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FM holds official talks in Yangon

veved best wishes of the Chair

man Than Shwe to Bangladesh

three-day visit yesterday morn-

ing, the Bangladesh Foreign

Minister was received by Lt

General Khin Nyunt. Secretary-

1 of the SLORC. Myanmar For-

eign Minister U Ohn Gyaw, and

Director General (Protocol)

Thura A Aung Htet were present

was received by the Vice Chair-

man of SLORC Deputy Com-

mander in Chief. Defence Ser-

vices and Commander-in-Chief

(Army) on behalf of the SLORC

chairman. Senior General

Than Shwe, who had to leave

Bangladesh Foreign Minister

attended a lunch hosted by am

bassador Chowdhury Khale-

quzzaman. The lunch was at-

tended by Myanmar Foreign

Minister U Ohn Gyaw, senior

eign Affairs, Immigration and

Population, Home Affairs and

City Jubo League

leader shot

By DMC Correspondent

A Jubo League leader sus-

tained serious bullet injuries in

his head when a gang of

him in the Tejgaon industrial

contractor, came under attack

when he was passing the road in

front of Dhaka Packaging In-

dustry at about 12:30 pm, said

his relatives. He was admitted

to the Dhaka Medical College

Hospital (DMCH) in a critical

condition, hospital sources

the Awami Jubo League, Nuruz-

zaman has his business cham-

ber near the packaging indus-

President of Ward-37 unit of

The reason behind the attack

Nuruzzaman Bahadur, 30. a

area of the city yesterday.

unidentified people attacked

Relief Resettlement.

officials of the Ministry of For

In the afternoon, the

Yangon urgently on Tuesday

Later Abdus Samad Azad

On the second day of his

Prime Minister.

on the occasion.

Bangladesh and Myanmar vesterday held an official talks in Yangon and discussed bilateral matters of mutual interest including the exchange of visits of high defence personnel, repatriation of Myanmar refugees from Bangladesh and cooperation in various fields, specially in the economic sector, according to a message received in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, led the Bangladesh side in the talks while the Myanmar Vice Chairman of State Law and Or der Restoration Council (SLORC) General Maung Aye and Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw represented the Myanmar side in the talks.

During the talks Bangladesh Foreign Minister conveyed the best wishes of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to SLORC chairman Than Shwe. The Vice Chairman of the SLORC warmly reciprocated and con-

AL MP assaulted

From Page 1

Chowdhury, while talking to newsmen at the Chittagong Press Club, blamed the activists of BNP for the attack on him.

He alleged that the unruly activists had dragged him down from the car and hit him with iron rods on his back at around 3 pm today while he was on his way to the AL candidate's house. He said his car was put on fire and three others with him were also injured.

Comments from the BNP were not immediately available in this regard.

The Chandanaish constituency witnessed a series of clashes in the past few days between the supporters of AL and BNP centering the by-election there tomorrow, police said.

A clash this morning at Chandanaish between the supporters of AL and BNP left several persons injured, police Against the backdrop of ten

sion, security has been tightened around all the 69 polling centres at Chandanaish, officials said.

From Page 1

ment lobby while the JS was in

said on condition of anonymity

that they were confident of

winning at least 3 out of 4 seats

vacated by the party chairman

in Rangpur and Kurigram dis-

tricts and another in Perojpur-

2 constituency. "Our candidate

will give a tough fight against

BNP's Moudud Ahmed in

ment of Sheikh Hasina, it is

only natural for us to help the

Awami League to win in the

constituencies where we have

no strong chance to win," the JP

constituency vacated by Ershad,

the JP leader evading a direct

reply said: "The Prime

Minister's brother in law, Prof.

Wahed Miah, is contesting for

the seat from Awami League."

Wahed Miah is the brother of

Sheikh Hasina's husband, Dr.

candidate from Bagerhat-1

constituency, where Sheikh

Helal Uddin, a first cousin of

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

is fighting from Awami League.

JSD candidate was withdrawn

his candidature for Laxmipur-2

constituency. Col (retd) Zafar

Imam of the Jatiya Party, who

was also scheduled to contest

for the seat has withdrawn.

Moudud Ahmed of BNP is con-

the ruling party's negotiation's

with the JP and JSD, two influ-

ential leaders of the party nei-

ther confirmed, nor ruled out it.

of the BNP leadership is opti-

mistic about Jamaat support

for their candidates in the by-

elections. "To the best of my

knowledge, with the June 12

election debacles, the district

level leaders of the Jamaat are

not happy with the party high

command's past hob-nobing

with the Awami League," a

member of the BNP high com-

mand said adding: "We hope

that this time Jamaat support-

ers would be voting for our can-

Jamaat leader Matiur Rah-

man Nizami, however, told The

Daily Star on Tuesday that his

party had sent no directives

asking their members to vote

for any particular party. "The

central leadership of our party

have left the issue to the rank

didates."

On the other hand, a section

When asked separately about

testing for the seat.

In another development, a

The JP has withdrawn a

When asked about Rangpur-6

"As a partner of the govern-

Laxmipur-2 constituency.

leader added.

Wajed Miah.

meeting was held at the parlia

Laxmipur-2 111 observers may monitor today's polls

From Our Correspondent LAXMIPUR, Sept 4: A total of 111 polls observers have requested the Election Commission to allow them to monitor the by election in Laxmipur-2 constituency, according to polls officials here.

Of them, 24 are from the US embassy in Dhaka. 50 from the Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA), 39 from the Bangladesh Human Rights Coordination Council, two from the Lawyers Forum and 5 from the High Commission of UK in Dhaka.

Of the 24 intending observers from the US embassy. eight are its own officials and the rest are local. Of the 5 from the UK High Commission, 3 are its own officials while two are locals, the officials said.

The Laxmipur-2 constituency comprises 15 unions and one municipality covering two thanas. There are 1,82,508 voters, 1,20,019 male and 80.289 female.

The EC has set up 73 polling centres and 373 polling booths in the constituency

Officials of the district administration talking to The Daily Star said that 19 polling centres have been identified as "trouble spots" in the constituency and for each of these centres one magistrate would be on duty.

A total of 47 magistrates will be on duty in all the polling centres of the constituency.

50 polling centres 'vulnerable' in 2 Bogra seats

From Our Correspondent BOGRA, Sept 4: A total of 50 polling centres out of 190 in tomorrow's by-elections in two constituencies have been identified as 'vulnerable' by the local district administration.

The Deputy Commissioner Shafiul Karim, told The Daily Star that arrangements have been made for deployment of additional forces in these vulnerable centres.

In each of the other centres, 17 armed police men have been deployed. Besides, the army would be on patrol duty in the two constituencies to which byelections are being held.

Indian FM

From Page 1

Replying to a question, the A central leader of the JP Jamaat leader said: "Leaders of both AL and BNP had approached us for support, but we did not commit anything to any

party. UNB adds: Meanwhile the authorities slammed a 48-hour ban on poll campaign and carrying of firearms in the bypolls areas from midnight last

Strong contingents of army, BDR, police and Ansar were also deployed in the areas to ensure free and fair votings. Sources said nearly 3,000

army personnel were deployed yesterday. A platoon of 100 troops have been deployed in each of the 24 thanas in the 15 constituencies.

The army troops will be stationed for five days till next Monday, apparently to guard against possible post-election violence. About 200 army officers have been given the charge of byelection duty.

In each polling centres, 27 army, BDR, police and ansar personnel will be posted. A 4-member task force con-

sisting of the representatives from Establishment and Home Ministries have been formed to oversee the polls as a whole.

A total of 628 magistrates have been posted in the 15 constituencies. Each magistrate will look after two polling cen-

The Election Commission also imposed total ban on plying of motorbike, babytaxi, microbus, jeep and pickup on roads and mechanised boat and speed boat in waterways form 6 am yesterday till 6 am Friday in all the thanas where byelections will be held

However, the restriction will not be applicable for the vehicles of contesting candidates, persons having legal identity cards, polling agents, election observers, journalists and officials to be engaged in conducting polls and emergency services like ambulance, fire ser-

vice, electricity and gas supply. It also imposed total ban on carrying licenced arms from midnight last night to Saturday

midnight in the areas. The Election Commission has given permission to some 4000 election observers both from home and abroad to monitor the election. Foreign observers from Commonwealth Secretariat, India, USA, Russia, Japan, UK and Malaysia will monitor the by-polls.

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could not be known imme diately. However, relatives claimed that pro-BNP Jubo Dal activists were involved in the By-elections today

and file. They are free to vote

for any candidate belonging to

any political party in the by-

level between the two neigh bours that was not previously addressed for several years.

The official level talks between the two sides will take place for nearly two hours on Saturday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Gujral will had the Indian side while Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad will lead Bangladesh side in the

The agenda for the talks are likely to be open-ended, covering all bilateral issues with an aim towards resolving those through dialogue and mutual understanding, another official said. Both sides are however expected to raise several issues at

the talks, the official added. During his stay here the Indian External Affairs Minister will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September 8. He will also have meetings with Finance Minister S A M S Kibria, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak.

Guiral is likely to visit the Bangla Academy during his stay. He is due to address a press conference on September 9 prior to his departure.

PM: Coast guard From Page 1

stop river erosion in the district. In this regard she asked officials concerned to suggest ways and means of putting an end to this menace, according of UNB.

Referring to a demand for inroduction of honours course in Bhola Government College, the Prime Minister said the matter would be looked into. Responding to a demand for

increasing salary of the nongovernment college teachers she said decision in this regard would be taken in due course. Earlier, the prime minister went to Tulatuly Bazar area to see the condition of the people

who lost their home due to erosion by the Meghna. Addressing a spontaneous gathering at Dania beside the river Meghna, seven-kilometre from Bhola town, Hasina assured people suffering river erosion of her government's allout effort at protection of the

region from this disaster. She said steps would be taken to rehabilitate those who have lost their homesteads to the river. "We will take steps to enable them to lead a healthy, happy life," she said.

Hasina directed the officials concerned to distribute 'khas land' among the real landless and people suffering river erosion. She announced an amount of Tk ten lakh for the affected people of the area and distributed saree and lungi among them.



Kazi Nazrul Islam. -Star photo

Khaleda: By-election

From Page 1 agents during the byelection. We've already realised what is going to happen tomorrow.

The BNP chairperson said they have no other option but to launch street movement against those who continue repression on the people and does not practise democracy, nor even respect the High Court or-

She called upon the government to stop harassment and punishment transfer of the bank employees. Otherwise, Begum Zia said, her party would be compelled to come out into the streets to protest repression and protect rights of the bank employees. The former prime minister

said her government had allowed the employees of every organisations to work independently and without any hindrance, irrespective of their political affiliations.

But she alleged that after assuming power only two months ago, the present government has started creating pressure on the employees to joint the ruling party. They are politicising each and every organisation.

Refuting the allegations against her regime, Begum Zia challenged her political opponents to specifically name the organisations where politicisation was made.

Leaders of different pro-BNP employees' associations of Sonali, Janata, Agrani, Uttara Rupali and Pubali banks addressed the meeting. They apprised the BNP chairperson of the harassment and punishment transfer of bank employ-

The government is planning to privatise the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) as per the prescription of the World Bank, the bank employees leaders alleged and also accused the government of politicising the banking administra-They requested the Leader of

the Opposition to take the initiative for building resistance against repression, harassment and transfer of bank employees and for realising their demands, including a separate pay scale for them.

Those who addressed the meeting included BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuivan, Sramik Dal General secretary Nazrul Islam Khan, Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP. Bangladesh Bank Employees Federation president B M Bakir Hossain and general secretary A K M Shamsuddin, Moham madullah Chowdhury, Tofazzal Hossain, Enayetul Karim, Q M Kabir, Emdadul Haq Manik and Khan Azizur Rahman.

Flood situation

Our correspondent in Pabna reports that following further worsening of the flood situation, direct road communication between Pabna and other districts has been disrupted. Ferry services between Paksey and Bheramara are not operat-

At least 500 buses, trucks with perishables goods and other vehicles are stranded. This correspondent yesterday visited at least 22 flood-affected villages under Pabna Sadar thana and found thousands of men, women and children marooned with no arrangements for their rescue.

According to our correspondent in Kushtia, flood situation in the district has further worsened following continued rise of the water level of the Ganges,

Peace at DU

From Page 1

mitories, the meeting decided that all such students would be summoned in their hall auditoriums and would be allowed to enter the hall after verifying their identity cards in presence of the VC, the proctor, teachers concerned and student leaders, meeting sources said. The student organisations

will not shelter any "terrorist" and will not demand release of any 'terrorists' if arrested, the leaders agreed in the meeting. They also decided that po-

lice, during raid on halls, will be able to arrest any person from the halls in presence of the Provost and house tutors. meeting sources said. The meeting also agreed that

the university authorities would recommend the release of arrested students including JCD president Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie if there were no specific cases against them, the sources added. The meeting which contin-

ued late into the night will resume this afternoon and a peace accord is likely to be signed. The student leaders also reached a consensus that they would take a stand against the

party or parties who would violate any terms of the agreement, meeting sources said. Meanwhile, a meeting of the DU Syndicate will be held at 8 pm today with the acting VC in the chair, according to DU au-

thorities.

Gorai and Mathabhanga rivers. Some 50 thousand people have been marooned all over the district but the most affected areas are in Daulatpur thana where the Raita Mohiskundi flood protection embankment has breached at sev-

eral places. Twenty-five villages of 8 unions of Daulatpur thana are badly affected.

Road communication between the southern and the northern part of the country remains disrupted as before because of the bad condition of the ferry ghats which are being shifted frequently due to rise in the water level.

Some 250 families in Kumarkhali thana have been ren-

dered homeless. UNB adds: Five minor boys drowned in the flood water in Raiganj thana of Sirajganj dis-

trict in the last three days. The victims were identified as Abdus Salam, 7, Nikhil, 8, Sorman Ali, 6, Imon, 5 and Khaibar. 7.

Meanwhile, low-lying areas of Raiganj, Kazipur and Chowhali thanas were inundated due to heavy rainfall. Standing crops on about 2200 hectares of land were damaged.

Some 161 families in Kazipur, Chowhali and Shahjatpur thanas were rendered homeless in last 24 hours due to erosion by the river Jumuna. Another UNB report adds: The flood situation of Rajshahi

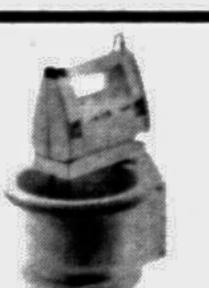
and Nawabgani districts is

damage to the roads, embank-

likely to aggravate further as the Ganges and the Mohananda continue to rise during the next 24 hours ending 6 am today. A Flood Information Centre bulletin's warning yesterday gave the local officials repeated direction to remain alert in the wake of flood which may cause

ments and culverts in the districts. Besides, flood situation of Manikganj, Munshiganj and Dhaka districts are likely to deteriorate.

The bulletin said the Ganges Tamij maket road area here at continued to rise at all points except at Pankha while the Brahmaputra recorded fall at all points except at Aricha during the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday.



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Arafat, Netanyahu hold talks

EREZ, Gaza Strip, Sept 4: Is-raeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said after meeting for the first time today they were committed to making peace, reports Reuter.

"I would like to emphasise once again our commitment to cooperation with Israel, our commitment to all aspects of the agreement with Israel in accordance with agreements signed," Arafat told a news conference after an hour long meet

"Both parties reiterate their commitment to the interim agreement and their determination to carry out its implemen-

tation," Netanyahu said. But he added: "We have to take into account the needs and requirements of both sides on the basis of reciprocity and the assurance of the security and well-being of both Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Netanyahu said Israel and he Pelestinians wanted to "advance the issues of concern to

College student murdered in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Sept 4: A college student was killed of by an armed gang at the Jalalabad residential area of the town tonight.

Police said, Babul Ahmed Hira, 19, son of Abdur Rashid of 8. Jalalabad residential area and a 2nd year student of the MC College was called out of his house by a group of seven youngmen at 7:30 pm.

After he came out, the youths pushed a needle into his left chest and left him. He was immediately taken by local people to the Sylhet MAG Hospital where doctors declared him

The joint-convenor of the Sylhet district JCD, Shamsuzzaman has claimed that the victim was an active member of the organisation and alleged that an armed gang of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists killed him. A case has been registered

with Kotwali police.

From Page 1 with heavy anti-aircraft fire,

witnesses said. It was not immediately known what caused the explosions.

Reporters in their offices said they heard about a dozen large explosions in Baghdad. The ground was shaking in some areas, a Reuters corre-

spondent said. The night-sky was lit up with anti-aircraft fire. Air-raid warning sirens blared.

Iraqi army said one Iraqi was killed and seven were wounded in a second US missile strike today. "Our casualties are one mar-

tyr and seven wounded," the army said in a statement read on television, without specifying if they were soldiers or civilians.

The army also said several cruise missiles were shot down. The strike came 12 hours after President Clinton warned that a defiant Saddam Hussein must 'pay a price' for his boldest

aggression since the Gulf War. Acknowledging that the first effort had fallen short, Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said: "This is what we would call a mop-up operation.

AL worker

From Page 1

up a BNP student activist Manzur Elahi Manzu, and with the help of police sent him to

the thana custody. Superintendent of police of Laxmipur, talking to The Daily Star, said that Manzu was sent to the thana custody as his name appeared in the FIR lodged against the killing of

Abdus Sattar. Advocate Kazi Iqbal, General Secretary of the local Jubo League unit told The Daily Star that Abdus Sattar and his brother was stabbed at Char Rahita Tuesday night. He added that two other AL workers, Zahir and Suman, also received bullet injuries at Char Samita He also blamed the district administration for its failure to arrest the culprits.

The Resident Medical Officer (RMO) of Laxmipur Sadar Hospital said that the injured were admitted to the hospital Tuesday night. Abdus Sattar died in early hours Wednesday. Others were under treatment in the same hospital. The district Secretary Gen-

eral of BNP refuted the allegations against his party and said that AL with the help of the district Administration has let loose a reign of terror in the The nemaz-e-Janaja of Abdus Sattar was held at the

around 5:30 pm Wednesday. The workers and leaders of the AL earlier brought out a procession and marched carrying the body. He was later buried at a local graveyard.

CEC's call to cast votes spontaneously

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena yesterday called upon all concerned to caste their votes spontaneously in today's byelection in 15 constituencies, reports BSS.

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In a statement on the eve of the by election, the CEC said measures have been taken to hold the by-elections in a free and fair manner and the local administration have been asked to conduct the polling remaining above all interfer-ences and influences.

Hena said his commission held several meetings with the political parties on the law and order issue during the polls and they have assured him of cooperation particularly in seizure

Hilsha worth Tk 2 cr rot in 3 days

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Sept 4: Hilsa fish worth over Tk two crore was rotten in the coastal areas during the last three days.

According to the wholesale fish traders of Kalapara and Mahipur, the fishermen are catching a large number of hilsa fish every day but failed to preserve the fish due to shortage

ice could not be produced due to irregular supply of electricity in the coastal areas. Ice producers in Barguna, Patrakhali and Patherghara said continuous load sheding and irregular power supply were hampering the production of ice.

2200 Barisal, the biggest whole sale market in the region. Rapid Action Force

One maund of hilsa fish was

being sold at Tk 1500 to Tk

modern gadgets.

Officials said the force will comprise 2,000 police personnel and it will be provided with special training for the sole purpose of containing terror-

Groups of the newly created Rapid Action Force would be spread over the six police ranges of the divisional headquarters and four metropolitan areas. "So that they could easily move to any part of the country within the shortest possible time," said an official

According to the officials, the government is also going to buy two helicopters in its bid to modernise the police force.

Power plant

From Page 1

If 45 million cubic feet gas is extracted everyday the country will get gas from this field for at least 25 years. The estimated value of this gas reserve is Tk

3,000 crore. The Prime Minister said power plant will be a viable project for proper utilisation of the huge gas reserve. "If investors, both local and foreign, get power and gas available, they will invest in this region, they will set up mills and factories."

Hasina said economic activities will gradually increase in the region and people will get jobs in mills and factories. Referring to the government plan for setting up an export

processing zone in Khulna and

expanding the activities of

Chalna port, the Prime Minis-

ter said the gas-burnt power

will be supplied to Khulna and other areas of the region. The economic activities will increase after the setting up of the planned power plant and the people of the region will get electricity for domestic use

also, she said. "Our resources are limited, so we want proper utilisation of the resources," the Prime Minister said asking the officials and workers to works sincerely for the development of the country.

Now there is one gas well at Shahbajpur. A project has been undertaken to drill another gas well for estimating the reserve accurately.

The field is expected to be ready for supplying gas by next December. "But we want to supply the gas after getting its consumers," said M R Osmani, Managing Director of Bangladesh Petroleum Explo-

ration Company Ltd (Bapex). A new horizon of economic activities will be opened after generation of power from this gas field, he said.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Energy Secretary Dr Syed Abdus Samad and Petro Bangla chairman Mosharraf Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

Arsenic gas From Page 1

the tubewell water and died after several days of struggling for life." said Dr Shahnewaz, a member of the team. The team collected water

from eight tubewells of the affected areas and sent samples to Mahakhali. Dhaka for chemical examination. It advised the residents of

the affected villages - Pakshi

to drink tubewell water.

of illegal weapons and check-

ing of terrorism. The CEC said several meetings were also held with divisional, district and thana level officials as well as law enforcing agencies. They have been

given strict directives to take up stern measures against the terrorists and possessors of illegal weapons irrespective of their party or political affiliations. he added.

He said necessary measures have already been taken to ensure the security of voters. polling officials and polling agents at the centres. Hena said the authorities concerned have been warned

that stern measures would be

taken against those who would

fail to perform their duties Hena said armed forces have been deployed at all the 15 con-

stituencies. He said the members of the armed forces would be stationed at all thana headquarters of the constituencies while their mobile units would move to assist

the law enforcing agencies. The CEC said election was the basic foundation of democracy and unless the democratic values were exercised properly. the democracy would be endan-

Farooq From Page 1

before the court at about 2 pm yesterday and sought the fresh remand at the end of 13 days remand in three phases.

The CID prayed for 10 days remand. The court granted a fresh seven-day remand. Two cases were lodged against Farooq with the Cantonment thana after he was ar-

rested on August 13. Two other retired army officers — Col Shariar Rashid Khan and Major Khairuzzaman were also arrested on the same day. They were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail on a 30-day

detention order. Earlier, the court granted three days remand for Farooq on September 1 on the expiry of a four-day remand. The CID first took him on a six-day remand on August 22.

Yasmin murder

From Page 1 legedly raped and murdered by some police personnel in Dinajpur on August 24 last year. 10 of the case Mahfuzur Rahman submitted chargesheet of the Yasmin murder case on May 14 this year. In the chargesheet nine persons were accused, of whom so fur six got bail. The

rest three accused are under jail custody in Dinajpur. Soon after the submission of the chargesheet, the accused appealed to the High Court seeking transfer of the case from Dinaipur to Bogra on grounds of safety and security. The High Court Division gave stay orders

twice upto August 28.

From Page 1 The huge trade deficit between Bangladesh and India is matter of concern, which both countries should be working to reduce, he said. "The 2,000 crore deficit can be greatly wiped out if Indian goods are allowed to pass through Chittagong port for the northeastern states of India. Will such additional income, leading to thousands of new jobs and the resultant investment be bad for Bangladesh

economy?" he asked. " I am raising this question not because I want to avoid talking about water - water you need, and you must get your due share -, but to suggest that there are so many areas of mutual benefit that we are not looking

The recent decision to permit Nepal overland access to Bangladesh, so that it can use the Chittagong port for imports and exports, was an example of the type of changes that India was going for. 'We would like to provide access to the huge Indian market to Bangladeshi goods. I am all in favour of further reducing tariff on goods

from Bangladesh, he said. According to the Indian Foreign Minister, the new Indian government attaches highest priority to settling disputes with neighbours. "In this policy. Bangladesh get the top spot. We believe that if relations between our two countries move faster. SAARC will move faster.

What was holding the region back, according to him was that "We are all prisoners of the past Only if we could unhook ourselves from it." There was problem of old "mindset" on all sides he said. Sighting the example of ASEAN, he said South East Asian countries could go ahead because they could establish cooperative links in trade and commerce even while political and other differences remained. "In South East and East Asia they differ in private and agree in public. But in South Asia we agree in private and differ in public. Thus we become prison-

ers of our political postures. (See Page 5 for the full text

Luxmikunda, Shahapur, Shara Jaynagar and Charruppur - not of the interview)