



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia with a delegation of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry at her office yesterday.

India must allay suspicion for forging regional ties, says Saifur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said bigger nations in South Asia have to come forward with meaningful efforts and remove 'suspicions' from the psyche of smaller states for a significant cooperation in the region.

He said the smaller nations are suffering from 'historical inherent suspicion' about India, which is the most powerful and the biggest state in the region.

"India has to make a big stride towards removing this suspicion from the minds of its small neighbours for a meaningful regional cooperation," Saifur said at a gathering of civil society representatives of South Asian nations in the city.

He was chief guest at the inaugural session of a two-day 'Policy Dialogue on South Asian Cooperation' at the BRAC Centre.

The South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), an institutional collaboration of leading think-tanks and academic institutions of South Asia, organised the dialogue in association with the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). The two-day programme is an effort by the scholars of the region to focus on crucial areas of cooperation.

SACEPS was floated in February 1998 and publicly launched on January 14, 2001 in Dhaka with the aim to set up a facility for institutionalising social initiatives for strengthening regional cooperation.

Chairman of SACEPS Prof Arjun K Sengupta presided over the inaugural session. Minister for Planning and National Development of the Maldives Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, Executive Director of SACEPS Prof. Rehman Sobhah and a n

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Arms recovered in Fatikchhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Clg

Police recovered three firearms, including a sophisticated submachine gun, and ammunition in a predawn raid on a terrorists' hideout at South Rangamati under Fatikchhari upazila yesterday.

A 150-strong police contingent led by Additional Police Super of Chittagong (north) Aurangzeb Mahboob raided the hideout of the crime cartel led by Osman who defected to the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal from the Tayeb group of the Bangladesh Chhatra League.

The seven-hour raid that started at around 5.30am recovered one

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Listed criminal shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A listed criminal was gunned down allegedly by his rivals in the city's Mohammadpur area yesterday.

Witnesses said a gang of miscreants called Quiyum Sikder alias Paban, 22, out of his house at Babar Road at about noon and shot him. He was rushed to the chest diseases hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Paban was an accused in three cases filed with Mohammadpur thana for murder, extortion and bomb explosion. He was released on bail a few days ago after about four months' detention in Dhaka Central Jail.

Police suspected that he was killed following a feud over sharing of mugged money.

Some sources said the victim was a member of Nata Rubel group, a crime ring based in Mohammadpur area. He quit the gang about two months ago. This angered the gang leaders and that might have led to the killing.

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Prayer Timings

Mar 31

Sun Rises

Sun Sets

6-13 pm

Apr 1

5-51 am

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Mar 31

Azan

5-35

Zohr

12-45

1-15

Asr

5-00

5-15

Maghrib

6-20

6-25

Esha

7-45

8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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