disabled Day yesterday in the city. - Star photo

SAARC FMs' meet

From Page 1 Col 4

many months away.

The present Foreign Ministers' conference is being held halfway through the Dhaka summit held in April this year and the eighth summit scheduled to be held in India sometime at the end of next year. The Council of Ministers is expected to finalise a date for the next summit.

The meeting will also appoint formally the next Secretary General of SAARC for the twoyear term beginning January. Foreign Secretary of Nepal Yadav Kant Silwal will be confirmed as the new Secretary General in place of incumbent

Dinesh Singh From page 1 Col 5

also wants a solution to this problem."

It needs study at expert level to determine the quantum of water and how much of it could be shared by Bangladesh. "This technical point be determined by technicians," he added.

On repatriation of the Chakma tribals from Indian state of Tripura, Singh said Bangladesh should persuade the refugees to come back to their homeland. "Nobody in the world wants refugee, and we also want a solution to this problem," he told a questioner.

He described the Indo-Bangladesh relation as "very good" and said "we will try to have the best possible relation with Bangladesh." To a question on the pro-

posed visit of Rao to Dhaka, he said the Indian Prime Minister had accepted Begum Zia's invitation happily and would try to come to Bangladesh as quickly as possible. On the Kashmir issue, the

Indian Foreign Minister called it one of the bilateral problems between India and Pakistan, which should be solved through discussion in the spirit of Simla agreement. This agreement has provided opportunity to settle the problem, he added.

During his stay in Dhaka. the Indian Foreign Minister will hold talks with his counterparts of Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman received his Indian counterpart at the ZIA. Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka K Raghunath, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Faruq Sobhan and Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman were also present.

From Page 1 Col 4

started. Making it an issue the

tribals started agitation and

demanded withdrawal of the

guard post. But Bengalis

strongly wanted the post to

On November 17 morning.

the tribals brought out a pro-

cession in the market area to

shut down the shops. But the

shopowners, over 90 per cent of

them Bengalis, resisted the

move. A confrontation was

about to take place. But police

forces intervened and both the

factions went away without any

ber of boats carrying armed

Bengalis arrived at the launch

ghat. Wielding knives and axes

also rushed to the spot and an

Failing to contain the battle,

the security forces shot blank

fires. This panicked the tribals

and they started fleeing through

a narrow lane. At this point, the

Bengalis swooped on the tribals

guard of the Krishi Bank. 'I took

shelter in a godown when the

clash erupted,' Kanti said, 'But

the Bengalis came and forced

me out. They started attacking

me with knives. The sad thing

is, they were all my neighbours'.

Kanti's closed cropped head

Chhoton Kanti Chakma is a

leaving 20 dead.

exchange of brick batting be-

Hearing the news, the tribals

At around 4:00 pm, a num-

incident at around 2:30 pm.

they started disembarking.

Ibrahim Zaki whose term expires on December 31 The SAARC Foreign Ministers shall also take stock of the

progress made on the two conventions relating to terrorism and narcotics control adopted in previous summits. It will also review the progress of SAPTA, the South Asian Development Fund, Integrated Programmes of Action (IPA), Food Reserve, Women's Development

review the entire gamut of SAARC activities in a changed global scenario and provide a

Significant discussions are also likely to take place to finalise the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangements (SAPTA) and for establishing transit facilities between mem ber nations to promote trade.

Deliberations are also ex-

The budget for the SAARC Secretariat of around 7 lakh dollars for the next year and the calendar of activities are expected to be finalised.

ipating in the conference are India's Dinesh Singh, Pakistan's Sarder Assef Ahmed Ali Maldives' Fatuliah Jameel Bhutan's Lyonpo Dawa Tsering Shri Lanka's A C Shaul Hameed while Nepal is being represented by State Minister for Finance Mahesh Acharya Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman will chair

Although bilateral issues are discuss mutual bilateral prob-

One killed in Sylhet clash

SYLHET, Dec 3: One person was shot dead and thirty others

Nazrul Islam alias Tamies Ali, 45, of village Nijchhattish was shot dead on the spot

During the 'offensive', a

The tribals alleged that the

Chakma settlement near the

ghat was set on fire in which 28

Bengalis caused the fire. But

Bengalis insist that it were the

Chakmas who set ablaze the

houses to make things worse.

The military administration.

who to blame for the fire.

however, was not sure as to

After the incident, a silent

war is going on in Naniarchar

between the 10,000 tribals and

about 8,000 Bengalis. It has

been alleged that since Novem-

ber 17, the tribals had abducted

12 Bengalis from the char.

They are believed to be dead.

Last Saturday, a woodcutter,

Faruq, was abducted from Gi-

lachhari. A case was filed, but

seems to be in an awkward po-

sition in Naniarchar. There are

'49 police personnel in the char.

about ten of them were present

on the spot during the incident.

It was apparent that more po-

licemen could have been de-

any better results,' a police offi-

cer said without disclosing his

name. We are almost helpless

in the tribal areas. We have to

follow a pacifying strategy

which discourages any drastic

actions like lathicharge and

teargassing the tribals."

But that would not have had

ployed to avert the clash.

The law enforcing agency

to no effect.

generate confidence:

The Nepalese State Minister for Finance, Mahesh Bhattacharya yesterday said he was very much optimistic that South Asia would soon move into economic cooperation through its preferential trade arrangement, reports BSS.

International Airport on his ar-SAARC Foreign Ministers' conference. Bhattacharya said the meeting which begins today would be an effort to generate confidence.

"We have tremendous, re Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

played a "tremendous role". Foreign Minister Mostafizur

Rahman received him at the

From Page 1 Col 4 landmark in fostering the re-

in the SAARC, the Maldives Foreign Minister said his country was contributing in framing various programmes of the forum since its inception.

On SAPTA, he said there should be a collective programme, not individual initiative, in implementing SAPTA (South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement). "We will not benefit much from it but we are looking to the interest of the people of the region."

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman received him at the airport.

Bhutanese FM From Page 1 Col 3 less South Asia does it, it will be

marginalised. Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman received him at the airport.

ation as a vital area for regional cooperation, he said South Asia Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA) will safeguard the interest of all the seven member countries of SAARC.

He said, under the leadership of the Bangladesh Prime Minister, Begum Khalea Zia, SAARC is moving satisfactorily.

The seventh SAARC summit in Dhaka, he said, was a land-

Sore of clash still festers

'On the other hand, the Ben-

galis are already thinking that

the militants and the police are

too weak to fight the Shan-

tibahinimen,' another officer of

the security forces said, "The

Bengalis are frustrated when

they see that the rebels who

had killed their family members

get rewarded when they surren-

people in the area are asking

today is whether the clash was

a deliberate attempt to foil the

peace talks between the Shan-

tibahini and the government.

The local military administra-

tion tends to believe that the

incident was not preplanned

and that the Bengalis vented

their rage and frustrations on

the tribals. But many think

some quarters must have some

stakes in fuelling the enmity

contain within the boundary of

Nainiarchar, but spilled over to

other places. Even in Ranga-

mati - 50 minutes away on a

speed boat from Nainiarchar -

Nizamuddin Ahmed, an owner

of an electronic goods shop in

Masjid Market at Reserve Bazar

The situation is tense here.

The ripple of fear did not

before the talks.

people are afraid.

night."

But the question that the

Dhaka meet to Nepali Minister

Talking to newsmen at Zia rival here to take part in the

spect for the Bangladesh Prime the Nepalese Minister said, adding, "Under her leadership SAARC is moving ahead." Bangladesh, he said, really

Maldives FM gional cooperation," he said.

SRINAGAR, Dec 3: Twenty-Regarding his country's role four people including four Border Security Force personnel and 14 militants were killed in Kashmir valley since last evening, reports PTI.

Security forces arrested 13 militants in the valley in the continuing search and cordon operation during the period, an official spokesman told reporters here today. He said ten militants and a security personnel were killed and another jawan sustained

nagar today. Pakistan to end open sky policy

and protect the national carrier, describing economic cooper Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). Defence Minister Aftab Shahban Mirani said Thursday, reports AFP. The decision was taken after

consultations with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Pakis-Aan International Airlines (PIA) and a representative of an unnamed foreign airline.

BJP invited to form govt in Rajasthan NEW DELHI, Dec 3: Intense

behind-the-scenes jockeying for power ended today in three of four states of the Indian heartland where elections were held last month to pick local governments, reports AFP.

Hindu revivalists were asked to form a government in the northwestern desert state of Rajasthan, a consolation prize they gained after suffering severe reverses in the staggered balloting.

Prime Minister P V Narasi mha Rao's buoyant Congress (I) Party was sworn in to rule the tiny hill state of Himachal Pradesh after resolving a leadership tussle between two local strongmen.

DATE

The present government has broken all previous records of rigging. The government has failed by trying to rig the electoral process in the most shameful and blatant manner. Sharif said late on Thursday af-

ter the incident. He stopped short of accusing the government of orchestrating the shooting - "I had a narrow escape," the ex-premier told reporters.

But he said that as a result he had decided to turn down an offer from the Prime Minister for reconciliation talks.

Witnesses said Sharif's car was hit by several bullets from gunmen who opened fire from a rooftop when he arrived at a polling station. An elderly bystander was injured in the shooting, they said.

PPP leader Faisal Saleh Hayat accused Sharif's PML of staging an attack on the car. Shots were also fired at the

car of a senior official of the ruling PPP as he drove around a Lahore constituency.

The by-elections for the 12 lower house seats took place without the unprecedented military deployment that accompanied the October 6 general elections, and the provincial polls three days later.

Sharif rejects From Page 1 Col 7

incidents in Lahore on Thursday in which, he stated a new, an attempt was made on his life, leaving a deep scar on the democratic system."

"It is a miracle I am still alive," he said, explaining that he had been fired upon from a rooftop while visiting a polling station in his home con-

"One bullet whizzed passed me, hitting the wall and raising dust which I felt in my eyes. It was that close a call," he said.

Sharif said the attack came as PPP leaders felt they were going to lose.

Even the Prime Minister had gone to Lahore "hoping to celebrate the fruits of her rigging." but she had to leave after knowing that she had lost Lahore, he said.

"We are convinced that it (Bhutto's government) is a regime that believes not in democracy but in fascist, strong arm tactics," he said. A senior PPP leader, Faisal

Suale Hayat, who had earlier rejected as drama Sharif's claim of an attempt on his life, said that he too escaped a murder attempt by PML workers in Lahore.

Democracy confce From Page 1 Col 8

attended by PGA president

Murli Deora MP and Advisor of the Khan Foundation and State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan among others.

The organisers are expecting at least 35 parliamentarians from abroad and 25 from the host country Bangladesh.

Fali S Nariman of the International Commission of Jurists and Ambassador Lars-Olof Edstrom of the International Electoral Institute Commission will attend as the speakers at the two-day conference.

The conference will be followed by another two-day conference on "population, poverty and life-style" beginning at the same venue on Monday.

DISPLAY AND SALE

FINE HAND EMBROIDERED HOUSE HOLD ITEMS AND APPARELS

HOTEL SONARGAON

ROOM: TITAS

TIME 10 A.M. TO 6,30 P.M.

TODAY, 4th DECEMBER. **ESHEETA**

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by Mediaworld Ltd. 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed at City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct). Fax No: 88-02-863035. GPO

said, "The Chakmas are not shopping from the Bengali stores. They are boycotting us and we, the Bengalis, are taking care not to go out alone at Box No: 3257. Cable: DAILYSTAR DHAKA.

stamp was being released by the Prime Minister. guage and literature. Hasina: BNP's corruption

From Page 1 Col 7 ing, the BNP had no masters but friends in the foreign nations. But it was Khaleda Zia who signed the 11-point contract of slavery with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao." the Leader of the Opposition

She criticised the foreign policy of the BNP government and commented that Bangladesh had a poor image in the international politics due to its submissive foreign policy.

Referring to the problems of Mirpur, she said the BNP MP. elected through "media coup and vote rigging" from the . Mirpur constituency, would never try to solve the problems of the area.

She pointed out that illegal land grabbing was at large in Mirpur and demanded an immediate stop to such activities. Describing different plans of the AL she said her party was analysing the economic prob-

lems of the country which

would be the basis of the AL's

economic plan for Bangladesh.

"The Awami League held a seminar on education recently which put forward a number of recommendations. According to these recommendations, the party has taken an education policy for the next 10 years

aiming at total eradication of il-

literacy," she said. resignation of the government for losing credibility and reiterated her demands for holding

She paid homage to Nurul Huda, Abdul Malek and others who died in Mirpur during the anti-Ershad movement

Opposition Nasim spoke of cortaka bank loan against Khaleda Zia's son Tarek Rahman and brother Iskander.

tary committee on corruption charges against the Irrigation Minister had not made any progress in its investigation so far and alleged, "the government has paid illegally US dollar 1.40 crore to an inefficient Italian firm, Saipem. We demand an explanation of this pay

cluded, "The government has nationalised corruption for which it will have to pay dearly." The AL will hold a public meeting at Bangabandhu Ave-

nue at 3 pm on December 6.

She demanded immediate elections under caretaker gov-

The Chief Whip of the ruption involving a 25 crore

He also said the parliamen-

He also accused the Works Minister of illegally grabbing press briefing. nine kathas of land and con-

> The team left Dhaka for Nepal on a similar tour. Before coming to Bangladesh, the delegation spent one week in India.

and Children's Rights. According to observers, the present Foreign Ministers' meet assumes significance as it will

fresh stimulus to the organisa-

pected to be held to set up a food reserve for the SAARC nations and ease visa regulations.

The meet is likely to plan the theme of the next year, which is, "SAARC Year of the Youth." The Foreign Ministers partic-

the meetings. not raised at SAARC forums, the visiting Foreign Ministers are expected to meet on the sidelines of the conference to

From Our correspondent were injured in a clash between two groups of villages at Nadan-

juri beel of Fenchuganj thana

this morning.

shows a deep scar.

houses were gutted.