

BFUJ to stage demonstrations today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will stage demonstrations in the capital and other parts of the country today to protest the 'fascist' behaviour of the government that forced the union leaders to cancel a national convention against repression on journalists.

In Dhaka, journalists will stage a sit-in in front of the Jatiya Press Club at 11:00am and similar demonstrations will also be held at other press clubs across the country. BFUJ leaders said at a press conference yesterday.

BFUJ was scheduled to hold the National Convention against Repression on Journalists, Terrorism and Militancy at the Institute of Diploma Engineers (IDE) in the city today. But, they were forced to postpone the convention as the National Security Intelligence, cancelled the booking of the auditorium for convention for security reasons of the Saarc summit in Dhaka.

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina was supposed to attend the convention as chief guest while prominent political leaders from different opposition parties and civil society members were also invited at the daylong convention.

BFUJ leaders said a fresh schedule of the national convention would be announced shortly.

Addressing the press conference at its office at the Jatiya Press Club, BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said the attitude exposed 'undemocratic' behaviour of the government.

He said, "As the convention was against repression and killing of the journalists and families of slain journalists were supposed to be there, the government has proved that they were the patrons of the repression."

He said the BFUJ booked the venue for the convention on October 18.

"But, all on a sudden, the government, in the name of security reason, cancelled the venue just 30 hours ahead of the convention without giving us any notice though it was not under the purview of security areas for the Saarc Summit," he said.

BFUJ secretary general Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul also criticised the government's interference and said, "Journalists are not miscreants. They do not create any security hazards or anarchy."

"It is also a new form of repression and a threat to people's democratic practices," he said.

Govt clarifies

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday said its attention has been drawn to press reports on the postponement of a convention organised by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ).

In a clarification, the government said it wants to make it clear that the scheduled venue - the auditorium of Diploma Engineers Institute - is located inside the 'highly security zone' earmarked for smooth holding of the 13th Saarc summit.

The government, therefore, did not want to take any risk as the convention would be largely attended, including leader of the opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina, which might create security hazards, said an official handout.

There was no political intention behind the postponement of the convention as a number of functions of different social organisations has also been postponed considering the area as the 'high security zone,' the handout said.

Six AL leaders arrested in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police yesterday arrested six Awami League (AL) leaders from different upazilas in Manikganj.

The arrestees are Sattaria upazila AL Joint Secretary Golam Hossain, Sattaria upazila BCL President Anisuzzaman Miran, Sattaria upazila Svecchha Sebak League Convenor Proddut Kumer Appollo, Shivalaya upazila BCL President Khandaker Mizanur Rahman, former Manikganj district BCL joint secretary Rezanul Islam Anjan and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Mahabubul Islam Babu.

When contacted, Manikganj Police Superintendent Abu Bakar Siddik Mazumder said that many cases were filed against the arrestees.

On the other hand, Manikganj district AL President Golam Mohiuddin and Secretary Gazi Kamrul Huda Selim alleged that the government arrested them to foil the AL grand rally in Dhaka on November 22.

JPC postpones Shishu Anandamela

BSS, Dhaka

The Jatiya Press Club (JPC) has postponed Shishu Anandamela programmes scheduled for today following the death of its life member and former president Enayetullah Khan.

Fresh date for the programmes will be announced later.

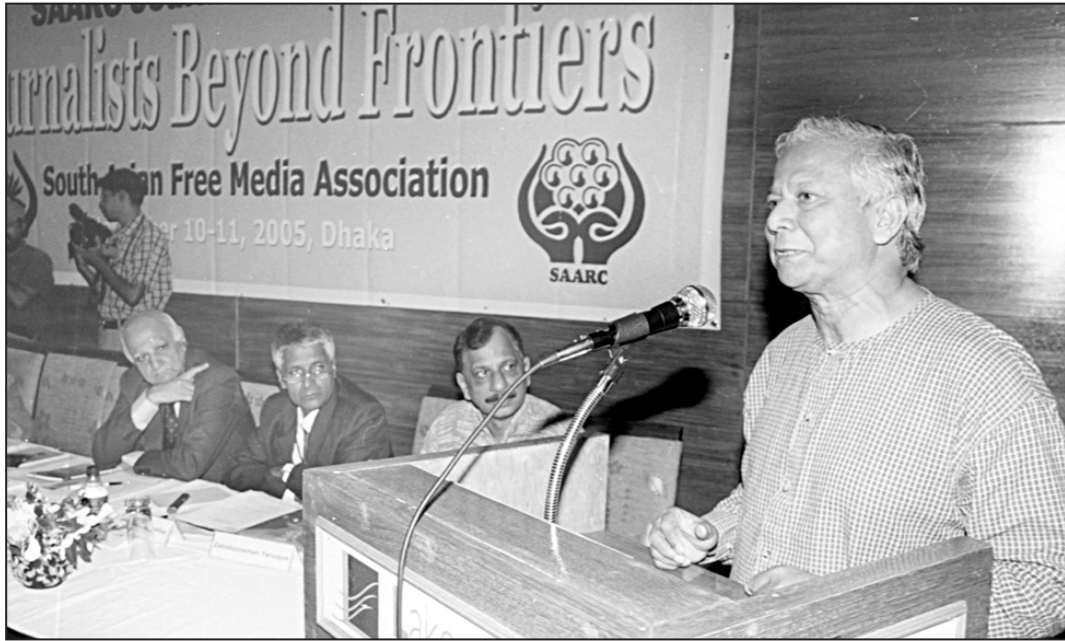


PHOTO: STAR

Dr Mohammad Yunus, managing director of Grameen Bank, speaks at the inaugural session of a conference on 'Journalists Beyond Frontiers' organised by the South Asian Free Media Association at a city hotel yesterday.

Police should be loyal to state

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police administration should be loyal to the state instead of serving every successive government, said the speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They said more facilitates should be provided to police forces to make them more efficient.

The seminar on 'Role of state and people in building up efficient police administration' was organised by Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) at Girdap auditorium in the city.

"We do not want police for the government, rather we want police for the state," said ASM Shajahan, former advisor to the caretaker government.

Speaking as founder secretary general of BSEHR, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda urged the organisation to publish reports on

human rights violation in the developed countries blaming them for pointing fingers only to the underdeveloped ones.

"As most of the reports are prepared by the developed nations, they overlook violation of human rights in their countries and always point fingers to the underdeveloped ones like Bangladesh," he added.

Huda also suggested the publication of the reports on every December 10, the Human Rights Day.

In a keynote paper Advocate Elna Khan, executive director of BSEHR, said no governments in last 34 years took any major initiatives to develop the police forces.

Comparing the performance of Singapore police with that of Bangladesh, she said the government should start community policing and form a separate permanent 'Police Commission' with a former judge as one of its member.

Advocate Elna also called for initiating a monitoring system, which will ensure the accountability of police administration to the people.

She urged people to change their mentality about police and take initiatives to minimise gaps between them at community level.

The speakers also laid emphasis on changing the age-old Police Act, 1861 terming it outdated and 'unfriendly' to people.

BSEHR Secretary General Sigma Huda, Editor-in-Chief of Dainik Manabzamin Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, Advisory Editor of Dainik Amar Desh Ataus Samad, BSEHR National Committee member Jafrullah Chowdhury, and Kothika Rahman of Manusher Jonno also spoke on the occasion.

BSEHR National Committee member Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly presided over the seminar.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Abdul Matin speaks at a press conference at DRU in the city yesterday. On his right are Prof Muzaffer Ahmad and Prof Badiul Alam Majumdar.

SAARC SUMMIT AGENDA

Bapa criticises member states for not including river issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday criticised the South Asian nations for not including the issue of trans-boundary river management and Indian River Linking Project (IRLP) in the agenda of Saarc Summit scheduled to be held on November 12 and 13.

They said the management of trans-boundary rivers should be the first priority in the summit as it is closely linked with the climate, environment, bio-diversity and agriculture of the region.

The Bapa leaders said the silence of Saarc countries on these issues contradicts the aims and objectives of the summit on reducing poverty, combating violence, managing disasters and enhancing regional cooperation.

"We have been demanding cancellation of the IRLP for long and even submitted memorandum to the governments of India and Bangladesh explaining its negative consequences on livelihood, agriculture and ecology, but surprisingly, nothing has happened so far," said Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmed at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium.

He said all the countries in the region have a wrong concept of using the rivers for commercial purposes, which have led to river pollution, environmental degradation, increased salinity and desertification.

Presenting a paper, Coordinator of Trans-Boundary River Group of Bapa Dr

MA Matin said IRLP is the worst culmination of commercial approach of using river as it is based on wrong concept of surplus and deficit river water.

"Saarc loses the right to speak of poverty alleviation when it does not include the issue of IRLP thought to aggravate the poverty status of 400 million people in the vast region of South Asia," he said.

Reduced water flows in the Bangladeshi rivers become critical in the dry season due to diversion of water from the 54 trans-boundary rivers by India, which is likely to worsen if 173 billion cubic meters of water is with-

drawn through the IRLP, Dr Matin added.

Tipaimukh Dam will induce desertification and increased salinity in Sylhet and Mymensingh region, he said.

Farakka Barrage has already contributed to the drying up of 80 rivers and caused reduction of water flow shrinking the rivers into canals and giving rise to 'chars' and salinity mainly in the southern Bangladesh, said Dr Matin, also joint secretary of Bapa.

Bapa central committee member Dr Badiul Alam Majumder also spoke at the press conference.

Nasaka frees 23 Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The Myanmar authorities yesterday released 23 Bangladeshi woodcutters after a flag meeting between the border security forces of the two countries.

Nasaka, the border security force of Myanmar, handed over the Bangladeshi citizens to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), the Bangladesh border security force.

A government source present in the meeting informed that the officials of the both countries agreed to

work together to reduce tension and stop smuggling at the border areas.

In May, the members of the Nasaka caught 23 Bangladeshi woodcutters while they were collecting wood.

The local people said they caught these Bangladeshi woodcutters from Bangladesh area.

On the other hand, the Nasaka alleged that some Bangladeshi citizens often enter their country to do illegal activities. They also alleged that some of these 23 people were caught several times before.

'Govt reluctant to implement CHT Peace Treaty'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is reluctant to implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Treaty that ended a bush war of more than two decades in the region in 1997, said the speakers at a meeting yesterday.

They said since the independence of the country, the CHT region has been virtually under the unbroken spell of army control

that indicated a discriminatory attitude of the successive governments to hill people.

The meeting was organised in memory of Manabendra Narayan Larma, the founder of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), at the Liberation War Museum auditorium in the city.

Some misguided activists of PCJSS assassinated Manabendra on November 10, 1983.

"The assassination of Manabendra was a national and international conspiracy," said Jyotirindra Bodhi Priya Larma alias Santu Larma, the president of PCJSS in his key speech at the meeting.

"Manabendra worked and sacrificed his life not only for the Jumma people but also for the marginal poor people of the country," he said.

Santu Larma, who is also the chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, said the rulers of the country have been depriving and torturing the hill people for long.

Jyotiprova Chakma, elder sister of Manabendra, spoke about the life and character of the deceased.

Rupayan Dewan and Laxmi Prasad Chakma narrated their experiences while working with MN Larma.

The meeting was also addressed by Communist Party of Bangladesh President Monzurul Ahsan Khan, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu, Politburo member of the Worker's Party Haider Akbar Khan Rano, Anthropologist Prof H K Arefin, Labour leader Abdullah Sarkar, and Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolon Rabindranath Soren.

Ajay Roy of Sammilito Samajik Andolon presided over the discussion marked by songs and recitations rendered by both Jumma and Bangali artists.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent reported that the district unit of PCJSS also held a meeting in memory of M N Larma. It was presided over by Birendra Lal Chakma.

The speakers at the meeting demanded full implementation of the peace treaty signed between the government and the PCJSS.

Arms, ammo seized in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday recovered arms and ammunition from an abandoned house at Roosevelt Jetty in Khalishpur.

The recovered arms and ammunition are an Indian pistol, 38 bullets of G-3 rifle, eight bullets of point 32 bore rifle, five bullets of 303 rifle and 27 bullets of shotgun, says a RAB press release.

None was arrested in this regard.

In another incident, Khulna police recovered two fake bombs from Darogapara yesterday noon. Sand and wood dusts were found in some jarda cans wrapped with black adhesive tape.

A general diary was filed with Khulna Police Station in this connection.

The fake bombs were kept to create panic. However, we took this seriously, said DC Akbar Ali of KMP.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hosne Ara Banu, wife of Altaf Meah and a social worker, passed away due to old-age complications at his village home at Dantmara in Fatikchhari yesterday at the age of 70.

She left behind her husband, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Journalist Shafiq Alam, deputy bureau chief of the daily Inqilab in Chittagong, is her son.

Death anniversary



Today is the 48th death anniversary of Major A Ghani, founder of the East Bengal Regiment, says a press release.

Popularly known as Tiger Ghani, he was born in Nagai village under Brammanpur thana in Comilla district on December 1, 1915.

He was awarded the Independence Award posthumously in 1981.

Manmohan

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Honours degree in Economics in 1957. Dr Singh followed this with a D.Phil in Economics from Nuffield College at Oxford University in 1962. His book, "India's Export Trends and Prospects for Self-Sustained Growth" (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1964) was an early critique of India's inward-oriented trade policy.

Dr. Singh's academic credentials were burnished by the years he spent on the faculty of Punjab University and the prestigious Delhi School of Economics. He had a brief stint at the UNCTAD Secretariat as well, during these years. This presaged a subsequent appointment as Secretary General of the South Commission in Geneva between 1987 and 1990.

In 1971, Dr. Singh joined the government of India as Economic Advisor in the Commerce Ministry. This was soon followed by his appointment as Chief Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Finance in 1972. Among the many governmental positions that Dr. Singh has occupied are Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Advisor of the Prime Minister, and Chairman of the University Grants Commission.

In what was to become the turning point in the economic history of independent India, Dr. Singh spent five years between 1991 and 1996 as India's Finance Minister. His role in ushering in a comprehensive policy of economic reforms is now recognized worldwide. In the popular view of those years in India, that period is inextricably associated with the persona of Dr. Singh.

Among the many awards and honours conferred upon Dr. Singh in his public career, the most prominent are India's second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan (1987), the Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Award of the Indian Science Congress (1995), the Asia Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year (1993 and 1994), the Euro Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year (1993), the Adam Smith Prize of the University of Cambridge (1956), and the Wright's Prize for Distinguished Performance at St. John's College in Cambridge (1955). Dr. Singh has also been honoured by a number of other associations including by the Japanese Nihon Keizai Shimbum.

In his political career, Dr. Singh has been a Member of India's Upper House of Parliament (the Rajya Sabha) since 1991, where he was Leader of the Opposition between 1998 and 2004. Dr. Singh and his wife Mrs. Gursharan Kaur have three daughters.

Gyanendra

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Tribhuvan was returned to the throne shortly after, when the Rana family conceded power. Fifty years later, when his nephew Dipendra purportedly staged a murder suicide, killing most of the family, including King Birendra (Dipendra's father, and Gyanendra's brother), Gyanendra became king again.

As king he has sought to exercise active control over the government, twice in three years dismissing the Prime Minister to appoint governments of his choosing. His brother Birendra had negotiated a constitutional monarchy in 1990 in which he, as King, played a minor role in government, and Gyanendra's changes to this constitutional settlement have been met with censure from critics of his government. Gyanendra took control once again on February 1, 2005, accusing prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's government of failing to make arrangements for parliamentary elections and of being unable to restore peace in the country, which currently suffers from widespread terrorism and insurgency from Maoists.

Began his career as the Chairman of Advisory Committee for the Coronation of His late Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah in 1975, King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation from 1982 to 2001, Lumbini Development Trust from 1986 to 1991. He was member of Honour of World Wildlife Fund for Nature, Founding Member: 1001-Nature Trust (1986). Ascended the Throne of the Kingdom of Nepal in 2001. Supreme Commander of the Royal Nepalese Army. He was patron of Royal Nepal Academy of Science of Technology, King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation, Lumbini Development Trust, Pashupati Area Development Trust. He is the Chancellor of Tribhuvan University and Mahendra Sanskrit University.

King Gyanendra represented His late Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah at the ceremony marking the accession of His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck to the throne of Bhutan in 1972. At the Wedding of The Prince of Wales of the UK in 1981. At the funeral of H.E. Josip Broz Tito, President of Yugoslavia, 1980. Others: Inauguration of the Japan Chapter of the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation in Tokyo, Japan, 1986. Attended the World Wildlife Conference in San Francisco, United States of America, 1976.

He studied in Senior Cambridge from St. Joseph's College of Darjeeling in India in 1966 and graduated from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu in 1969. King Gyanendra married Her Majesty Queen Komal Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah in 1970. He has one son and one daughter.

Chandrika

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College Colombo, where she studied for LLB. From there, she went on to the University of Paris, from which she graduated in Political Science. She also obtained a Diploma in Group Leadership from the same University. Her studies for the Ph.D in Development Economics at the University of Paris were interrupted by the call to serve her country, where her mother's government had launched a wide ranging programme of reform and development. While in Paris, she also underwent training in political journalism at the prestigious Le Monde. She is fluent in Sinhala, English and French.

With her academic background in Social Sciences and her practical experience in the field, President Kumaratunga has authored several research papers. Her monograph, "The Janawasa Movement: Future Strategies for Development in Sri Lanka," is an FAO publication. President Kumaratunga has also published papers on the Co-Operative Movement in Sri Lanka, Land and Agrarian Reforms in Sri Lanka, Food Policies and Strategies in Sri Lanka from 1948 to date (a WIDER publication), and the State and Social Structures in Sri Lanka. A monograph on political violence in Sri Lanka is currently in preparation.

President Kumaratunga has been a guest lecturer at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi and the Bradford University in UK. She was a Research Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London from 1988 to 1991. President Kumaratunga inherited the liberal political philosophy of her father, the late SWRD Bandaranaike. In her student days in Paris, she was also greatly influenced by the radical student movement of the 1960s. She has been a full time political activist from her early youth, establishing grass root contacts far and wide throughout the country.

The Provincial Council Elections held in May 1993 represented President Kumaratunga's first entry to electoral politics. She was elected to the Western Provincial Council with an unprecedented majority, and was appointed the Chief Minister of the Province. In August 1994, she contested the Parliamentary General Elections as a member of the People's Alliance party. She was elected to Parliament by an overwhelming majority, and was appointed Prime Minister in the People's Alliance government that was formed on August 19th, 1994. In the Presidential Elections held shortly thereafter in November 1994, she contested as the People's Alliance candidate. She was elected President obtaining a record 62% of the votes cast.

President Kumaratunga has had more than her fair share of personal tragedy in life. She was a school girl when her father Prime Minister SWRD Bandaranaike was assassinated by political opponents. Her charismatic film idol cum politician husband Wijaya Kumaratunga whom she married in 1978 was also slain by political opponents in 1988. President Kumaratunga is the mother of two children - daughter Yosodhara and son Vimukthi.

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Shaukat Aziz

FROM PAGE 20

Corporate and Investment Banking for the Asia Pacific Region, head of Corporate and Investment Banking for Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa Corporate Planning Officer, Citicorp; Managing Director, Saudi American Bank, and Global Head, Private Banking for Citigroup. He was appointed Vice President of Citibank in 1992 and has had 30 years of experience in global finance and international banking.

Shaukat Aziz is a frequent speaker on international finance and has attended numerous forums, seminars and conference on international finance as well as attended management course at several universities. He has been a member of the Board of several Citibank owned entities including Saudi American Bank, Citi Islamic Bank as well as several non-profit organizations.

In November 1999, he was appointed as Pakistan's Minister of Finance with responsibility for Finance, Economic Affairs, Statistics, Planning and Development and Revenue Division. As Minister of Finance, Mr. Aziz is also Chairman of

Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet, Chairman, Executive Committee of National Economic Council and chairman, Cabinet Committee on Privatization. 'Euro Money' and Bankers Magazine' has declared him as the Finance Minister of the year 2001. The democratically elected Government of Prime Minister Jamali has also retained him as Finance Minister, which indicates continuation of Finance and Economic Reforms Agenda. Aziz was elected Senator in 2002.

He was elected as Member National Assembly by election from two constituencies. Shaukat Aziz was sworn in as 23rd Prime Minister of Pakistan on August 28, 2004.

Aziz enjoys golf, music and art. He is married with three children.

Gayoom

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and on completion of his first 5-year term as president, was re-elected on 30 September 1983 for a second term of office polling a record 95.6% of the popular vote.

On 23 September 1988, he was re-elected for a third term of Presidency by the overwhelming majority of 96.4% of the popular vote. On 1 October 1993, he was elected for a fourth term of office winning 92.76% of the popular vote. Again, on 16 October 1998, President Gayoom was elected for an unprecedented fifth term of office with a clear majority of 90.9% of the popular vote. He was last re-elected to a sixth five-year term in October 2003 with 90.28% of the vote.

Born in Male' in 1937 to a middle-class family, he quickly demonstrated a sound academic potential and, following early schooling in the capital, went first to Al-Azhar University in Cairo and later to the city's American University, he obtained an MA in Islamic Studies at the former.

His Degree in Islamic Studies earned him an academic appointment as a Lecturer in that discipline to Nigeria's Abdullahi Bayero College, a faculty of Ahmadu Bello University, a post he held from 1969-1971. However, he returned home to the Maldives soon and began his career of service to the Republic. His first important government appointment was that of Manager of the Maldives Shipping Department, and quickly made Director of Telephone Department. In 1974, he was appointed Special Under-Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office. His first overseas appointment was to the diplomatic post of Deputy Ambassador to neighbouring Sri Lanka. This was followed in two years by his appointment as the Maldives' Permanent Representative to the UN.

He was awarded three Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) by India's Alghur Muslim University in 1983, Jamia Millia Islamia in 1990 and Pondicherry University in 1994. He was also awarded the Global 500 Honour Roll by the UNEP in 1988, International Environment Award by DRV of Germany in 1998, Man of the Sea Award for 1990 by Lega Navale Italiana in 1991. He was also awarded the Grand Order of Mugungghawa of South Korea in 1984, Knight Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George (GCMG), the highest order accorded to Foreign Dignitaries by the British Monarchy in 1997, WHO's Health-for-All Gold Medal in 1998 and the Shield of Al-Azhar University of Cairo in 2002.

Gayoom and his wife Madam Nasreena Gayoom have four children, two girls, Dunya and Yumna, and two boys, Faris and Ghassan. His leisure interests include astronomy, photography, calligraphy, badminton and cricket.

Lyonpo Sangay

FROM PAGE 20

courses in Australia and New Delhi.

In 1977, Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup served at the permanent mission of Bhutan to the United Nations in New York and later as second (and later first) secretary in the Royal Bhutan Embassy in New Delhi. In 1989, Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup was appointed as Ambassador to Kuwait.

He was transferred as the Director of Trade and Industry in 1989 and then as the joint secretary of the Planning Commission in April, 1991. He became the Director General of Health in 1992. In 1998 he became Minister of Health and Education. He is Minister of Agriculture since 2003.

He served as Prime Minister from July 9, 1999 until July 20, 2000. Since September 5, 2005 he has been appointed Prime Minister again.

Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup was awarded the Red Scarf by His Majesty the King on August 24, 1987, and the Orange Scarf on January 1, 1998. In 2002 he undertook with six other members the Move for Health Walk from Trashigang to the capital city of Thimphu covering on foot a distance of 560 km concluded successfully as scheduled. The Walk was conceived by Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup to promote the fund raising for the Bhutan Health Trust Fund, an important initiative to keep the primary health services of Bhutan free of charge.

Betar to air Saarc summit live

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Betar will broadcast live the inaugural and closing ceremony of the 13th Saarc summit-2005, a Betar press release said yesterday.

The inaugural function will be aired on November 12 from the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre and the closing ceremony on November 13 from the International Conference Centre at the Prime Minister's Office.