

# SAARC, new

By A Staff Reporter

A new chapter of co-operation and understanding was written on Sunday at 3-59 p.m. when leaders of seven South Asian nations of divergent cultures and historical political rifts adopted by acclamation the charter of South Asian Association of Regional Co-operation for its formal launching.

Summit Chairman, President Hussain Muhammad Ershad struck a hammer to declare the birth of the newest regional co-operation alliance that promises to work for peace, progress and stability in the region.

"SAARC has entered the vocabulary", President Ershad who worked assiduously for past three years since the idea first floated in 1980, declared at the concluding session.

"What we have set out to do, we have done" he told the billion-strong-people of the region who were watching him.

King Wangchuk, Prime Minister Rajiv, President Gayoom, King Birendra, President Ziaul Haq and President Jayewardene congratulated President Ershad as the Charter was adopted, which in its 12 articles called for at least once-a-year summit of the leaders to discuss regional issues.

King Birendra proposed that the Charter framed through a painstaking process should be adopted by acclamation and came the immediate approval of the leaders sitting of a beautifully decorated rostrum of the Plenary Hall of the magni-

ficient Parliament House.

The leaders also later adopted the 'Dhaka Declaration' of the Summit as proposed by Pakistan President Ziaul Haq.

Each of the leaders then signed the ten original copies of the Charter and the Declar-

ation as the packed gathering of Ministers, elite of the city greeted them.

The leaders affirmed their sincere efforts for regional co-operation and termed the launching of SAARC as an historic

Contd. on page 8 col. 3

A new era of cooperation: Ershad

A new dawn of peace : Wangchuk

SAARC shall succeed: Rajiv

A sense of confidence: Gayoom

A way living together: Birendra

A new chapter begins: Ziaul Haq

Let's look forward: Jayewardene

## In warm animation

—Hussain Muhammad Ershad

In the warm throbs of a billion hearts,  
In the enduring bond built in sustained succession  
The dream of seven countries is now a mighty reality,  
The pledge turned true in creative co-operation.

In glittering sunshine the seven sovereign flags  
Flutter happily in the new Zone of hope.  
Our faith is no longer a fairy tale,  
Life thrives on understanding and enlarging its scope.

The eager eyes of the world are constantly on us,  
We have proved it by our unfailing unity.  
If there's a will to forge brotherliness,  
There sure is a way to attain unanimity.

To the millions we must convey  
The inspiring message of a life sublime,  
Wipe out pain, poverty and slime,  
Enlarge the horizon of enlightenment  
By being together and loving all, all the time.

The Chairman of the newly-launched SAARC, President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, read out a self-composed poem at the end of his concluding speech at the two-day SAARC summit at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in Dhaka.

The above is the English rendering of the Bangla poem of President Ershad self-composed on this auspicious occasion. "In Warm Animation".