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অসম 8 DEC 1988  
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## Other side of summit

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returned at 4-28 p.m.

All the Heads of State and Government had their written statements, except Sri Lankan President J. R. Jayewardene, who delivered an extempore speech. In his eloquent speech, punctuated by a humorous reference, likened the SAARC to a ship. He hoped there would not be "mutiny" on board.

The concluding session of the summit began 22 minutes later than the schedule time of 3-30 p.m. President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan and President Jayewardene entered the plenary hall first followed by President Gayoom of Maldives and King Birendra of Nepal.

All the Heads of State and Government were in their national dresses excepting Maldives President Gayoom who was wearing a dark grey suit with a striped blue tie.

First ladies — Begum Raushan Ershad, Begum Ziaul Haq and Queen Surya Laxmi Devi of Nepal — had their seats at 3-34 p.m. Lights in the plenary hall were blinking at 4-45 p.m. causing concern of a blackout. In fact it went off

for a second in one of the press galleries.

President Ershad concluded his speech with the self-composed poetry while Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi recited from a famous poem by Rebel Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Premier Rajiv's perfect pronunciation of the Bengali poem impressed all.

## Mistrust reduced

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ted, Bangladesh would provide secretarial services.

Asked what he would do in the event of any conflicting situation between two SAARC member-nations, President Ershad said, "We are brothers let's hope such situation does not arise."

BSS adds: President Ershad told a questioner enlargement of the SAARC by inclusion of more Asian members or changing the Charter itself would require unanimous decision of the member-countries.

Asked whether the other members would demonstrate SAARC spirit to help Sri Lanka stop bleeding in the interest of peace, stability and harmony in the region — one of the forum's objectives — President Ershad said, the summit gave birth to a "positive attitude". "So we entrusted the Foreign Ministers with the task of how to tackle the problem of terrorism," he added.

Answering a question President Ershad said that the Foreign Ministers would go into the issue of terrorism but refrained from defining it saying, "Please wait till the Foreign Ministers give their report."

Asked whether Sri Lanka's accusation against India of helping Tamil terrorists or In-

dia's accusation against Pakistan of supporting Sikh separatists came up at the summit discussions he said, "in the discussions there was no accusation of one another."

President Ershad told a questioner that the Ganges is an international river.