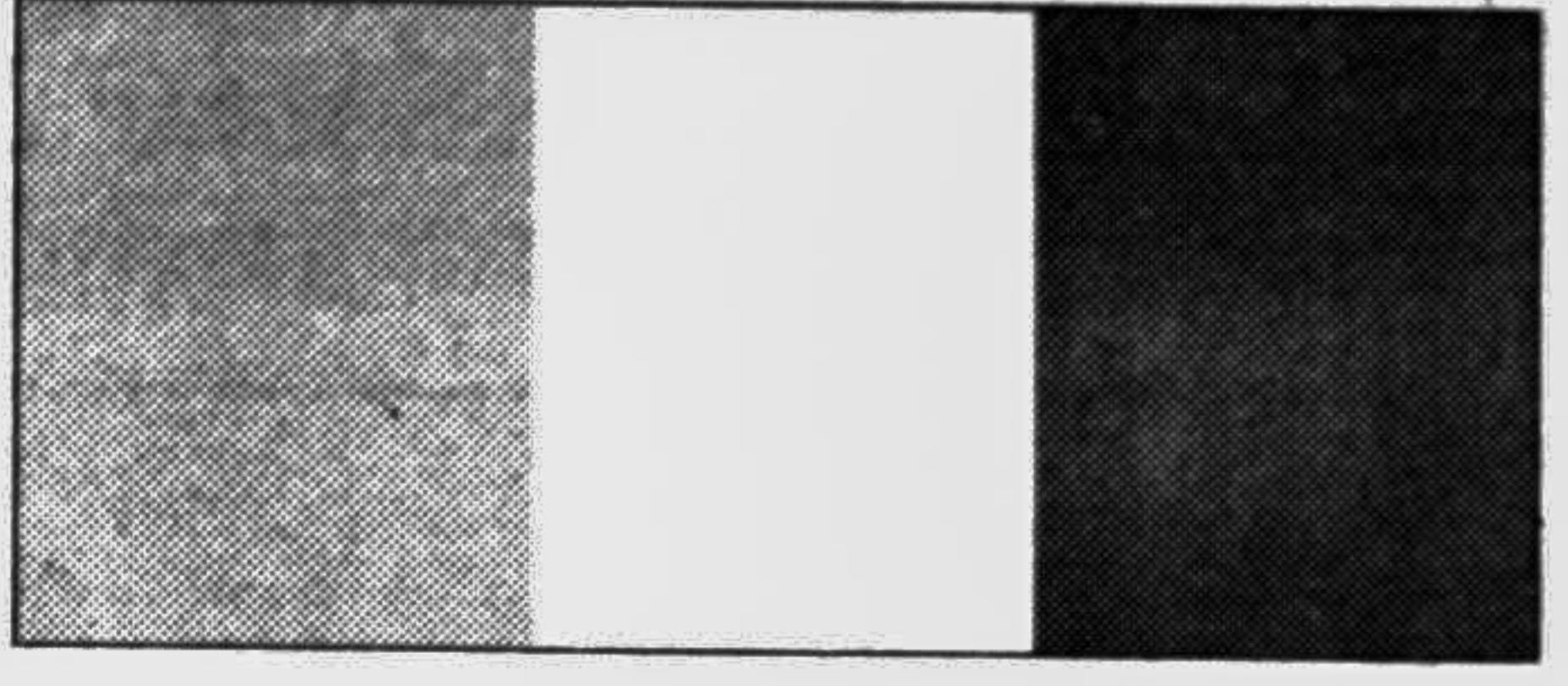




Bastille Day



The Daily Star 8 Special Supplement July 14, 1992



President François Mitterrand

"La Marseillaise"

Arise you children of our Motherland,
 Oh now is here our glorious day!
 Over us the bloodstained banner
 Of tyranny holds sway!
 Of tyranny holds sway!
 Oh, do you hear there in our fields
 the roar of those fierce fighting men?
 Who came right here into our midst
 To slaughter sons, wives and kin:
 To arms, oh citizens!
 Form up in serried ranks!
 March on, march on!
 And drench our fields
 With their tainted blood!
 Supreme devotion to our Motherland,
 Guides and sustains avenging hands;
 Liberty, oh dearest Liberty,
 Come fight with your shielding bands,
 Come fight with your shielding bands!
 Beneath our banner come, oh Victory,
 Run at your soul-stirring cry.
 Oh come: come see your foes now die,
 Witness your pride and our glory.
 To arms, etc
 Into the fight we too shall enter,
 When our fathers are dead and gone.
 We shall find their bones laid down to rest,
 With the fame of their glories won,
 With the fame of their glories won!
 Oh, to survive them care we not,
 Gland are we to share their grave,
 Great honor is to be our lot
 To follow or to venge our brave.
 To arms, etc.

The Fall of the Bastille

FOURTEENTH
OF JULY
SEVENTEEN
EIGHTYNINE



Two centuries ago, the absolute monarchy system of the Bourbon dynasty was crumbling. The King's power was challenged by the representatives of the citizens, the Third Estate, and the people took the street.

When Louis XVI tried to use force against the Assembly early in July he ordered troops to gather near Paris and on July 11 he dismissed Necker, the Minister who had expressed sympathy for the demands of the Third Estate. Paris responded with anger. With cries of revolt, the population began to organize and take up arms. On July 13, at the height of the tension, the unpopular customs gates of the city were burnt down and stores of arms and grain were raided. The next day, Parisians laid siege to the Bastille searching for arms. A symbol of the arbitrary nature of the crown, the fortress used as a prison where individuals were sent without trial fell at the end of the afternoon. Louis XVI withdrew his troops and a new administration was set up in Paris. Immediately after July 14, the order was given to destroy the Bastille.

Stones from the demolished prison were circulated throughout the country like relics, symbols of patriotism.

France's national day is thus the fourteenth of July. The tricolor flag (see page 12), which is the national emblem of the French Republic, represents much of French history. Blue, White and Red may rightfully be called the national colors, since before the introduction of the tricolor, the most historic flags of France were the blue flag of St. Denis (the oriflamme) and the white flag first used by Joan of Arc and later associated with the kings of France. The motto of the French Republic is "Liberty, Equality and Brotherhood."

The national anthem of the French Republic is "La Marseillaise," composed on April 24, 1792 by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle, a French captain of engineers who was commissioned to write it by the mayor of Strasbourg. It has been the national anthem since the beginning of the Third Republic (1871), and is sung at official gatherings and national celebrations.

The fall of the Bastille.

MESSAGE



productive infrastructures. A few days ago, we signed in Dacca an agreement for more actions in the fields of telecommunications, water supply and Flood Action Plan. During the last fiscal year, 40,000 T. of wheat was granted to Bangladesh while our programme with local NGOs was expanded. Training and culture, two values of utmost importance to our two countries, are also integral parts of our close connection. Some important cultural exchanges, with events taking place in France and in Bangladesh, occurred last month.

We do appreciate the generous attitude of the Government and of the people of Bangladesh towards Rohingyas and we do hope that an acceptable solution can be worked out soon. In this regard, France is also supporting Bangladesh at the political level as well as the financial level, directly or indirectly.

The role played by France in the Flood Action Plan remains as defined in London during the International Conference in December 1989 and the momentum has been preserved. The last March's open meeting in Dacca on this plan with the declaration of the Honourable Prime Minister is an important step in this regard.

The purchase of Bangladeshi products by France continue to increase dramatically in 1991 (+ 40%), crossing the mark of 500 crore Taka. France is now the second buyer of Bangladeshi ready-made garments, behind the United States of America and the third for leather. Trade is reinforcing Aid and Cooperation.

On the international scene, France and Bangladesh are sharing similar views on most issues. In Rio-de-Janeiro, in June 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, offered a new occasion to our diplomacies to work closely together for the benefit of relations between North and South.

Despite geographical barrier and historical differences, France and Bangladesh have never encountered any difficulty in their relationship. The impressive mobilisation of the french public opinion after the cyclone in 1991 and the sweeping sympathy of the French people for Bangladeshi resilience demonstrate that, besides normal national interests, an active solidarity between two peoples and two nations is also a bridge in the relationship between France and Bangladesh.

All the best to Bangladesh.

Serge DEGALLAIX
 Ambassador of France in Bangladesh

On 21st, September 1792, the blood of the "counter revolutionaries," massacred by the hundred in the prisons, had not yet dried. In four months, the head of King Louis XVI was to roll beneath the guillotine. The deputies, rising up in furious factions in the arena of the Assembly, vowed each other's death.

The Bicentenary of the French Republic



Place de la Nation: the statue that symbolises the fiery spread of progress.

The day before, Kellermann's army pushed back the Prussian invaders at Valmy. It was the first victory of revolutionary France over the coalition of European countries. It inspired Goethe, who had followed the Prussian army, to make the following remark. "In this place, on this day, a new era is beginning in the history of the world."

Paris had not yet learnt the news of the victory when the deputies met in the "Salle du Manège" in the Tuilleries Place. They examined various proposals and proclaimed, in particular, that "personal property is sacred." (Before that, almost the whole of the French territory belonged either to the King and his nobility, or to the clergy). Then they moved on to other matters, without apparently being concerned to set up the Republic that day, which was to lead Robespierre to say that it "slipped furtively into the Assembly."

The deputy for Paris, Collot d'Herbois, backed by Abbe Gregoire, created a surprise by raising the matter of the royalty. This theatre manager, actor and playwright, who was also deputy for Paris, distinguished himself on 10th August during the storming of the Tuilleries, which was the residence of the Court, and he approved the massacre of the

prisoners. With his fine tragedy-actor's voice, which earned him the nickname of "trumpet of the Revolution", he asked that the abolition of the royalty be pronounced there and then: "The people," he said, "have just been declared sovereign, but they will only be so completely when you have freed them from a rival authority, that of kings."

A profound silence ensued. Then enthusiasm swept over the benches in the Assembly. The deputies suddenly became inflamed and they voted unanimously and with passion that "the royalty be abolished in France." These six words, the weightiest in the history of France, ensured the death of one regime and the birth of another. Publication of the decree was ordered immediately.

But there was no official declaration of the Republic. Yet, one had to admit that it did exist as on the next day, the 22nd September, the Assembly decided to use the Republican calendar and to date its decrees "Year One of the Republic", and, the day after, the Republic was declared "single and indivisible". On the evening of that day, the American ambassador to Paris wrote: "Nothing new today, except that the Convention met and decided that

The French Republic came into being two centuries ago in the full heat of the Revolution. It meant the dawning of a new era for the French nation which adopted the motto "Liberty Equality, Fraternity."

there would no longer be a king." But, in the streets of the French capital, the rejoicing crowds already cried: "Long live the Republic!"

On its birth, the new regime appeared less as a political system or a group of institutions than as a principle and ideal arising from a insti-

tutions than as a principle and ideal arising from a simple idea: by it, the people became sovereign alone and their will was to gain above any other. Time was to pass and the country was to go through many other upheavals before Condorcet's definition was to become firmly anchored in

people's minds. Anticipating the celebration of this bicentenary, the president of the Constitutional Council, Robert Badinter, summed up, in a few words, the reason for the attachment of the majority of French people to their regime: "The Republic remains laden with hope, even when its practice reveals itself to be disappointing. The regime may appear mediocre (...) but outside of Republican values, there is no hope for the citizen to see his liberty, his dignity, and his fundamental rights respected."

SPACE: THE KOUROU BASE IN GUIANA PROMOTED TO "EUROPEAN SPACE PORT"

Forty-five successful operations and only five failures for Ariane. This flattering score confirms the image of the most reliable launcher on the market which is the pride of a technology developed, for the European Space Agency, by the Ariane space company.

In the 60s, Kourou was a village with 200 inhabitants on the edge of the Guianese forest. Now it is a town with a population of about 10,000, 850 of whom work permanently at the launching base.

Today, the base looks worthy of a pharaohs building site with hundreds of workers of all nationalities busy preparing the place from which, in 1995, Ariane V, the launcher of the third millennium, will take off.

This rocket is the result of a completely new technology, and the devices it will launch are real monsters weighing 7 tonnes, — and even 22 tonnes for the future Hermes space shuttle, due to be launched at the end of the century. The present Ariane IV, which can hardly carry more than 4.4 tonnes, will look really puny

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OUR WARMEST FELICITATION ON THE NATIONAL DAY OF FRANCE

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MERCIER FRERES

