From Page 1 Col 4 were provided police escort to reach the conference centre. At the council meeting, India delegation was led by State Minister for External

Affairs R L Bhatia, Pakistan's delegation by Foreign Minister Sarder Aseff Ahmad Ali, Sri Lanka's delegation by Foreign Minister ACS Hameed, Maldives by Foreign Minister Fatulla Januel while Bhutanese Foreign Minister Lyonpo Dawa Tsering and Nepalese Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Ram Hori Joshi led their country's delegation. Bangladesh side was led by Foreign Minister AM Mostafizur Rahman.

Unagrlining the need for building a consensus among the member states on a common destiny, the SAARC Chairperson said "in the SAARC family we have been able to look beyond bilateral problems and discover common interest in regional confidence buil-

"We have accommodated individual difficulties of member states in the past. We have succeeded in our efforts to evolve a broad consensus on sensitive issues. I am confident we would succeed in sustaining this excellent practice in the collective activities we have agreed upon," Begum Zia

"She said encorraging work has been done by the three SAARC ministerial conferences during the past eight months In this connection, she mentioned that the two conferences on the Disabled and the

Saitur From Page 1 Col 8

ferred to the significant im-

provement in the economic sector following adoption of free market economy and said Bangladesh can learn a lesson from Chinese experiences as now they are handling the reform and privatisation prog ammes.

He said. Chinese strategy of attracting foreign investment can be of immense benefit to Bangladesh

The finance minister said he will pursue the Chinese leaders for setting up joint venture enterprises in Bangladesh for the production of machinery, tools and agricultural implements. China is now exporting these items to Bangladesh in large quantities he added.

Replying to a question, the finance minister said Chinese participation and cooperation in exploring the Bara Pukuria coal mine and in constructing of Rupsha Bridge will be discussed with the Chinese lead-

He will also discuss with the Chinese leaders for the expeditious disbursement and utilisation of the 8.2 million US dollars credit extended to Bangladesh by China. Besides, Beijing, the finance

minister will visit Shanghai and Guanguan Zhou cities and economic zones of China. Additional Secretary of the

Economic Relations Division Dr Saadat Hussain and Joint Secretary Soab Ahmed accompanied the finance minister. He is expected to return

home on August 7. The finance minister was seen off at the airport by the

Chinese Charge'd Affaires, Liu Yunzhi.

Youth in our region, made commendable 'contributions towards the realisation of

SAARC social goals. Begum Zia expressed the hope that the recommendations made by these two important conferences would merit special attention during the current session of the Council of Ministers.

Recalling the contribution of late President Zlaur Rahman, Begum Zia said "his vision of SAARC was shared by the leadership of South Asia. We are here today to carry that dream forward.

The SAARC Chairperson expressed her optimism about the progress of implementation of SAPTA and the Integrated Programme of Action (IPA). She said the economic opportunities offered by SAPTA need to be collectively explored for the benefit of the people of this region. She mentioned that the regional economic and trade cooperation in other parts of the world "have proved to be very bene-

Begum Zia observed that the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round talks and the creation of International Trade Organisation are significant events of our time. This should be taken into consideration in designing the programme for implementation under SAPTA and the Integ rated Programme of Action, she added.

After the SAARC Chair person's inaugural address. Indian State Minister for External Affairs RL Bhatia gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the participating delegates. She paid tributes to Begum Zia's "deep personal commitment to SAARC."

At the beginning of the inaugural programme Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman called for strengthening cooperation among the SAARC countries and called for increasing involvement of the commonman in the SAARC process

Immediately after the inaugural session, the foreign ministers and their delegations went into a closed door business session chaired by Mostafizur Rahman, who is Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

11 injured as JCD rivals at RMC clash: 11 held

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 30: Eleven persons were injured in as two rival groups of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal clashed at Pinku Hostel of Rajshahi Medical College last night.

Four seriously injured students were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Police later raided the hosand recovered arms and am-

tel, arrested 11 JCD activists munition. These included 21 rounds of bullets of SMG, 10 hand-made bombs, a bullet of shot gun and a huge quantity of bombmaking materials. The arrested persons are:

Kamruzzaman, Zafar Iqbal, Atigur Rahman, Asaduzzaman, Halim, Saifuddin Khaled, Amirul Islam, Sharif Mahmud, Zahid Sarwar, Mannan and Chanchol

CHT: So far, so good

From Page 1 Col 4

There are also other wheels in the wheel, too. One source hinted that Upendra Lal Chak ma, who became the president of the refugee welfare association in Tripura, nurtures political ambitions and would like to contest the next general elections with the help of the returnees.

He was elected an MP in 1986 and was even nominated a special adviser to the then president HM Ershad, but sur prisingly left the country ahead of the 1988 Upazila Parishad polls, citing a lack of security. He has close links with the Shantibahini leaders, an allegation he has been denying repeatedly.

Shaptu Larma, who heads the pol ical wing of the Shantibahii , the Jana Sanghati Samity (JSS), has been insisting on the segregation of the Bengali settlers and the tribals. During the talks with the Parliamentary Committee headed by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Shantu Larma reportedly suggested that there should be a hiatus of five miles between the tribal villages and Pengali resettlement.

Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, the sitting Awamt League MP from Khagrachhari, supported the

The five major demands of the JSS are a constitutional guarantee as minority tribals, declaration of the CHT as a separately administered area.

forming of a regional council. ownership of land and withdrawal of the Bengalees who

inigrated there after 1947. Peace is destined to be a long shot even if all of the mooted demands of the tribals are met because the large number of the Bengali-speaking settlers in the region have become too weighty by now to be bypassed for any bilateral settlement. They feel they are being deprived of civic ameni ties and treated rather trivially in the peace process by the au-

The settlers now residing in different cluster villages for security reasons have been agitating to go to the tracts of land they were apportioned for farming when, forced by pullulating population growth, they moved here from the plainlands. They have also protested the 1989 CHT District Council bill which stipulated that the chairman of the district councils must be a tribesman.

The crux of the problem is the acrimonious relation between the tribals and the set tlers, who have a tradition of mutual mistrust

Besides dialogue, developing rapport among the rival groups is the overriding need to resolve the crisis as years of insurgency and counter steps by government troops have so far failed to find any permanent solution. From an optimistic view, it has been so far so good, but how good that remains to be seen.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from 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, Commerciaf: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-92-863935, GPO Box No. 3257, Cable DAJLYSTAR, DHAKA



A group of hartal supporters ransacked the room of the Bangla Academy press manager for -Star photo defying the hartal call yesterday.

SAARC FMs meet PM

The foreign ministers now attending the 14th meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers called on Prime Minister and SAARC Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia at the International Conference Centre in Dhaka before the beginning of the plenary session vesterday morning, reports BSS.

The ministers, who were accompanied by their spouses, apprised the SAARC Chairperson of the peoples' perception and optimism about SAARS, the regional grouping of over one billion population of seven member countries of South Asia and said the people of the region would be able to end poverty and attain economic prosperity through the SAARC.

The SAARC Chairperson expressed her satisfaction at the progress of the SAARC and underscored the need for making this regional grouping more strengthened and effective one for the uplift of the people of South Asia.

From Page 1 Col 5 and like those emerging in the region and added that sustained economic growth is an essential component of the liberalised policies that have been put in place.

Stressing the need for greater economic cooperation in the South Asia for the benefits of the vast multitude living in the region, the Indian minister said it is necessary that meaningful cooperation must herald in the region for collective welfare.

"If we can shake off our doubts and face the future with confidence in ourselves and in our commitment to enter into substantial and meaningful cooperation, this would help speed up the process of turn ing our economies around and help to ensure that poverty. hunger, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, lack of shelter and sanitation, for large sections of our population, becomes a distant memory," he observed. The Indian minister re-

ferred to the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) and said "Our commitment to the SAPTA reflects our desire to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia, to improve the quality of life and to accelerate economic growth and social progress on our common objectives."

He mentioned the rapid changes that are taking place in the global economy and said greater economic interactions in the South Asian region are necessary at this stage. "We cannot overstate the urgency of operationalising the SAPTA and moving ahead," Bhatia said and urged all members of the SAARC to cooperate in true spirit of the SAARC and fulfil their commitments in this re-

The Indian minister referred to many other SAARC programmes in social sectors like on children, the disabled, women, youth and others and said his country fully supports all these measures and has also taken steps at national level to attain the programmes.

He laid particular stress on the disadvantages of girl child and called for special protection for vulnerable girl children in difficult circumstances and belonging to special groups, who are economically and socially deprived or disabled physically or mentally.

Bhatia spoke of the effects of natural disasters in the region and called for coordinating expertise and experiences of the member states of the SAARC in facing the consequences of such disasters. He lauded the collective position. of the SAARC countries at the world conference on natural disaster reduction in Japan, in May, this year.

The Indian minister reiterated his country's commitment to regional cooperation in the South Asia and said in the spirit of the SAARC, regional cooperation must be the common endeavour of all and cooperation must increase par-I ticularly in the core areas.

Hartal observed

From Page I Col 8

AL leaders spoke at the rally. The Chhatra Samaj and several left-leaning political parties also held separate rallies in the city. Our Narayanganj Correspon-

dent adds: At least 10 persons

were injured when a procession brought out by school students in support of the hartal was attacked by some armed young men yesterday The procession brought out by the students of Gothnain

High School and Chittaranjan Cotton Mills High School, and was attacked allegedly by the BNP and Jamaat activists when it was getting into the Laxmi Narayan Cotton Mill. Hartal was observed else-

where in the district peace-Plying of vehicles remained

suspended during the hartal period but trains operated as usual. A few launches also left Narayanganj terminal during the period. Adamjee Jute Mills and

Laxmi Naryan Cotton Mill operated as usual, but the others did not.

Our JU Correspondent adds, the students of Jahangirnagar University assaulted two suspected Islami Chhatra Shibir activists when they were crossing the university area in a micro-bus yesterday.

The students also damaged the micro-bus. Police, however, managed to rescue them from the agitated students. The two activists, Faruq and

Hafiz Kamal, were returning to Khulna after attending the rally at Manik Mia Avenue in Dhaka on Friday Our Staff Correspondent

reports from Chittagong: Life came to a standstill in this port city and sporadic blasts of

Injured constable

still in critical

condition at CMH

By Staff Correspondent

uddin, who was injured in a

bomb blast in the city Friday

11 last night.

kesman added.

was in a critical condition until

at the Combined Military Hos-

pital (CMH) yesterday mor-

the operation was successful

but Nizamuddin was not "et

out of danger. He was in the

intensive care unit, the spo-

He underwent an operation

police spokesman said

Police constable Nizam

cocktails and crackers at dif-

ferent places marked vesterday's dawn to dusk hartal here. At least 10 persons reportedly received minor injuries in the blasts and chase and counter-chase by supporters of

rival factions. All kinds of vehicles including rickshaws stayed off the roads and highways.

Shops and markets remained closed while offices could not function as usual during hartal period. Mills and factories in Kalurghat, Nasirabad, Sitakundu, and Patenga industrial belts could not operate. According to port officials

delivery of goods to and from Chittagong Port remained suspended during hartal period.

Our Rajshahi Correspondent adds: A halfday hartal was observed here yesterday at the call of Awami League. Shops and business establishments remained closed. Biman flights and train services were, however, normal. Buses and trucks did not ply. No untoward incident was reported.

Our Sylhet Correspondent reports, hartal was observed in the Sylhet region yesterday peacefully.

Attendance in the govern ment offices was thin while educational institutions remained closed However, train service and

Biman flights operated nor mally.

UNB adds, at least 20 people were injured, six seriously as the supporters of opposition Awami League and the ruling BNP clashed with sticks and handbombs in Pabna during hartal vesterday.

Almost all modes of trans port, excepting rickshaws remained off the streets during hartal nours.

16 cops killed in Indian blast

NEW, DELHI, July 30: Sixteen policemen were killed in central India today when Maoist guerillas blew up a vehicle in which they were travelling with a land mine. the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, says AFP.

A police officer who survived the blast was shot and injured by the rebels near a tribal-dominated village in the state of Madhya Pradesh, the news agency said.

The deadmen belonged to the special armed force posted in the area to fight the Maoists, who are known in India as Naxalites.



BACK FROM THE DEAD: A Zairean volunteer helps a Rwandan refugee child out of a truck bringing corpses of cholera victims to be buried in a mass grave north of Goma Tuesday. The boy was discovered among the dead as the bodies were about to be dumped into the grave. Cholera has claimed up to 14000 lives in camps around -AFP photo Cioma.

Two hospitals to check up workers for Malaysia

Star Report

The medical examinations of the workers recruited for employment in Malaysia will be conducted from today (Sunday) at two hospitals - the BIRDEM and the Holy Family Hospital in the city.

A spokesman of the Malay sian High Commission in Dhaka told The Daily Star last night that the decision has been taken to facilitate continued movement of Bangladeshi workers to Malaysia.

The two hospitals will conduct physical check-up and laboratory tests for issuing medical certificates to the workers selected by the Malaysian employers, said the spokes-

"These hospitals have been recommended by the Government of Bangladesh which was also approved by Malaysian authorities," he said adding, "this is an interim measure until further arrangement."

Khaleda invited to Egypt

Egyptian Ambassador in Bangladesh Mohammed Kamal Elmiligy yesterday called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office and handed over a letter from Egyptian President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak inviting her to visit Cairo to attend the United Nations sponsored nine-day international conference on population and development beginning there on September reports BSS.

The Egyptian President in his letter highly acclaimed Bangladesh's role and concern for population, sustained economic growth and development— the theme of the forthcoming UN conference - and said he was looking forward to welcoming her in Egypt and hoped to discuss bilateral matters with the Bangladesh Prime Minister.

Gas pilterage From Page 1 Col 8

were preparing for investigation at other factories in vari-

ous industrial belts. They also did not rule out the possibility of involvement of a section of unscrupulous employees of the Titas Gas

Company in such thefts. The Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd yesterday sued five persons, including the owner of the two industries belonging to the same group, but police said the

accused were all absconding.

According to police, the industries, situated at the Kuripara Bandar area, took unauthorised gas connections from a bypass line last October. Preliminary estimates say the stolen gas could be worth at least Tk 1 crore.

The pilferage came to light on Friday following a spot investigation by a police team led by a magistrate. When contacted, engineer

M Kamaluddin, deputy manger of Titas, confirmed the case.

Aseff

From Page 1 Col 4 in the region during the last nine years, its achievements do not match our péople's expectations.

The Pakistan Foreign Minister said his country was committed to making the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) effective and added that concerned agencies had almost com pleted their preparatory work regarding the schedules of trade concessions which Pakistan proposed to exchange with other member states. Sardar Aseff said Pakistan

was expected to host the next meeting of the Inter-Government Group (IGG) on trade liberalisation in the coming months. He said the government of

Pakistan supports growing collaboration between SAARC and the international organisa-

The Pakistan Foreign Minister drew attention of the SAARC countries to the alarming situation resulting from the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs in South Asia and said The magnitude of the problem warrants concerted action by SAARC member states" Sardar Aseff said Pakistan

strongly advocated cooperation between SAARC and the UN international drug control programme and the drug advisory programme of the Colombo Plan Bureau. Such cooperation will give

further impetus to regional drug enforcement programmes and enrich experience in countering narcotic activi-The Pakistan Foreign Minister described Prime

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's speech at the maugural session as a "Thought-provoking" one and said his delegation would participate in the deliberations of the current session in a constructive spirit.

The Midnight File

Decision to step up sanction on former Yugoslavia

ZAGREB, July 30: Top brass from NATO and Unprofor met in Zagreb today in the wake of the five-nation contact group's decision to step up sanctions on former Yugoslavia. General Joe Ashy, commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's southern European forces met UN protection force overall commander General Betrand Lapresle, his deputy general Ray Crabbe and General Michael Rose, the Unprofor commander in Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports AFP.

OIC throws weight behind PLO

JEDDAH, July 30: The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) today threw its weight behind the PLO following its row with Israel and Jordan over the disputed city of Jerusalem. "The definitive status of Jerusalem should be defined according to the terms of the Israeli-Palestinian accord," the Organisation's Secretary General. Hamid Algabid,

Accelerate growth rate

From Page 1 Col 5

"The SAARC, during its second cycle of summitry, is happily addressing core economic issues of which SAPTA is a vital element," said Mostafiz, the current chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Referring to the recently held SAARC Finance-Planning ministers' meeting, he was optimistic that the recommendations made by the meeting to fight against poverty would be supported by the Council.

He also underlined the

our fragile economies would need careful management."

spoke in favour of strong political commitment to achieve the goal of eradicating poverty from the region, preferably by the year 2000.

unilateralism in SAARC matters may convey unhelpful

The Foreign Minister said Bangladesh is ready to further strengthen the SAARC man date, intensify SAARC interac tion and hold meeting regu-

of youth and the disabled and women and family welfare, on which two separate ministerial conferences have been held.

hind by history," he said.

desh Foreign Minister mentioned the formation of the and Industry and the SAARC

Ram Hari Joshi

Ministers' meeting at the International Conference Centre (ICC) he said, "We all must be guided by a larger vision in charting our course and should make every effort to see to it that such vision is translated into reality."

Joshi said the long-term process of economic development in the region was bound to be dependent upon the progress that SAARC could achieve in confronting the per sistence of widespread poverty. Moreover, the success or failure of the programmes for eradicating poverty would not only have its reflections on economic development but also on socio-economic stability, he added. The minister said Nepal was the first country to ratify

SAPTA and it believed firmly it would substantially enrich the content of regional coopera-He expressed the hope that

(IGG).

The Nepalese minister said youths constituted the major segment of the productive population of South Asia and observed that the menace of drugs and AIDS crippled their potentialities, the harsh economic realities causing a feel-

Therefore, he said, it was imperative to consciously direct them to the mainstream of the society.

sonal commitment of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zla to the cause of SAARC.

Council of Speakers and Par

SAPTA (South Asian Prefe-

rential Trading Arrangement).

need for monitoring the effects of the GATT agreement on the countries of South Asia as the world trade regime is expected to be much more dynamic with the signing of the agreement. "Our nascent industries and

The Foreign Minister also

He stressed the need for paying more attention to regional cooperation and said

messages. "Bilateral problems may need to be kept outside the SAARC interactions for more years to come," he said, adding: "We have to build on what we have already agreed upon despite our domestic difficulties.

larly as per the charter. Mostafiz stressed the need for taking strides in the areas

"South Asia, which is the home of largest number of poor and disadvantaged in the world, should not be left be-

In his speech, the Bangla-SAARC Chamber of Commerce

From Page 1 Col 5

the process of negotiating the trade concessions would be finalised at the next meeting of the Inter-Government Group

Joshi said that in Nepal a national committee for the welfare of the disabled had been established. The committee has dedicated itself to the cause of the disabled and has resolved to take different actions in line with the Islamabad Resolution.

ing of dejection and depriva-

Joshi lauded the deep per-

liamentarians. "This positive development will go a long way in further cereating our ties under the SAA He informed the session that the SAARC Secretary Ge-

neral has signed important international ag eements to develop institution inks with ESCAP, UNCTAD and UNICEP Efforts to linking SAARC with European Union and ASEAN are also in progress tional Conference on Popu

Referring to the Interna lation and Development (ICPD), to be held in Cairo this September, Mostafiz offered Bangladesh as the host country for a SAARC workshop prior to the conference to coordi nate the position of the re gion's nations.

Reported remarks of Baitul Mukarram Khatib protested By DU Correspondent

Teachers of the Dhaka University yesterday strongly protested and condemned the statements of the Khatib of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque Maulana Obaidul Hug In which he reportedly said that some people educated in the West had betrayed and broken up Pakistan.

The Dhaka University Tea-

chers' Association (DUTA), in a

statement, demanded the

government take legal action against Maulana Huq immediately for his reported remarks at the Manik Miah Avenue rally The teachers also urged the Khatib to withdraw his re-

marks and called upon him to seek an 'unconditional apol-JSD presidium member Kazi Aref Ahmed and general secretary Hasanul Huq Inu, in a statement yesterday, strongly

condemned the statement of Maulana Obaidul Hug. The leaders said the Maula na's remarks have undermined the spirit of the Liberation War

and the war itself. Convenor of the Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) Kha leguzzaman, in a statement yesterday, also criticised the audacious' remarks of Maulana Obaidul Hug.

Draft

From Page 1 Col 3 cooperative forum added impetus in forging cooperation within South Asia.

They reviewed the followup actions regarding the consensus on eradication of poverty from South Asia; the status of implementation of earlier decisions taken by the SAARC Council of Ministers, as well as cooperation with international, regional and other organisations, the SAARC visa exemption scheme. They also considered inclusion of new categories.

The recommendations of the standing committee on the establishment of the South Asian Development Fund (SADF) were also considered.

The foreign ministers also reviewed the decisions of previous SAARC summits on the disabled, on the youth of the region and on establishment of networking arrangements in the fields of biotechnology and genetic engineering, energy modelling techniques and other identified areas of cooperation in science and technology They also reviewed the sta-

tus of implementation of the relevant year's part of the plan of action for the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child (1991 to They discussed the date

and venue for the next SAARC summit and the next SAARC Council of Ministers meeting and also the question of holding of South Asian festivals on a regular basis. Foreign Minister ASM Mos-

tafizur Rahman is chairing the

two-day conference being participated by Pakistan Foreign Minister Sarder Aseff Ahmad Alt, the Indian State Minister for External Affairs R L Bhatia. Bhutanese Foreign Minister Lyonpo Dawa Tsering, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister ACS Hameed, the Maldives Foreign Minister Fatullah Jameel and the Nepalese Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Ram

Hari Joshi.

told an OIC session in this Saudi city, reports AFP.