

Shahabuddin, Gayoom hold talks

SAARC spirit will be strengthened

The visiting President of the Maldives, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, called on the Acting President, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at the Bangabhaban on Friday evening, reports BSS.

The two Presidents discussed matters of bilateral interests with an emphasis on strengthening the SAARC spirit to the benefit of the peoples of the South Asian Region.

Welcoming Mr. Maumoon, the current Chairman of the SAARC, Justice Shahabuddin reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to the

principles and goals of the association. He said Bangladesh would do everything for the success of the forthcoming SAARC summit.

Justice Shahabuddin said the SAARC was mooted by late President Ziaur Rahman and the concept was gradually turned into a reality for the wellbeing of the people of the region. He also said that since the association was mooted and formed in Bangladesh, it is natural that it would continue to keep interest in its overall success.

President Gayoom, who shared the views of Justice Shahabuddin, said that he would do his best for the success of the association for the greater interest of the peoples of the seven countries of South Asian Region.

Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman, Minister-in-waiting Barrister Nazmul Huda and Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan were present during the call on.

The Maldives side was attended by Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Abdul Rasheed Hussain, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Ibrahim Hussain Zaki and the Maldives High Commissioner in Bangladesh Ahmed Abdulla.

Banquet

Another report adds: The Acting President, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting Maldives President

and Mrs. Nasreen Maumoon Abdul Gayoom at the Bangabhaban on Friday night.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Abdur Rahman Biswas, members of the Council of Ministers, high civil and military officials including three chiefs of staff attended the banquet.

Khaleda calls on Gayoom

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia made a courtesy call on the visiting Maldives President, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, at the State Guest House 'Karatoa' on Friday evening.

They discussed matters of common interest, including strengthening the SAARC spirit to the benefit of the people of the region.

Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman, Minister-in-waiting Barrister Nazmul Huda, Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan, the Maldives Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Abdul Rasheed Hussain and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki were among others, present on the occasion.