

Saarc leaders meet president

UNB, Dhaka  
President Iajuddin Ahmed has said the Saarc countries will have to face collectively the challenges of socio-economic development of the region. He said the South Asia, which is endowed with immense human and natural resources, has all the potential to emerge as a strong regional economic bloc.

Four leaders head home

UNB, Dhaka  
Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga, Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom left for home yesterday. Chandrika left for home by a special flight of Air Lanka at 3:55pm, skipping the concluding

Govt wasting huge money when people starving

Says Hasina, back from Monga-hit districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday said the government is treating lakhs of starving people in the Monga-hit northern region inhumanely while spending crores to hold the Saarc Summit in the capital. "The government is spending unnecessarily for lighting and expensive food items and issued undeclared curfew in the name of security when mothers are selling their children, and husbands failing to manage food are fleeing homes in northern Bangladesh," AL chief Sheikh Hasina said. "The Saarc Summit is a 'plastic surgery' of the BNP-Jamaat government, an effort to mend its 'distorted image'," the opposition leader said at a press conference at the AL Dhanmondi office, following her five-day visit to

Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari. Hasina alleged that the local administration and BNP men yesterday closed a destitute-feeding centre the AL had opened on Saturday at Gangachhara. "The government itself does not make any arrangement for the poor and unemployed people, nor does it allow anyone else to do it," she said. Hasina accused the BNP leaders of trading on the ration cards and old-age pension. "The government usually issues no cards to anyone except its own cadres and sometimes even demands money for a card from the common people," she added. "A Lalmonirhat deputy minister even bought punjabis as gift for his party cadres, selling the relief allocated for the needy of the region," she said.

Hasina asked the prime minister to visit the Monga-hit areas within 24 hours after the summit. On Saarc security she said by holding the summit in a curfew-like situation keeping the people isolated, the government has proved its failure in curbing terrorism. "It also proves that the government does not trust its own people, thereby depriving the guests from their warm hospitality," she added. On late president Ziaur Rahman's winning the Saarc Award, she said Zia, who grabbed power illegally and whose rule has been declared unconstitutional in a High Court verdict, can never have any valid reason for the award. Asked if the AL will ask the Saarc

BSF pushes in 21 Indians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi  
Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) pushed in 21 Bangla speaking Muslims early yesterday. BSF of Petroghar camp in Malda district pushed them into Bangladesh at pillar No 204 near Bhangabari BDR camp in Gomostapur upazila in Chapainawabganj. The pushed in people, including four children, seven women and 10

\$200M DEV LOAN WB board defers it as cabinet yet to pass draft procurement law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The World Bank (WB) has decided to defer tabling the issue of clearing the \$200 million third tranche of its Development Support Credit (DSC) to Bangladesh at its November 17 board meeting as the



Saarc foreign ministers sign agreements to promote intra-regional trade while heads of state and government of member countries look on at state guest-house Padma yesterday.

Act, make Saarc true cooperation tool

Khaleda asks leaders as new Saarc chair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
New Saarc Chairperson Khaleda Zia has urged the Saarc leaders to assume respective responsibilities to make the regional body an effective instrument of cooperation benefiting the member countries and their peoples. "The opportunities provided by Saarc are many. They should help our economies to grow, our peoples to thrive and our region to become secure and stable. Let us take full advantage of our opportunities," the Bangladesh prime minister said in her

Nepal king for increased trade, communications

UNB, Dhaka  
Nepalese King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev expressed his country's desire to enhance trade and communications with Bangladesh for mutual benefit of the two countries. The monarch of the landlocked Himalayan kingdom made the offer when he met Saarc Chairperson Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel last night. Foreign Secretary Hemayet-uddin told reporters that both the king and the prime minister discussed how to "enhance bilateral trade, communications and tourism as well as water management at regional level".

Indo-Pak talks moving in right direction Shaukat says his country against all forms of terrorism

AP, Dhaka  
Pakistan's prime minister yesterday said his country and arch-rival India are making progress in peace talks though they have still not resolved the thorny issue of divided Kashmir. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz was speaking a day after he met Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of a regional summit. "We are going step-by-step in confidence-building measures," Aziz told reporters in Dhaka. "And my meeting with the Indian prime minister here yesterday was another step in the right direction." Aziz said his talks with Singh covered "all aspects of our bilateral

relations including terrorism and trade" and that they were "productive." "The India-Pakistan relationship is such that any extent of dialogue and discussion can only help," he said. "I hope that by actions of both countries the trust deficit will gradually be chipped away." On the issue of Kashmir, Aziz said Pakistan wants a "solution that will be sustainable and will reflect the aspirations of the people of Kashmir." The Himalayan region of Kashmir is divided between Pakistan and India and has been the cause of two of the nuclear-armed rivals' three wars since 1947. Aziz said his talks with Singh covered "all aspects of our bilateral

BILATERAL TALKS Manmohan pushes for 'democratic' Nepal

REUTERS, Dhaka  
India yesterday renewed pressure on Nepal's King Gyanendra to speedily restore multi-party democracy in the Himalayan nation struggling to tackle a violent Maoist revolt and pro-democracy campaigns. The comments came during talks between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the king on the sidelines of a South Asian regional summit in the city. "The prime minister underlined to his majesty the importance of restoring multiparty democracy in Nepal as early as possible and the need to take concrete steps in this regard," Indian foreign ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters. "He also said this would not be possible without the involvement of political parties," Sarna said. King Gyanendra responded by reaffirming his commitment to



King Gyanendra political parties," Sarna said. King Gyanendra responded by reaffirming his commitment to



UK minister due today

UNB, Dhaka  
British Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Dr Kim Howells arrives in Dhaka today on a three-day official visit. Howells will meet Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, State

Pakistan yet to deliver on promise to stem infiltration: Indian PM

AFP, Dhaka  
Pakistan has not yet delivered on its promise to stop militants infiltrating India from territory it controls, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said yesterday. "There has been some reduction (in infiltration) but it is unfortunately our belief that all that needs to be done has not been done," Singh told reporters in the city. India accuses Pakistan of sending in Islamic rebels through the de facto border in divided Kashmir to fuel a Muslim insurgency in the Indian-administered sector, a charge that Islamabad denies. In January 2004, at a summit of leaders in Pakistan, Islamabad said it would not allow territory under its control to be used for anti-India activities, an assurance which resulted in both countries resuming peace talks. The talks -- named the "composite dialogue process" -- are aimed at ending deep-seated mistrust and

Enayetullah to be laid to rest today

AGENCIES, Dhaka  
Body of Enayetullah Khan, editor of the daily New Age and editor-in-chief of the Weekly Holiday, is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka at 6:20am today by a British Airways flight. The body will be taken to the offices of the New Age and the Holiday at 10:00am and the Jatiya Press Club at around 11:00am. According to a press release of the Jatiya Press Club, namaj-e-janaza of Enayetullah Khan, former president and life member of the club, will be held on the club premises today. After the first janaza on the Press Club premises, the body of

Prayer Timing

November 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

ANNOUNCEMENT

Full texts of the speeches of seven South Asian leaders at the inaugural session of the 13th Saarc Summit are available only in our online edition [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)



Briton world's first to beat HIV

AFP, London  
A British man is believed to have become the first person in the world to get rid of the HIV virus, newspaper reports said yesterday. Andrew Stimpson, 25, was diagnosed as HIV-positive in August 2002. However, tests 14 months later showed that the virus had completely gone from his body, despite taking no medication to combat it. His doctors are adamant there



Andrew Stimpson were no mix-ups with his tests and the sandwich maker will now offer his body for

