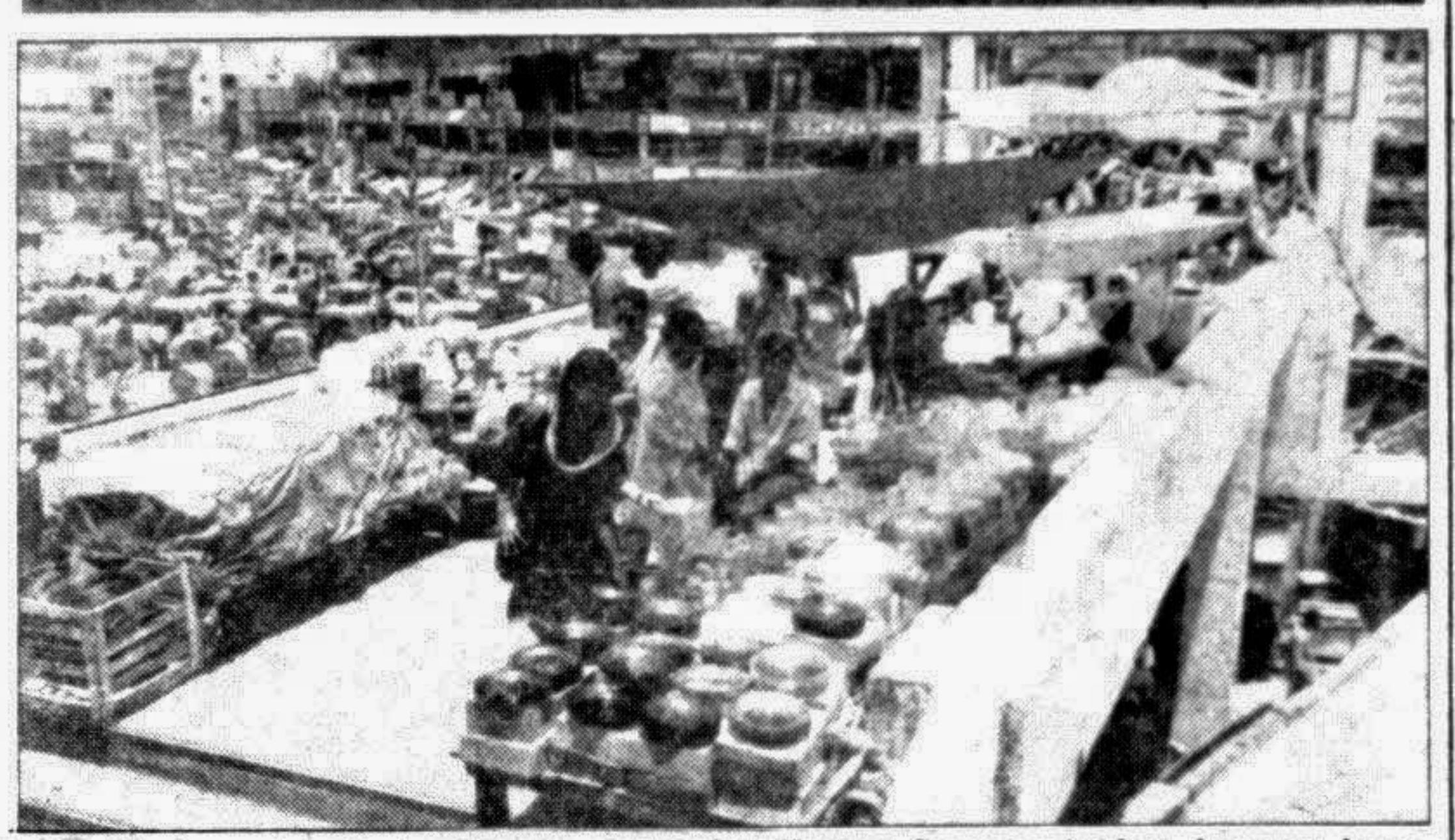


## SAVE DHAKA



The Dhaka metropolis has become a city of traffic jam. Some overbridges, however, have been constructed to help pedestrians cross the roads avoiding the irritating congestion of vehicles. But these overbridges have been occupied by street vendors who are doing business at the cost of people's sufferings. This picture, taken yesterday, from Newmarket area, — Star photo by Enamul Huq

## Water talks this month

From Page 1

definite date for the launching of SAPTA was a big achievement. To make SAPTA operational, it has yet to be ratified by four out of the seven member countries of the SAARC including Bangladesh, he said. SAPTA is due to become operational from December 8 this year.

Faroq Sobhan said that under SAPTA, Bangladesh has offered 12 items with ten per cent duty reduction, Bhutan has offered concessions on 11 items while India has offered concessions on 106 items, ranging from 10 to 100 per cent. The average reduction of duty offered by India was around 50 per cent, he explained.

The next meeting of SAARC Council of ministers will be held on December 8 in New Delhi coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the launching of the organisation.

The second meeting of the SAARC finance ministers will also be held shortly.

A special meeting for strengthening the SAARC Secretariat will be held some time in April, he said.

## Maid murder

From Page 1

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is expected to pay an official visit to Bangladesh shortly.

Benazir would be coming at the invitation extended by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia during her recent trip to Islamabad, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan said yesterday.

Prime Minister of Nepal Man Mohan Adhikary and Deputy Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal have also accepted invitations to visit Bangladesh in the near future. Madhav Kumar Nepal, who is also his country's Defence and Foreign Minister is likely to arrive in Dhaka on an official visit very shortly.

Meanwhile, it was confirmed yesterday that President of the Philippines Fidel Ramos will be coming to Bangladesh on a three-day visit sometime in September.

Earlier, on Saturday, defence lawyer stated in the court that Monowara had joined work in Roksona's house just seven days back and she fell down from the house while trying to flee with a gold necklace.

On the other hand, Court Inspector Shahjahan stated that the accused were involved in various anti-social activities and two cases against Roksona were now under trial.

## Dhaka may seek foodgrains under SAARC Scheme

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh may be the first country to put to test the SAARC Food Security Scheme by asking for a specified quantity of foodgrains.

The request for foodgrains is likely to be directed at both India and Pakistan in view of the production shortfall during the current harvesting season.

Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan told newsmen yesterday "It is quite possible that Bangladesh may seek some rice under the Food Security Scheme of SAARC."

He said India is supposed to have 1,20,000 tons of foodgrains under the scheme and that Dhaka would have twelve months to return the loaned quantity.

The Foreign Secretary said that Bangladesh was already trying to procure rice from Pakistan and India. "Both prime ministers have given assurance to give whatever rice we require on a private basis and also on a government to government basis."

Farooq Sobhan added, "We will put to test the SAARC Food Security Scheme and see how quickly we can get food."

## Bihar

Bangladesh strongly favours an early repatriation of the remaining stranded Pakistanis.

Replies to questions at a news briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the foreign secretary said that the Bangladesh Prime Minister during her recent meetings with her Pakistani counterpart in Islamabad and also with Pakistan President in New Delhi insisted on a timetable for the repatriation.

But the Pakistan side said that it was very difficult for them to set a timetable because of Pakistan's domestic compulsions, he added.

Replies to a question, he said that the Bangladesh side also called for a settlement to the assets and liabilities issue between the two countries.

## Saudi forces

From Page 1

Tehran accused Washington of seeking to impose its will on the world through "blackmail" and said it saw a confrontation as becoming inevitable.

Interior Minister Nayef Ibn Abdalaziz last Sunday warned that Riyadh would use "all means" to make Iranians and others respect the ban on political rallies, imposed here for the third consecutive year.

"We will be firm and will not allow any threat to the pilgrimage and the security of the holy sites," Prince Nayef said.

## Tagore's birthday

From Page 1

and the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina in separate messages expressed their deep respects to the great poet and recalled his immense contributions in Bangla literature.

The government has arranged a three-day programme in the capital and two-day ones at Shahjadpur in Sirajganj, Shelaibah in Kushtia and Patiara in Naogaon.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the main programme at the Shilpakala Academy in the city at 7 in the evening.

Shipping Minister MK Anwar, State Minister for Establishment Barrister Anamul Huq and the State Minister for Irrigation Mosharraf Hussain Shahjahan are scheduled to open the programmes at Patiara, Shahjadpur and Shelaibah respectively.

This is the first case of recovering liquid heroin in the country. Liquid heroin is injected into the body and it is more dangerous than the heroin in powder form. Injection of liquid heroin may cause AIDS and Hepatitis-B, experts say.

## Three killed in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Three persons including a minor boy died and two others were injured in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Twelve-year-old Babu who was missing since Saturday morning, was found dead on the bank of the river Buriganga yesterday morning.

Police recovered his body and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue.

Police suspected that he was drowned.

Babu, son of one Mohammad Abdul Fazal, was a residence of Raza Srinath Street, Lalbagh.

A garments worker reportedly committed suicide at Malibagh Chowdhury Para early yesterday.

The worker, who was identified as Taslima Begum, 20, allegedly killed herself by hanging.

One Mohammad Ekhlas Uddin Sheikh aged about 35 also killed himself by hanging at Chalir Bari under Gulshan police station Saturday night.

Both the bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue.

Two SSC examinees were injured when two groups of muscle men clashed at Khilgaon yesterday afternoon.

The victims Mohammad

## ALCWC meets today

The Awami League Central Working Committee ALCWC will meet at the party's Dhammendi office at 7 pm today, reports UNB.

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Bangabandhu Memorial Trust has decided to set up a hospital, Maternity Centre and Child Health Complex, in memory of Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib, wife of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The decision was taken at a meeting with Sheikh Hasina, President of the Trust, in the chair yesterday.

The meeting recalled with gratitude the contribution of Begum Fazilatunnesa to the entire life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, democratic movement and the War of Liberation.

The trust also decided to set up youth training and orphange centres after the names of Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Rasel.

The airlines which is now operating five flights per week between the two cities, henceforth from May 15, will have four weekly flights on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Indian Airlines sources said adding reduction of passenger load resulted in lessening the number of flights.



Miss Universe Sushmita Sen of India yesterday displaying diamonds worth 33000 US dollar which is part of the prize for the beauty pageant to be held in Windhoek, Namibia, on May 13. — AFP photo

## The Midnight File

## Tamil rebels build runway

COLOMBO, May 7: Tamil rebels have built a runway on an abandoned British air strip in Mankulam, about 250 kilometers (160 miles) north of Colombo, a news report said today. The guerrillas may use a glider for attacking government targets. The Sunday Times newspaper said quoting military intelligence reports, reports AP.

PARIS, May 7: Conservative Jacques Chirac is to be the next French president after defeating Socialist Lionel Jospin in the run-off ballot today, according to computer projections broadcast by national television, reports AFP.

The projections gave the Paris mayor about 52 per cent against 48 per cent for Socialist Lionel Jospin, according to projections by the BVA, CSA and Sofres polling institutes.

Although opinion polls released before a publication ban a week ago gave Chirac a 55-45 per cent margin, the Paris mayor has warned his supporters against complacency and urged a high turnout. Jospin equally insisted the race was still open.

The surveys showed 20 per cent of voters had not yet made their mind up. In the April 23 first round of the election, Jospin proved forecasts wrong to take first place.

The victim Abdul Malek, 30, died on the spot, cantonment police said.

The bodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

UNB adds: Two persons were killed and 25 others injured when a passenger bus skidded off the road and fell into a road side ditch on the Pabna-Ishurdi highway near Gati in Chatmohar thana.

Of the victims, one was identified as Abdul Majid, 35 of Bahadurpur in Chatmohar thana while the identity of another man could not be known immediately.

The injured were rushed to Pabna Sadar Hospital where condition of Motahar, 25, Khokon, 20, Akbar Ali, 25, and Rustam Ali, 28, were stated to be critical.

The accident occurred when the Chatmohar bound bus tried to give way to a truck coming from opposite direction. The driver of the bus fled the scene.

Two children were killed in separate accidents on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway.

In one incident at Ulapara thana, Asma, 8 was run over by a speeding Baghabari bound lorry when she was crossing the road at 9 am.

In the other accident, Abdul, a nine year old boy, was knocked down by truck when he was trying to cross the road at Bhuiyati in Raiganj thana at 10 am.

The victim was identified as Abdul Rashid, 55.

## Probe body

From Page 1

away from him the fertiliser he was granted by the district administration for distribution among the farmers.

"I shall submit my statement to the commission. Earlier, I had also submitted such report to the district administration," he said and asked whether those responsible would be punished.

The enquiry commission staff said they would also visit certain places to verify the authenticity of allegations made by different quarters.

The response from the people about the enquiry was quite satisfactory. Persons concerned were coming and giving their statements, he added.

## Biswas

From Page 1

visiting heads of state and government.

The reception, held at the Guildhall, seat of the Corporation of London, was followed by a banquet which was hosted by Lord Mayor Christopher Walford at the great hall there.

At the Guildhall entrance, President Biswas and Begum Rahman were received by Prime Minister John Major, Mrs Major, Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

President Biswas during the banquet exchanged views with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the Speaker of the Pakistan National Assembly, the Foreign Minister of Bosnia Herzegovina and the British Opposition Labour Leader.

## Water issue

From Page 1

farmers in the Bangladeshi districts of Kushtia, Chittagong, Jhenaidah and Magura, Dhaka has said.

Experts say the resultant water shortage is also affecting the Sundarbans mangrove forests threatened by increasing salinity.

Rao, after the summit of the South Asian Association ended, said domestic shortages had led to the damming up of the Ganges with a barrage at Farakka, and that the step was not aimed at harassing Bangladesh.

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