



Memili Ruestueoglu from Berlin proudly displays his giant moustache Tuesday. It took him over two years to let it grow to an almost 1.20 metres length. He needs several hours a day to put it in this eye-catching shape. —AFP photo

# Task Forces' reports for Khaleda, Hasina soon

Star Economic Report

The reports of the Task Forces on major socio-economic development issues will be presented within a couple of days to the leaders of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Awami League, according to Planning Commission sources.

Planning Adviser Prof. Rehman Sobhan is likely to meet Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina, leaders of BNP and AL parliamentary parties, to explain the objectives for which the task forces were organised on "transparently non-partisan lines."

He handed over the reports to Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Sunday.

Planning Commission sources said that the "final output" of the Task Forces has surpassed all expectation. Over 250 professionals drawn from government, business and academic circles were involved in 29 task forces set up by the interim government to review a variety of development issues.

The volume and quality of work vested on the Task Forces within a span of six to eight weeks is without preced-

dence for Bangladesh", a highly placed Planning Ministry source said. "Had such work been done by expatriate consultants it might have cost the Government of Bangladesh several millions of dollars," the source noted.

Commenting on the work of the Task Forces, he observed that it demonstrated to the country and the world that Bangladesh "has the professional talent to define its own policy agenda and this can be readily drawn up if our professional skills are recognised and motivated to work for the welfare of the country".

The Task Forces were guided by three objectives of development strategy which had been proclaimed by most political parties and in successive five year plans, the sources said. The objectives were: (1) alleviation of poverty, (2) greater self-reliance in the development process, and (3) ensuring a process of sustained growth for the economy.

Greater integration of women into the development process, a fourth guideline set for particular task forces, where relevant, to ensure greater integration of women into the development process.

## World Trade centre

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ted an area of 2.25 acres of land for setting up the WTC building at the intersection of Minto Road and Mymensingh Road in the city in 1980. The EPB immediately took over the land and appointed a consultant firm for preparation of feasibility report for construction of the WTC building. The report included plans for two

buildings — one 30 storied and the other 20 storied. The EPB tried for approval either of the two.

But the project was not included in the ADP in the following years because of shortage of funds.

(The detailed report on Business Page)

# Iraq uses napalm

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leader, claimed in Beirut that at least three Iraqi Army divisions — an estimated 30,000-36,000 men — have "joined the people along with their tanks, artillery batteries and other weapons".

Bayan Jabr of the Shi'ite Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iran claimed in Damascus that Taha Yassin Ramadan — a Saddam aide — was killed by Saddam's bodyguards when he shot the Iraqi dictator in the right hand in an assassination attempt.

Jabr did not say when the alleged killing took place. But he said in a statement: "An Iraqi intelligence major who was captured in Basra Monday asserted that he carried Ramadan's body in his arms".

But Baghdad's state-run newspapers reported Monday that Ramadan was one of the aides that toured Iraqi provinces seeking to rally support for Saddam.

The Supreme Assembly reported from Iran that the governor-general of Kurdistan's Suleimaniya region had been killed by the local population, according to Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia. The report did not give his name.

Iraq's Kurds make up about 20 per cent of the country's 17 million population. The Shi'ites, who live mainly in the south, form a 55 per cent majority.

Saddam's ruling elite is overwhelmingly Sunni, a sect which totals about 40 per cent of Iraq's people, including most Kurds.

Another report says: Routed in the Mother of Battles in Kuwait, Saddam Hussein's downfall is being plotted in a Beirut hotel by 325 widely assorted opponents united only in a determination to see him go.

The largest congress of opponents of Saddam groups Kurds, Muslim fundamental-

ists, communists and others who believe that unity has been found among their 23 opposition groups as the uprising inside Iraq continues. Iraqi rebels, who launched their attack on Saddam soon after he was routed by the US-led Allies 12 days ago, are claiming new victories inside Iraq.

They say the rebellion has spread to dozens of new towns but that Saddam's elite Republican Guard is gaining the upper hand in the second town of Basra.

In Beirut, Congress delegates said unity was gaining the upper hand. Communists applauded Shi'ite militants, dissidents from the ruling Baath Party stood shoulder to shoulder with pro-western liberals and former army officers. Kurds embraced Arab nationalists.

All stressed that the upris-

ing was a popular revolt against Saddam rather than a Shi'ite revolution in their heartland in the south of Iraq or a fight for Kurdish autonomy in the mountains of the north. Rebels say fighting rages in both areas.

Delegates are also debating whether to form a government or parliament in exile while Saddam holds Baghdad or wait until after he is toppled.

They called for the US-led allied forces in southern Iraq to protect civilians from Saddam by at least stopping the redeployment and reinforcement of crack Republican Guard units.

Meanwhile, the US Army may keep a command center in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh, and its troops may train on the Arabian peninsula as the US military abandons its traditionally low-key presence in the Gulf.

## Japanese grant

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Yen (approximately Taka 122.01 crore) was signed on November 4, 1990.

The Japanese grant assistance for debt relief in favour of Bangladesh for the second half of fiscal 1990 has closely followed the announcement by the USA, another major donor, about cancellation of Bangladesh's outstanding debts of 300 million Dollars. Both announcements have come after the parliamentary election.

Tuesday's Exchange of Notes between Dhaka and Tokyo for debt relief was signed by Dr. A.M.M. Shawkat Ali, Additional Secretary, Economic Relations Division(ERD) of the Ministry of Finance and Tetsuo Ito, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Japan, on behalf of their respective governments.

## CPB

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multiparty parliamentary democracy and democratic values an institutional shape by erasing the trend of seizing power through coups, and repealing all amendments to the Constitution done during the autocratic rule of Ershad.

"There is no bar in the way of establishing multiparty parliamentary democracy as the three alliances bound by the common political framework have more than two-third majority in the present parliament", the resolution said.

Awami League Parliamentary Party has also ensured a favourable situation by proposing to establish parliamentary system keeping intact "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim" in the Constitution, it said.

It also said the responsibility of establishing a sovereign parliament had been reposed on BNP which got the single party majority in the 5th Parliament.

## One shot at in Demra

By DMCH Correspondent

One person was seriously injured when miscreants opened fire at him near Sonali Bank, Demra branch on Tuesday.

# Khaleda

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on February 27. Introducing the BNP candidate Barrister Shamsul Alam, the BNP chairperson hoped that the people of Munshiganj-3 would also give their verdict in favour of BNP on March 14.

She said that BNP believed in the politics of production and development. Recalling the development activities initiated by BNP Khaleda Zia said that it was the BNP government which initiated the work for rural electrification, adult education, rural health care and canal digging for increasing the production of rice. Khaleda Zia said that the BNP would take up projects opening job opportunities especially for women and would do everything possible to emancipate them from backwardness.

She said that the people

## Mashiur's death anniversary observed

The 12th death anniversary of noted politician Mashiur Rahman (Jadu Mia) was observed on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Different organizations chalked out programmes which included offering wreaths to the grave of late Jadu Mia, a close associate of Moulana Bhasani and Senior Minister in the cabinet of late President Ziaur Rahman, mital mahfil, grave ziarat, destitute feeding and discussion in observance of the anniversary.

A large number of political associates and followers of late Jadu Mia including the leaders of BNP, Bhasani NAP, Pragash, Janata Dal and NPP visited the grave at the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Among others, DUCSU VP and MP-elect Amanullah Aman, BNP Joint Secretary General and MP-elect Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and former State Minister Syed Manzur Hossain offered ziarat at the grave.

Bhasani Smriti Sangsad held a milad mahfil and discussion at the Naya Palton office of the organization. The speakers of the discussion included Messrs Nazimul Alam Lah, Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan, Shamsul Haq and Abu Saleh stressed the need for building a proper democratic system for paying due respect to the memories of late Jadu Mia.

Mashiur Smriti Sangsad will hold a seminar on March 14 at 4 pm at the National Press Club in memory of the late politician.

gave their vote to the BNP candidates to establish democracy in firm footing.

She said that the 'evil forces' had started a conspiracy against the nationalist forces when late president Ziaur Rahman had achieved economic progress and was leading the nation to prosperity. She said that the conspirators killed Zia and tried to destroy the democratic institutions of the country.

Despite heavy rain hundreds of thousands of people from far flung areas of the constituency thronged to the meeting places to see and listen to the BNP chief.

At the meeting of Rampal School ground one independent candidate Siddiqur Rahman declared his withdrawal from the race in favour of the BNP candidate Shamsul Alam.

Khaleda Zia promised that a BNP government would do everything to mitigate the problems of the area. She also promised construction of embankment on the banks of the river Padma and construction of a road from Muktarpur to Dighirpar.

The meetings were also addressed by senior Vice Chairman of BNP Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury, BNP leaders Brig (Retd) Hannan Shah, Sadeque Hossain Khokha, DUCSU V.P. Amanullah Aman, EUCSU V.P. Farid Ahmed, Fakhru Islam, Hamidullah Khan and Siddiqur Rahman.

## They want a minister

By Staff Correspondent

Supporters of an MP-elect Abdul Hai in the Munshiganj-4 Constituency demanded on Tuesday that he be made a minister.

They hung banners proclaiming their demand when BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia visited Munshiganj to address an election projection meeting.

Abdul Hai also erected a stage for Begum Zia at Muktapur Bazar.

Begum Zia probably noticed the banner and did not wait there to address the gathering.

Local people said Abdul Hai aspires to be a minister by passing other veteran BNP MPs elected from Munshiganj.

Insiders of BNP say many MPs of the party have started lobbying to become ministers and are also trying to get support from the MPs-elect from other areas.

## Mizan says

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leagues, detained following the ouster of Ershad regime on December 6 in an anti-autocracy mass upsurge.

About the BNP move for forming cabinet under acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, the former Prime Minister of Ershad said the neutral government would lose its neutrality in that case.

Jatiya Party will not oppose for the sake of opposing but go for doing constructive and positive politics, he added.

Pointing to political parties' refusal to take oath from Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, he said the 30 seats reserved for women would become "illegal if they do not take oath from him as the bill was passed under the chairmanship of the Speaker."

He also criticised the "irresponsible" statements made by two main political leaders and termed those as "falsehood". Mizan called upon them to substantiate the corruption charges against Ershad with evidence.

Ershad is now facing five criminal cases on charges of corruption and possessing illegal arms.

The meeting was also addressed by ABM Shahjahan, TIM Fazle Rabbi, MP. Tajul Islam MP, and Ismail Hossain Bengal. It was chaired by Advocate Azizur Rahman.

## SSMC closed sine die

By SSMCH Correspondent

The Academic Council of Sir Salmullah Medical College Tuesday closed the college sine die in the wake of violence on the campus.

All male students were also asked to vacate the residential halls by 7 pm Tuesday. They deadline for the girl students is 10 am today (Wednesday).

Clashes between Jatiyaatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (HA) on the college campus over the students programme to press for cancellation of the curriculum Monday left at least eight students injured. Four of the students were admitted to SMC hospital.

## Abul Quasem laid to rest

Educationist and a hero of the historic Language Movement Principal Abul Quasem, who died Monday was laid to rest at the Mirpur Bangla College premises Tuesday afternoon, reports BSS.

# The Midnight File

## 24 rebels killed in Colombia

BOGOTA, Mar 12: At least 24 leftist rebels were killed Monday in a series of clashes with government forces, the Defence Ministry reported. Another 16 rebels were wounded and 11 were captured, the ministry said, reports AFP.

## Pak youths sentenced to death

KARACHI, Mar 12: A special Pakistani anti-terrorism court sentenced eight youths to death today for abducting a schoolboy for ransom in January, officials said. Two of the convicted were former activists of the Sindh People's Students Federation, the youth wing of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, reports AFP.

## Bush will visit Middle East

WASHINGTON, President George Bush expects to visit the Middle East soon and Kuwait "is an obvious destination," his spokesman said Tuesday. Presidential press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said Bush had expressed a desire, as recently as Monday, to visit Kuwait and other coalition partners in the Middle East, reports AP.

## Gorbachev to visit Japan April 16

TOKYO, Mar 12: Japan's Foreign Ministry has invited Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh to visit Tokyo on March 29 and 30 to prepare for a visit by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who will be the first Kremlin leader to visit Japan, is scheduled to arrive in Tokyo on April 16 for a four-day stay, reports Reuter.

## Chile-US resume talks

WASHINGTON, Mar 12: Chile and the United States resumed military cooperation talks on Monday following the ending of a 15-year-old arms embargo which the then President Jimmy Carter imposed on General Augusto Pinochet's military regime, reports Reuter.

## Walcott wins literary award

LONDON, Mar 12: Derek Walcott, a teacher of Boston University, has won the W.H. Smith Literary Award for recasting Homer's Iliad and Odyssey in an epic poem set in his native island of St. Lucia in the Caribbean. The 10,000-pound (18,500-dollar) award, sponsored by a retail book chain, was to be formally announced Tuesday but it was disclosed in Tuesday's editions of The Times and The Daily Telegraph, reports AP.

## Quake shakes southern Taiwan

TAIPEI (Taiwan), Mar 12: A strong earthquake shook a wide area of southern Taiwan Tuesday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, meteorologists and police reported. The Central Weather bureau said the quake, which struck at 2:04 pm (0604 GMT), registered a preliminary reading of 5.9, on the open-ended Richter scale, reports AP.

# Women candidates

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Talukder Jamaat's Parliamentary Party leader had expressed support to BNP and had not set any condition to the sharing of seats.

Jamaat leaders said they are yet to decide on how many candidates will be nominated by the party. They said Jamaat has its own way of nominating

candidates and there is no system to receive applications.

After the surrender of four of the five seats from where Begum Khaleda Zia, the BNP chief, has been elected, BNP's strength in the parliament will be 134.

If Jamaat's 18 members also lend total support their joint strength will be 152.

In such an event the parliament will have 290 members eligible to participate in the election of women members.

Besides the four seats to be vacated by Begum Zia, four more seats will be vacated by former President H. M. Ershad, and one seat each by Tofayel Ahmed of Awami League and Abdur Razzak of Bangladesh Krishak Samik Awami League.

The Representation of People Order, 1972 allows a candidate to seek election from more than one seat, but within 30 days of the elections a candidate winning from more than one constituency has to declare in writing which seat he wants to represent. The remaining seats become vacant automatically.

Nomination papers for election of women members will be received by the Election Commission between 9 am and 4 pm on March 30.

Scrutiny of nomination papers will begin at 5 pm the same day. The last date of withdrawal of nominations is April 2 till 12 noon.

## Shah Moazzem

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Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Mahmudul Hasan and Anwar Hossain won the parliamentary elections held on February 27. Former President Ershad won five seats from Rangpur. But the acting chairman of the reorganised Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury lost the polls to BNP candidate in his home constituency, Chandpur.

A High Court Division bench, comprising Justice Abdul Jalil and Justice Kazi Shafuluddin ordered the release of Shah Moazzem on a writ petition challenging his detention under the Special Powers Act.

The court found the order of detention against Shah Moazzem illegal and without lawful authority as the grounds of detention referred by the government were irrelevant and vague.

Barrister Kazi Shahadat Hossain appeared for the detenu and Assistant Attorney General Syed Mudasir Hossain for the state.

JP leaders and workers greeted Shah Moazzem at the jail gate, party sources said. He drove to the present JP office housed in acting party chief Mizan Chowdhury's Gulshan residence.

## Abdus Sultan buried

Litterateur and politician Syed Abdus Sultan, was buried at the Banani graveyard Tuesday afternoon, reports BSS.

Earlier, Namaz-e-Janaza of Syed Abdus Sultan was held at the Baitul Mokarram Mosque after the Zohr prayer.



DUCSU VP and MP-elect Amanullah Aman was accorded a reception in Dhaka University Battala Tuesday. —Star photo