

SAARC summit likely to be held in Colombo from July 10

By Staff Correspondent

The 10th SAARC summit is now likely to be held in Colombo from July 10 to 12, 10 days ahead of the original schedule. Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Bangladesh SB Autogoda said yesterday.

He said Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar had communicated the new dates to all the member countries.

Asked why the dates were advanced, the envoy replied, "It must have been found convenient to all the countries after informal consultations."

He said Bangladesh has already accepted the new schedule and it is likely that other SAARC countries will also en-

See Page 12 Col 1

**Clinton to visit Bangladesh in Nov**

US President Bill Clinton is expected to visit Bangladesh in the third week of November. Foreign Secretary M Mustafizur Rahman said in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Mustafiz is going to Washington late June or early July at the invitation of Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Karl Inderfurth to discuss preparations for Clinton's visit.

"We are confident that visit will take place," the Foreign Secretary told reporters in the Foreign Office yesterday.

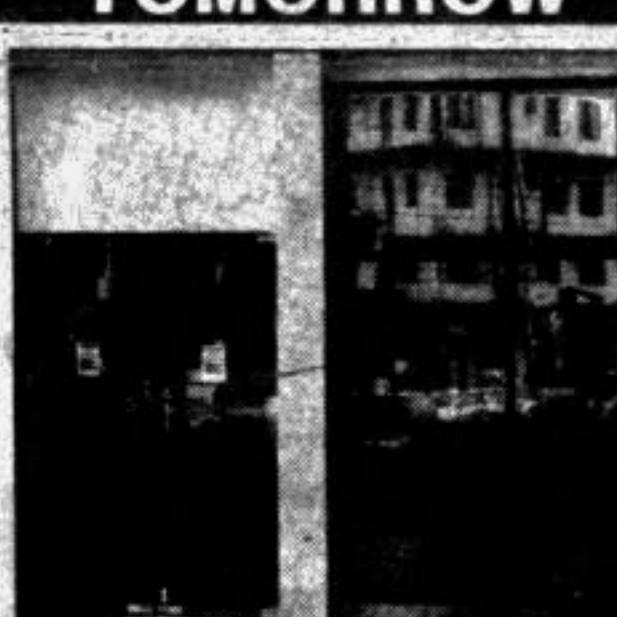
In reply to a question, he said recent development in the

See Page 12 Col 6

**Announcement**

Land grabbing in Uttara: Following our investigative reports on land grabbing incidents in Gulshan, we will start an investigative series on Uttara. Read how the official plan is being deliberately distorted by certain quarters.

**Star MAG TOMORROW**



Read SWM's cover story this week on the customer-friendly new generation banks.

**Inside Today**

**Article**

**Escalating Tensions in South Asia: Call for Sanity and Rationalism**

Column: Panorama by Dilara Chowdhury

Page 4

## 'No first use' of N-weapons India ready to discuss accord with Pakistan

NEW DELHI, May 27: India said today it was ready to discuss a "no first use" agreement on nuclear weapons with Pakistan and other countries bilaterally or collectively, reports Reuters.

A government paper on nuclear policy presented by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to parliament said: "The government on this occasion reiterates its readiness to discuss a no first use agreement with that country (Pakistan), as also with other countries bilaterally, or in a collective forum."

The government paper reiterated that India was a nuclear weapons state and "this is a reality that cannot be denied."

But the paper added: "India, mindful of its international obligations, shall not use these weapons to commit aggression or to mount threats against any country, these are weapons of self-defence and to ensure that in turn India is not subjected to nuclear threats or coercion."

In a separate statement Vajpayee told the lower house of parliament: "We have been and will continue to be in the forefront of the calls for opening negotiations for a nuclear

**Govt determined to recover default loans: Kibria**

**Star Business Report**

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria yesterday warned against "politically-connected" bank loans, seen as the root cause of collapse of Southeast Asian economies.

Vowing to continue reforms and modernisation, he told a launching ceremony of new services by a foreign bank that the government would work towards creating a "new business culture" and a "new banking culture" in the country.

"Let there be no doubt in anybody's mind ... the government is as determined as ever to recover default loans," Kibria said and referred to the newly set-up loan recovery court and bankruptcy court.

The minister, however, said the businessmen should be given a chance to avoid the "stigma" of being publicly branded as loan defaulters.

She called upon opposition

weapons convention, so that this challenge can be dealt with in the same manner that we have dealt with the scourge of two other weapons of mass destruction — through the biological weapons convention and the chemical weapons convention."

**All problems with Bangladesh can be resolved: Advani**

Indian Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani has said there is no such problem between India and Bangladesh that cannot be resolved, reports BSS.

The Indian minister made the comment when BDR Director General Maj Gen Azizur Rahman called on him in New Delhi on Tuesday, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

The BDR DG is now in the Indian capital to attend a conference between BDR and BSF. BSF chief was also present during his meeting with Advani.

Advani instructed the BSF chief to make all out efforts to

See Page 12 Col 7

Vajpayee said his government had already announced a moratorium on further underground nuclear tests.

"We have also indicated willingness to move towards a durable formalisation of this declaration," he added.

An AFP report adds: The Indian Prime Minister today denied that recent nuclear blasts were a politically-motivated move by the ruling Hindu nationalist party.

Vajpayee told parliament members from his nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that such criticism "itself is motivated" and that the tests enjoyed "solid national consensus."

The premier addressed BJP members before the start of parliament's budget session, where he defended the underground detonations and blamed the west for New Delhi's decision to go for nuclear weapons.

Vajpayee's remarks came a day after the main opposition Congress Party said it was not satisfied with the government's argument that the May 11-13 tests were necessitated by deteriorating security in India's neighbourhood.

## HSC exams begin today

The HSC examinations begin today when 5,86,712 candidates are set to appear under the six Boards including a Madrasa Board, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, reports from a number of places including Jessor and Jamalpur said several hundred candidates have not received the admit cards till Wednesday.

The number of candidates for HSC examinations this year is 2 lakh 11 thousand less than that of last year.

Candidates appearing are from the Dhaka Board — 1,63,689, Rajshahi Board — 37,728, Chittagong Board — 38,159, Comilla Board — 77,980, Jessore Board — 93,503 and Madrasa Board — 85,891

See Page 12 Col 8

## Use of calculator to be allowed in HSC exams

By Staff Correspondent

Leakage of question papers of public examinations is a punishable offence and the government would take stern action against those involved in such activities, education ministry officials warned yesterday.

The Higher Secondary Certificate examinations begin today. "Any person found involved in leaking out, publishing and distributing any paper containing questions related to

See Page 12 Col 3

## Proposal for CID squad to check women, child trafficking okayed

The Home Ministry has approved the proposal for setting up a special squad in the Crime Investigation Department (CID) to investigate the incidents of women and child trafficking, acid throwing and child rape, as well as specific rape cases.

Home Ministry sources told BSS yesterday that they had approved the proposal in the last week of April and sanctioned 250 posts.

The squad will have its own network across the country under the supervision of a special superintendent of police and an additional superintendent of police.

Besides, 25 assistant superintendents of police, 68 inspectors, 68 sub-inspectors, 60 assistant sub-inspectors and 20 constables will work in 64 districts and metropolitan areas of

See Page 12 Col 4

## BUETTA to call off strike if Prof Mahmud allowed to function as VC

By Staff Correspondent

The BUET Teachers Association yesterday decided that it would call off the indefinite teachers' strike on getting assurance from the Chancellor's office that Prof Iqbal Mahmud would be allowed to function as the Vice-Chancellor of the university.

"A resolution to this effect was taken during an emergency general meeting of the BUETTA held today," Prof Abdur Razzaq Akand, President of the BUETTA, told The Daily Star.

The Chancellor may communicate a decision to this effect in any way, Prof Akand added. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the Chancellor of the BUET.

Earlier on Tuesday, the BUETTA held a silent procession and delivered a memorandum to the Chancellor. Mahmudur Reza Chowdhury, PS-1 to the Prime Minister received the memorandum from the BUETTA leaders who were intercepted by police near the Shikhab Bhaban near the Secretariat building.

Stalemate at the BUET persists as the teachers are on an

See Page 12 Col 6

## Long march aimed at creating unrest : PM

SAPAHAR, Naogaon, May 27: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today declared BNP's planned long march towards CHT as a design to create unrest in the country, reports UNB.

"BNP and its leader don't want peace and development ... for this they announced the long march," she told a public meeting here.

The Prime Minister said her government restored peace in the hill tracts that witnessed insurgency, instability, blood and death for two decades.

"Awami League is in power for last two years. Did Bangladesh become a part of India? Has Ajan been stopped in mosques?" she said adding that the propaganda against CHT treaty will be proved as a long march?

Referring to BNP leader Begum Khaleda Zia's comment that the long march will be peaceful, the Prime Minister said that the word "peaceful" indicates that they want to create unrest as the programme was called against peace.

"The think they will be able to create unrest in the country

See Page 12 Col 1

BNP and its leaders to give up the path of violence and work for peace and development of the country.

"They have launched propaganda against the historic CHT peace accord as they did before the election that no Ajan will be heard from mosques if Awami League goes to power," she said.

The Prime Minister said her government restored peace in the hill tracts that witnessed insurgency, instability, blood and death for two decades.

"The think they will be able to create unrest in the country

See Page 12 Col 1

## Bangladesh got due share of Ganges water this year'

By M Anwarul Haq

January 1, the JRC member said.

The water received from the Indian side was "above and over the schedule drawn up in the 30-year water accord", said Khalilur Rahman, a leading water expert and one of the architects of the Indo-Bangladesh Ganges water sharing accord.

"Even in the leanest of dry cycle in the third week of April, we received more than 35,000 cusec of water," he said.

Local water experts, however, said that "favourable weather conditions" were the

See Page 12 Col 7

main reasons for the "stipulated flow" of Ganges water to Bangladesh this year.

They said rainfall was very good in the upper reaches of the Ganges and in the catchment areas. Rains had occurred as early as in December last and several times during the 'dry season,' they said.

Mentionably, during the last dry season, the first year following the signing of the accord, Bangladesh, on several days and during many 10-day cycles, received short supply of

water.

See Page 12 Col 7

## Corruption in leasing out shrimp land in Satkhira?

By Morshed Ali Khan, back from Satkhira

While 'landless' villagers complained of atrocity in nine villages under Devhata and Kaliganj thanas in Satkhira in the name of eviction from public land, officials of the district administration denied all allegations and said "nothing of that sort happened" during handover of the land to lease holders on May 10.

Villagers in Jayamari under Kaliganj thana alleged that

a group of about 1,000 armed men attacked the village the next day, May 11, and unleashed a reign of terror, destroying their dwellings indiscriminately.

The problem arose in the shrimp-rich part of the district when the local administration handed over the yearly leased area to some big shrimp producers through 'official tender'. About 1,600 acres of khas

land, highly potential for shrimp culture, had officially remained 'unused' for more than three years due to legal complication. Local people said that during these years, several hundred families moved to the area, built dwellings and each family occupied one acre of land and started to grow shrimps. The families claimed that they were landless, and therefore, hoped that like other cases in the area, they would be allotted the land under the government scheme of rehabilitating the landless.

Deputy Commissioner of Satkhira Dev Dutta Khisha told this correspondent that after receiving a favourable court verdict, the administration floated tender and leased out the waterbody.

"We did everything as per law" said Khisha. "On May 10 magistrates and policemen went to the area and handed over the land to the lease holders."

Top district officials present in the DC's office claimed that as per their investigation those families were 'planted' there by an influential quarter and most of them were not landless. The ADC Revenue who had led the operation on May 10 said that none of the houses, however, were 'disturbed' during the handover programme.

At Jayamari, this corre-



Some victims of alleged atrocities.

— Star photo



A dance sequence at a function at Bangla Academy auditorium in the city yesterday in celebration of the birth centenary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

— Star photo

**Khaleda at long march preparatory meet**

## Mobilise public opinion against CHT accord

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday told a joint meeting of the preparatory committees for the June 9 long march to mobilise public opinion against the 'anti-constitutional' CHT accord, reports UNB.

She said BNP had repeatedly asked the government to prepare for giving a befitting reply to the government by making the long march a success.

BNP and its allies have called for long march towards CHT on June 9 demanding scrapping of the CHT accord and repeal of the laws enacted for its implementation.

The country's sovereignty and integrity are now at stake following the anti-people and anti-national activities of the government. The government has no accountability to the nation as it did not come to power through people's vote," she said.

The meeting at the official

</