

Bangladesh has one lakh heroin addicts

Bangladesh has one lakh heroin addicts, mainly centered in Dhaka and Chittagong districts, World Health Organisation (WHO) representative in Bangladesh A N A Abeye Sundere said in Dhaka Sunday, reports BSS.

Quoting report of a United Nations (UN) international review team which visited Bangladesh during August-September last year, he said, the country was serving as a drug transit point, both at Dhaka Airport and Chittagong Sea Port, but the major problem was the occurrence of transshipment of drugs on the high seas, outside Chittagong and other ports of South-East Asia.

Sunderes was speaking at the inaugural session of a week-long international training course for primary health care and prevention of professionals in the field of drug abuse in Bangladesh and Nepal.

He said adulterated, crude and relatively cheap heroin was coming into Bangladesh originating from across the western border of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Indian regions. However, refined and costly product was coming from across the eastern border through Myanmar and the other countries of the golden triangle, he said.

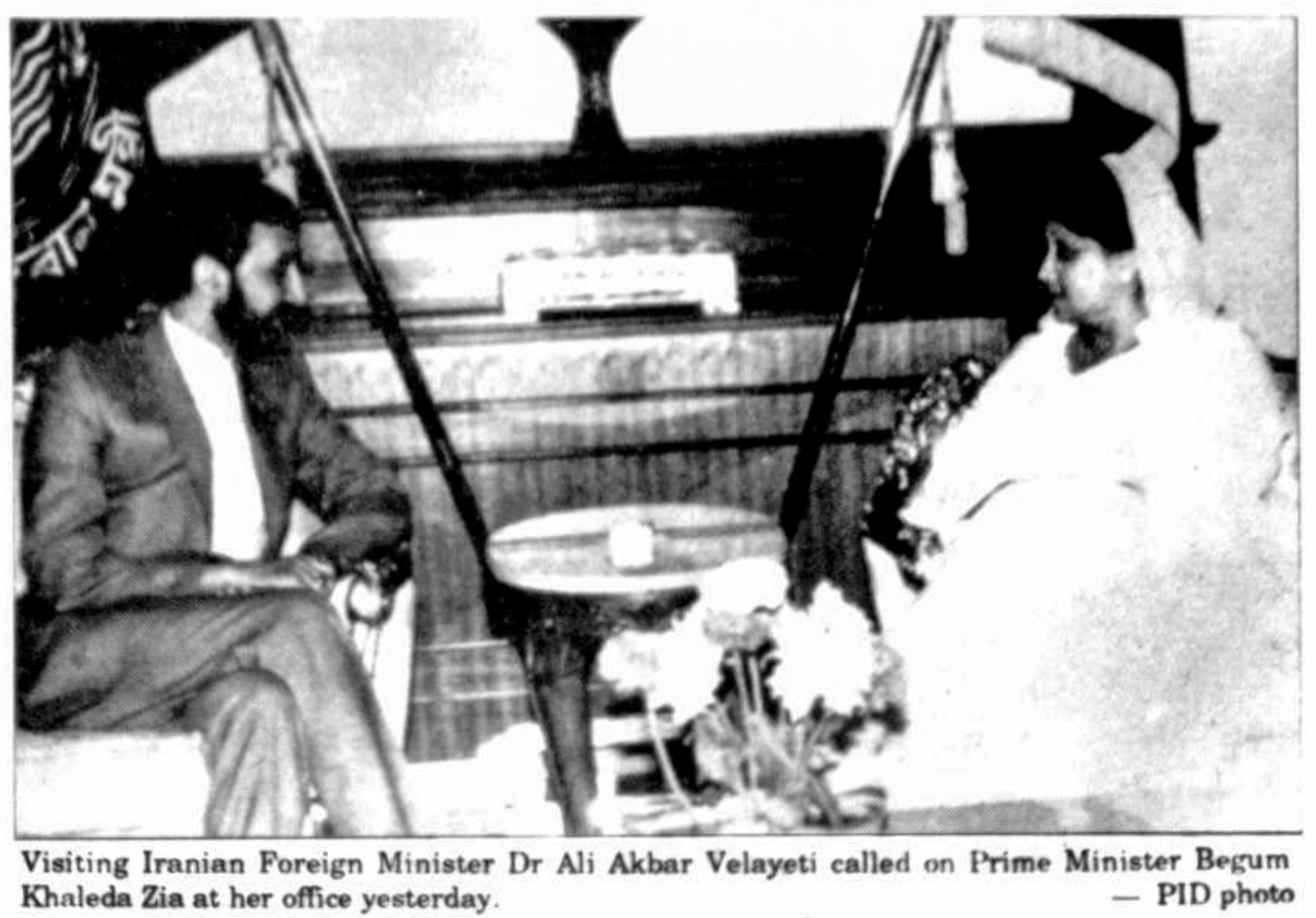
The WHO representative said the review team had developed a master plan for drug abuse control in Bangladesh which would require US dollar 1,790,000. The plan includes programmes on enforcement of law, treatment and rehabilitation and preventive education and information.

Quoting from another survey funded by WHO, Sunderes said students with extra income and belonging to affluent families had abused drug more. Students actively involved in politics were more significantly involved in drug abuse, he added.

The survey was conducted by a team of experts led by Professor of psychiatry Dr A K M Nazmuddin Chowdhury on about 5,000 students of Dhaka University, Engineering University, Medical Colleges and 11 and 12 classes of secondary schools.

The survey revealed that drug abuse was significantly higher among the males, but less among the regular and keen students. The high percentage of drug abuse was found more in the 20-29 years age group than in the 15-19 years.

The drugs used by the students were tobacco (most frequent), followed by alcohol, cannabis, amphetamine, LSD/PCP, snuff tranquilizers and hypnotics. Narcotics like opium, heroin and morphine usage was less, the survey report said.



Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Ali Akbar Velayati called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

Natural disasters

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and mobilize available relief stock in the flood-prone areas. During a disaster the RRD will give instructions for evacuation orders to be made, assist rescue operations, allocate resources and issue instructions to field officers in related to relief operations.

Immediately after a disaster the RRD will make a detailed assessment of the damages and continue all relief and rehabilitation works.

The special functions of the Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Division include, strengthening the activities relating to the infrastructure such as constructing dams and barrages, establishing cyclone information centres and mobilizing manpower and departmental facilities to deal with the disasters.

The Division will also establish a flood information centre to run between May 1 and September 30 each year and an information cell.

The standing orders also include specific guidelines and tasks for the other ministries and divisions included in the central coordination committee in case of natural disasters.

Velayeti

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relationship with friendly countries particularly the Muslim states.

Begum Zia said her government had liberalised the industrial policy to attract investment providing equal opportunities for foreign and local investors.

She said joint collaborations with private and public sectors in Iran would be welcomed in Bangladesh. She said there were a large number of doctors, engineers and other technical personnel in Bangladesh who could help Iran in its post-war reconstruction and development activities.

Begum Khaleda Zia thanked Iran for its help in the reconstruction work of Bangladesh after the last year's cyclone. She also urged Iran for exerting its influence on Myanmar so that under the present Bangladesh-Myanmar agreement the Rohingya refugees could go back with honour and dignity to their homeland.

Dr Velayati later yesterday visited two camps in the Cox's Bazar district where the refugees from Myanmar are sheltered.

Dr Velayati, who arrived Dhaka yesterday morning on a two-day visit, flew to Ramu and visited the Dohapalung camp and later went to another adjacent camp Dechuaalong-II.

He spoke to the inmates through interpreters and told them that the people of Iran were deeply concerned at the influx of the Muslim brethren from Myanmar.

Iranian ambassador in Bangladesh Mohammad Ganjidoost, member of the parliament and member of the governing board of the Red Crescent M A Jinnah and director general in the Foreign Ministry Afsarul Quader accompanied Dr Velayati.

Velayati, leading a 10-member delegation, will hold formal talks with Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman today.

Depression

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within 48 kilometres of the depression centre is about 50 kilometre per hour (KPH) rising to 60 kph in gust or squalls.

BSS adds: A meeting of the National Coordination Committee for Cyclone Preparedness was held with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair at her Sugandha office Sunday night.

The meeting was held in view of the deep depression formed in the Bay of Bengal and its tendency to intensify further.

Rohingya

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Officials from both countries will meet again on May 25 at Myanmar's Buthodaung when the Bangladesh side is expected to submit the second list of the returnees for scrutiny.

Director Immigration of Myanmar Aung Sein led the 15-member team of his country, while the 20-member Bangladesh side was headed by Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Daud-uz-Zaman Chowdhury.

Officials at Cox's Bazar said that the refugees' protest against repatriation that had started since the April 28 repatriation agreement has subsided, though tension still prevails in the camps.

A clash between angry refugees and Ansars at Balukhali camp-1 on Thursday left one refugee killed and another 20 injured. One camp official and 10 Ansars were also injured.

However, there has been no fresh influx of refugees since last Thursday. Only four refugees arrived on Sunday.



Members of Bangladesh Senior Family Welfare Visitors' Association brought out a procession in the city yesterday to press for their five points demand.

Rima murder

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ceeded in creating an impact which had influenced the court. He said because of this reason, the defense considers it as a case of mistrial and therefore prayed for the appeal.

Malek said although Muntir had been convicted in this case, his name was not there in the FIR (First Information Report). This point should be carefully considered, he pleaded.

The defence lawyer said Din Mohammad, a friend of Muntir who was mentioned as a probable witness in the charge sheet, was named as one of the 77 witnesses. He further said, Selim, another friend of Muntir who was one of the 66 witnesses who appeared in the court but was not cross-examined. He read out part of Selim's statement made before the police (161) and also the deposition of Kohinor Nizam (mother of the deceased) made before the court.

Malek said although it was stated that blood was spread on Rima's body after the murder, there was no chemical examination of that blood. It was not proved whether that was human blood or any other thing, he mentioned. He drew the attention of their lordship to this "vital point".

Attorney General Aminul Haq was present from the prosecution side.

The hearing will resume this afternoon.

Two railwaymen suspended

The driver and the assistant drivers of an inter-city train have been placed under suspension on charge of pilfering fuel from a rail engine by stopping the train at an unsheduled station, according to a Railway Division press release issued in Dhaka Sunday.

Govt firm to export food in next five years : PM

BEGUMGANJ (Noakhali), May 17: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today expressed her government's determination to turn Bangladesh into a food-exporting country in next five years, reports UNB.

"We will make Bangladesh a food-exporting country in next five years by attaining self-sufficiency in food production," she told a huge public meeting at Begumganj Government Pilot High School ground this afternoon.

The government will resume soon the North Irrigation Project, abandoned during the Ershad regime, to help attain food sufficiency, she said.

Organised by the upazila BNP, the meeting was presided over by Barkatullah Bulu, MP.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondker Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Textiles Maj (rtd) Abdul Mannan and MP's Ihtisam Khatun, Jannat Abedeen, Salahuddin Kamran and Mohammad Shahjahan also spoke.

Prime Minister also underscored the need for rural electrification for expansion of industries and good communication for marketing agricultural products. About Tk 400 crore will be spent for development of road communication in the greater Noakhali district, she told the crowd.

The upazila hospital will also be upgraded with more 50 seats added to its 150-seat capacity and Gouripur Girls School here will be nationalised, the Prime Minister announced.

She also assured that the problem of teacher shortage in the Begumganj Government College would be solved.

Storm

From Page 1 Col 8

Nur Mia (60), Nafar Sheikh (60), Balu Pramantik (45), Ruma (2), Farida Parvin (35), Habib Sheikh (45), Shaheb Ali (24), Abul Hashem (25) and his wife and two other unidentified people.

The one-hour storm razed more than 5,000 thatched houses mowed down crops on thousands of acres of land in the district.

One hundred educational institutions, including primary and high schools were damaged in the storm which cut also off power supply in the whole district.

According to an estimate the loss of property stands at more than Taka five crore.

Staff Correspondent adds: When contacted from Dhaka Sunday night an official in the district administration could not give details of the deaths and extent of damage caused by the nor'wester.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 8

Retracting her demand for execution of the "people's court" verdict and withdrawal of the cases against 24 personalities, including Jahana Imam, Hasina warned that none would be spared if found standing against the will of the people.

The Awami League President called upon all sections of the people for facing peacefully and politically all conspiracies of the government and its allies in the anti-liberation camp.

Hartal call

From Page 1 Col 5

with the death sentence.

Vehicles belonging to newspapers, hospitals and clinics, Fire Service, WASA and Electric Supply authorities and the hotels and restaurants have been exempted from purview of the hartal.

The Coordination Committee demands include: withdrawal of cases against 24 sponsors of Golan Azam's public trial, ban on the Jamaat-Islami and its allies and action against Jamaat activists for spreading "Moudud"-ism in the country's mosques.

The Coordination Committee in a post-hartal public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue is likely to announce a countrywide hartal in mid-June. The date will be finalised later, committee sources said.

Meantime, the Awami League, Five-Party Alliance, Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya and various socio-cultural organisations and professional bodies have supported the half-day hartal and announced their active participation in making it a success.

Meanwhile, rallies and processions were organised in different parts of the city yesterday in support of today's hartal. Besides, statements calling to observe the hartal were issued. Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya, the combine of four student organisations, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Bangladesh Chhatra Federation held separate rallies in the Dhaka University campus and brought out processions in this connection.

The city unit of Awami League held a rally in front of the party central office yesterday afternoon.

Party leaders while addressing the rally called on all concerned to make the hartal a total success.

Chhatra League (M-I), Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (Khalco), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rab), Ganatantrik Biplobi Jote, Ganatantrik Chhatra Kendra, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon and Ganochhaya, a cultural organisation, issued statements calling upon the city people to observe the hartal.

The Midnight File

Masood, Hekmatyar fail to resolve differences

NICOSIA, May 17: Afghan Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood met hardline guerrilla chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar but the two rivals failed to resolve their differences, Tehran Radio said today. The radio, quoting an Afghan Defence Ministry source, said the two met outside the Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday. "During the meeting Hekmatyar once again insisted on his demands, saying that General Abdul Rashid Dostum's forces should leave Kabul. Masood, however, opposed his demands," the radio said, reports Reuter.

Israeli businessman shot dead in Gaza

JERUSALEM, May 17: Palestinian gunmen shot dead an Israeli businessman in his car in the occupied Gaza strip today, Israel Radio said. The man was shot in the head by "terrorists" near Beit Lahya town in the north of the strip and died instantly, it said. Palestinians said troops set up roadblocks in the search for the attackers. Gunmen last shot an Israeli, a Jewish settler, in Gaza in January, reports Reuter.

Sarbaharamen

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delay in rehabilitation of the surrendered people belonging to different groups of the party could force them return to their previous life.

The government in December 25, last year offered amnesty to the Sarbahara Partymen which produced little response. A total of 425 people gave up arms in response to the amnesty offer while a small amount of illegal weapons were recovered during the month-long period from 13 southern districts, identified as Sarbahara dominated area.

In an interview with a Baisal daily recently, Siddiqur Rahman, leader of one faction of the party, said those who gave up weapons responding to the government's amnesty offer could again take up arms for their personal safety.

Storm

From Page 1 Col 8

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Maudud allowed to go abroad for medical checkup

A division bench of the High Court Sunday granted permission to former Vice-President Maudud Ahmed to go abroad for three weeks for medical checkup, reports UNB.

The bench comprising Justice Abdul Bari Sarkar and Justice Mahfuzur Rahman granted the permission on an application from Maudud.

Jute workers

From Page 1 Col 7

to increase jute production to 12 lakh tons from nine lakh tons while forcing reduction in our production to three lakh tons from five lakh tons.

He said that over three crore people of the country were directly or indirectly involved with jute sector and that Bangladesh could meet 30 per cent of the 20-lakh-ton annual demand of the world market if the industrial environment became congenial.

The WB and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are the new forms of imperialism, Bashar alleged and said "WB or IMF prescriptions will cripple our jute and textile sectors."

He also blamed smuggling for harming our textile sector saying that sarces and cotton worth Taka 300 crore remained unsold in the godowns of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC).

Identifying the action council as a pro-liberation forum, Bashar said that the government created a chaotic situation in the country over Golan Azam, a Pakistani national who violated the Constitution.

Rehanuddin Rehan, Badrul Alam, Siddique Sarder, Iqbal Majumder, S M Rumi, Lutfor Rahman, Abdul Mannan, Murtur Rahman, Anwara Begum, Golan Kabir, Nurul Islam, Kashim Uddin, Nasu Mian, Jaktat Hossain, Joyanal Abedin, Abdullah Sarker, Shahidullah Chowdhury, K M Sirajul Huq, Shamsuddin, Khondoker Azizur Rahman, Hafizur Rahman, Moshudhohlah, Shah Alam and Sariatullah addressed the rally.

Earlier, wearing red headbands the workers from Adamjee, Mirpur and other industrial areas arrived at the meeting venue with bamboos, sticks and banners.

They chanted slogans like "tear the WB's prescriptions," "stop the retrenchment move" and "announce the wage commission immediately."

PM: Education

From Page 1 Col 4

hostage in the hands of terrorism.

The Prime Minister said the present government had identified expansion of primary education and female education as the cornerstones in its education policy.

She said her government has introduced compulsory primary education from last January in 54 thanas at the initial stage. All the areas of the country would come under the programme in phases by 1995, she added.

Begum Zia said 60 to 75 per cent of the children had got the opportunity to be enrolled in the schools but two thirds of these children dropped out of the school before they were promoted to class five which was a great problem.

Because of the problem, the Prime Minister said the government had constituted the implementation committees with public representatives at union, thana and zila levels and government officials to make the compulsory primary education programme a success.

Stressing the need for more educational institutions the Prime Minister called for individual and institutional entrepreneurship in the private sector to supplement the government initiative for establishing more educational institutions.

The Prime Minister said along with primary and female education her government was giving emphasis on advanced technical and vocational education, because, she said, "we need the grooming up of merit for the innovation of appropriate technology for the faster development of the country."

With this aim in view the government has established an open university and would soon start national university programme, she said adding permission had been given to establish university at the private sector and the non-formal education programme would start from the current year.

The Prime Minister said the nation had high hopes in the teachers. She said the government was active to ensure overall welfare of the teachers so that they could devote themselves more sincerely in building the nation.

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