

SAARC COPS' CONFERENCE ENDS

Nodal officer to coordinate matters of common interest

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The first conference of the heads of police training institutions of Saarc countries has decided to nominate a police official to act as a nodal officer for coordination on matters of common interest.

The decision was taken on the concluding day of the two-day conference in the southern city of Hyderabad on Tuesday, which discussed in detail police training programmes and decided to con-

tinue to share core competencies of police training programmes of member countries from time to time.

It was also decided to hold such conference twice a year to be hosted by member countries on rotational basis, said GS Rajagopal, director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy.

He said it was decided to organise programmes for trainees from Saarc countries on themes and topics of mutual interest and concern.

The success of the conference would lead to new vistas being

opened in the area of police training and the sharing of common wisdom and resources, Rajagopal said in his concluding remarks.

He expressed the hope that the conference would go a long way in providing further impetus to closer and more meaningful cooperation among Saarc countries.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Md Mokhlesur Rahman and Additional SP SM Mostaque Ahmed Khan from Bangladesh attended the conference.

German think-tank derides EU environment policy

APP, Frankfurt

The president of Germany's respected Ifo research institute, Hans-Werner Sinn, said yesterday that the European Union's environmental policy would have "zero" effect on global greenhouse gas emissions.

"The effect is not only small, it is actually zero," Sinn told the Financial Times Deutschland in an interview.

If the EU curtailed demand for fossil fuels, as proposals currently seek to do, the prices for oil and coal would drop, Sinn explained.

At some point, the lower prices would result in decreased demand from Europe being compensated for by other countries such as the United States, China or India, he added.

Road accidents kill 4

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed in Gazipur, Thakurgaon, Satkhira and Magura yesterday.

Our correspondent from Gazipur reports: A young man was killed and five others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Signboard Area in Gazipur yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Deen Islam, 26, son of Eusuf Ali of Sibordi in Sherpur.

Witnesses said a Dhaka-bound human hauler from Gazipur that carried Deen Islam turned upside down near Signboard area, leaving Deen Islam dead on the spot.

OUR CORRESPONDENT from Dinajpur adds: A speeding truck crushed a minor girl on Thakurgaon-Panchagarh highway yesterday.

The dead was identified as Labony, 3, daughter of Lablu of

village Telipara in Thakurgaon.

The locals said a Rangpur-bound truck crushed Labony while she was crossing the road at Telipara in Thakurgaon. Labony succumbed to her injuries on the way to Rangpur Medical College.

Police seized the truck and arrested its driver and helper.

UNB from Satkhira adds: A boy was killed in a road on Satkhira-Shyamnagar road at Nalta Bazar yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abdur Rahman, 9, son of Abdul Kuddus of Hizla village in Kaliganj upazila.

Police said Abdur Rahman was crushed under the wheels of a passenger bus at about 1.30pm, leaving him dead on the spot.

Another report from Magura adds: One Zulekha was run over by a microbus at Sheikhpara on Magura-Jessore road at about 3:00pm yesterday.



Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam hosted an Iftar party in honour of war-wounded freedom fighters and naval commandos at BNS Haji Mohsin, Dhaka Cantonment, on Tuesday. Among others, Assistant Chief of Navy (Operation) Rear Admiral Mustafiz, Dhaka Area Commander Commodore SMM Zaman and Director General Coast Guard Commodore MAK Azad attended the Iftar party.



PHOTO: STAR

Concord Amusement World introduces Sea World at Foy's Lake in Chittagong on the occasion of Eid and Durga Puja.

India's communists renew threats over US nuclear deal

APP, New Delhi

India's communists said yesterday they would follow through with a threat to withdraw support from the minority coalition government if it goes ahead with a contentious Indo-US nuclear pact.

A senior communist party leader said a four-party Left-wing bloc, which props up the Congress-led coalition in parliament, said it had made it clear it was "against the (nuclear) agreement" with Washington.

"We conveyed our sentiments to the government" during a meeting on Tuesday with Congress and its coalition allies, said the official, who asked not to be named.

"We told them clearly we are

opposed to the deal and if the government still wanted to proceed they would have to face the consequences," he said.

The communists have

repeatedly threatened to withdraw their support in parliament if the government pushes

ahead with the pact, which would allow energy-hungry India to buy civilian nuclear technology.

"We are against the agreement," Revolutionary Socialist Party Secretary and member of parliament Abani Roy told the Press Trust of India. "The political decisions we have taken is that if you go ahead, we have to withdraw."

The left-wing alliance is worried that traditionally non-aligned India is getting too close to Washington and that the deal may compromise the development of the country's nuclear weapons programme.

Some of the protesters, who

included Tibetan monks in their trademark maroon robes, chained themselves to the flag pole inside before they were arrested, an AFP photographer witnessed.

Others sprayed "Free Tibet" in red paint on the embassy walls and the main gate before they were dragged away by police.

The Tibetans were protesting against new Chinese regulations, in effect since September 1, that state that Tibetan living Buddhas are no longer allowed to be reincarnated without permission from the atheist communist government.

Living Buddhas are an important element in Tibetan Buddhism, forming a clergy of influential religious figures who are believed to be continuously reincarnated to take up their positions anew.

China's ruling Communist party maintains strict controls over all religions.

China sent troops in to "liberate" Tibet in 1951. The Dalai Lama later fled to India in 1959 with his followers after a failed uprising and established a government-in-exile in the northern hill town of Dharamsala.

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