

# BGMEA opens health & edn centre for child workers

By Staff Correspondent

A health and education centre for the child workers of garments industry at Mahibagh in the city was inaugurated yesterday.

The centre was set up by Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association, BGMEA.

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, inaugurating the centre, called upon the BGMEA to rehabilitate all the child workers of garments industry after their retrenchment in phases by October 31. The retrenched children would also be given some financial benefits, the minister hoped.

The function was also addressed by US Ambassador to Bangladesh David N Merrill and BGMEA President Redwan Ahmed, MP. It was presided over by Mostafa Golam Kuddus.

The minister stressed the need for a healthy relationship between garments factory owners and workers. If the relationship is not good or the workers are under paid the industry will never be able to progress, he said.

The minister said that the Labour Ministry had agreed to allow the BGMEA to manage some of the welfare centres of the ministry.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan underlined the need for research and said that the government would help the BGMEA in this regard.

The US Ambassador appreciated setting up of the health and education centre and said,



BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Deogram in Kahlua thana under Bogra district yesterday. — PID photo

## PM: Unjust issues

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Bogra-four constituency felt vacant following the death of BNP Member of Parliament Azizul Huq Mollah.

Besides addressing four public meetings, the BNP Chairperson also met people at different places of Kahlua thana including Sabanpur and Durgapur here today.

"We want to strengthen the democratic process and build the nation in such a way that our country can emerge as the strongest democratic nation with its heads high in the world," Prime Minister told a gathering.

She reminded the voters of their responsibilities and urged them to go to the polling centres in the morning of July 7 even in case of inclement weather.

She said the people had already begun getting the benefits of her government's development programmes.

The work on the construction of the Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Project, and the Barapukuria coal mine, she said, were the manifestation of her government's commitment of developing the country as well as strengthening the economy.

Begum Zia said the measures taken for the welfare of the peasants and for the development of the agriculture sector had led the country to attain near self-sufficiency in foodgrains. The prices of agricultural inputs including fertilizer, pesticides, she said, had also been reduced.

The Prime Minister said measures had been taken so that the farmers could get fertilizer at low prices.

Those who addressed the public meetings included Energy Minister Dr Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Establishment Aminul Huq, Mayor of Rajshahi city Mizanur Rahman Minu, members of Parliament Rowshan Elahi, Golam Mohammad Siraj, Shahinara Huq, Abdul Majid Talukdar, Helaluzzaman Talukdar and Bogra district BNP leader Rehan Nabi Badsha. BNP nominee Dr Ziaul Huq Mollah also spoke.

The Prime Minister also visited the mazar of late Azizul Huq Mollah at Deogram and offered Fataha there. Earlier, she visited Bogra Jatiya Bahubashi Satilpi Prashkhan O Gobeyana Academy in the morning.

## Bogra by-polls

Campaigning banned from tonight

Public meetings, processions and gatherings in the Bogra-4 constituency area have been prohibited for 48 hours beginning midnight Tuesday for smooth holding of by-election on July 7, reports UNB.

According to rule 78 (1) of the Public Representation Order 1972, none can call any meeting, procession and rally or nobody can join any such functions during the period.

An Election Commission press release said yesterday anybody who violates the prohibition would be subject to punitive action upto 7 years imprisonment alongwith a minimum fine of Tk. 2,000.

## Workers call off strike at Mongla

KHULNA, July 4: The Mongla Port Sramik Sangha called off their planned strike from today following fruitful negotiation with the authorities, reports UNB.

The Sangha, comprising Workers' Association and Stevedores Association, gave ultimatum on January 13 to the authorities for meeting their demands by June 26 or it will go for indefinite strike. But the authorities sought extension of the deadline till Sunday to sort out the matter.

A meeting Sunday night between Chairman of Mongla Port authority, some high government officials and leaders of the Sramik Sangha reached consensus on settling the workers' demands.

The demands include raising remuneration and stoppage of hiring outsiders in handling cargo at the port.

# The Midnight File

## Court summons Sharif

ISLAMABAD, July 4: A judge today summoned Pakistani opposition leader Nawaz Sharif to answer defamatory charges against him by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The district and Sessions Judge in nearby Rawalpindi asked Sharif to appear before the court on July 21, court officials said, reports AFP.

## Mandela wants to meet Savimbi

CAPE TOWN, July 4: President Nelson Mandela said Monday he hoped to meet with Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi within the next week to 10 days in South Africa. Speaking to reporters in the Khayelitsha black township, Mandela said he invited Savimbi to come to South Africa for talks sometime after a meeting this week with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and other African leaders on Angola's 19 year-old civil war, reports AP.

# BNP MPs debate among themselves

By Staff Correspondent

The treasury bench members engaged in a lively debate among themselves in Parliament yesterday when one of their fellow BNP MPs alleged that a divisional office of the Water Development Board was being withdrawn from Sailakupa thana in violation of the Prime Minister's order.

Abdul Wahab, MP (Jhenidah-1) in his call attention notice said the WDB divisional office was being shifted from Sailakupa by the Ministry of Irrigation and Flood Control.

He said the division was established in 1967 with three sub-divisions and 15 branches. Five branches have already been shifted to Magura and 63 officials and employees out of 210 transferred.

He said the government decision has sparked discontent among the people of his constituency and the matter was brought to the notice of the Prime Minister.

Wahab claimed that the Prime Minister had, on June 16, ordered that the office not be shifted from Sailakupa.

Irrigation and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Huq, in reply, told the House that the rehabilitation programme of the Ganges-Kobadak Irrigation Project was being implemented under the supervision

Majid-ul-Huq said the decision has been taken in accordance with the Prime Minister's order and amended project proposal of the Planning Commission.

Mashur Rahman, another BNP MP from Jhenidah, took the floor and supported Wahab's contention. "We are from the same region and we must feel the pulse of the people," Mashur added.

Ruling party Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, taking the floor, asked the Speaker whether there was any scope of a debate on the issue under Rule 71 of the rules of procedure.

The Speaker said the rules of procedure do not permit such debates but "the question must be fully answered."

"Take resignation letters from us," an aggrieved Wahab grumbled through the microphone.

The Speaker then switched over to the next item of the order of the day.

## Holland in qtr - finals

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ange shirts, though Irish fans felt they were harshly treated by Danish referee Peter Mikkelsen.

Only one player was booked — Dutch captain Ronald Koeman for a foul on Irish striker Andy Townsend in the 72nd minute.

But the last of Orlando's five World Cup games spelled the end for the Irish, who fell one round short of their best-ever achievement of 1990 when they reached the quarter-finals.

The Dutch, eliminated in the second round by eventual champions West Germany in 1990, go at least one stage further this time and play the winners of the day's other clash between favourites Brazil and hosts the United States.

TEAMS

**NETHERLANDS:** 1-Ed de Goey, 4-Ronald Koeman, 18-Stan Valckx, 2-Frank de Boer, 3-Frank Rijkaard, 20-Aron Winter, 8-Wim Jonk, 5-Rob Witschge (16-Arthur Numan 80), 7-Marc Overmars, 10-Dennis Bergkamp, 19-Peter van Vossen (11-Bryan Roy 71).

**IRELAND:** 1- Pat Bonner, 12-Gary Kelly, 5-Paul McGrath, 14-Phil Babb, 3-Terry Phelan, 8-Ray Houghton, 6-Roy Keane, 7-Andy Townsend, 10-John Sheridan, 11-Steve Staunton

## Election holiday in Bogra July 7

The government has declared holiday for officers and employees of government and semi-government offices and autonomous bodies in Bogra-4 constituency area on July 7 for casting their votes in by-election on the day, reports UNB.

## CU senate meet deferred

CHITTAGONG, July 4: The adjourned tenth annual meeting of the Chittagong University senate will now be held on July 14 instead of July 10 and the 11th annual meeting of the senate will be held on July 15 instead of July 11 at the conference room of the administrative building, reports BSS.

## Teller machine

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bank statements on the spot. All these transactions can be done by inserting a personal "Moneylink" ATM card and pressing a few buttons on the machine. It is simple, hassle-free banking.

Customers willing to enjoy the facility will have to obtain cards at a fee of Tk 950 annually.

"We will keep enough cash to meet the needs of our customers at the ATM," said McCarthy, "but for the first month, card holders will be allowed to draw a maximum of Tk 10,000 a day."

This is the beginning," the SCB chief executive said, "we will set up soon more ATMs in the city's convenient points."

In 1996, the SCB will set up a new mainframe computer that will enable clients to transact banking business with other countries if forex regulations are further relaxed.

The ATM service will be formally commissioned by Khorshed Alam, Governor, Bangladesh Bank and Peter J Fowler, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh.

## Sanjay Dutt

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lays and legal wrangling

The Hindi film actor was released on bail after his arrest last year on charges of possessing an illegal AK-56 assault rifle and ammunition, and conspiring to blow up the city.

The High Court of the state of Maharashtra later ruled that bail should have been denied because of the seriousness of the charge, but left it to trial judge J N Patel to take action.

Dutt's lawyer C B Wadhwa said he would appeal to the Supreme Court.

Dutt was ordered held until the trial against him is complete. Legal experts said the case against all the defendants may last three to five years, but it is likely to be broken down into individual cases.

Dutt was arrested under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act, which allows police to detain suspects without trial for up to one year. Bail is rarely granted, but an exception was made for Dutt, whose father is a member of the Indian parliament and a former film actor.

Patel said the evidence showed that Dutt "rendered active assistance" to the terrorists by storing some of the arms, ammunition, hand grenades and explosives in his house.

The judge dismissed Dutt's argument that he was holding the arms for his own defence.

A family of Muslims, the Memons, was accused of planning the series of explosions to avenge the killing of hundreds of Muslims during the 1992 communal riots in the city following the destruction of a mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu fanatics. The Memon brothers fled India and reportedly are living in the Middle East.

## Jahanara Imam

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Col. Abu Osman Chowdhury and Col. Kazi Nuruzzaman were present at the tarmac.

Besides, a host of relatives, friends, comrades, and well-wishers were present at the airport.

The steering committee leaders of the Nirmul Jatiya Samannay Committee received the coffin as it was lowered from the 747 jet.

After customs clearance the coffin, bedecked with flowers, was put on an open truck and brought to the leaders waiting with wreaths and bouquets.

A munajat was offered at the airport seeking salvation of the departed soul.

Jahanara Imam's son, Jami, after alighting from the aircraft, hugged all the leaders who consoled him.

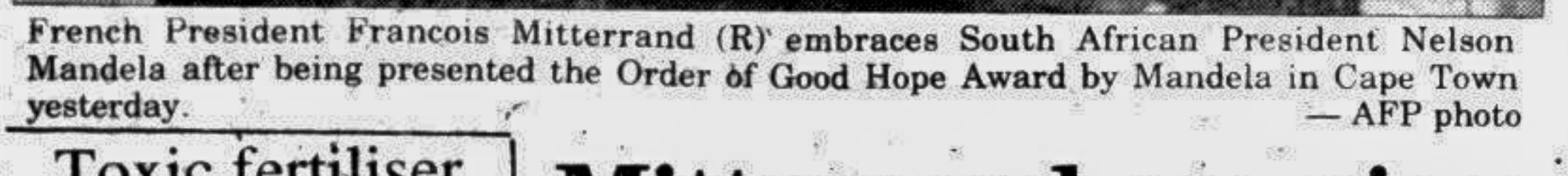
"I am proud of my mother," he told newsmen. "She had always told me that she had thousands of sons besides myself to carry on her struggle."

Outside the airport, thousands of people huddled in buses, trucks, cars, minibuses and autorickshaws, followed the truck carrying her coffin in a mourning procession.

Wearing black badges and arm-bands the mourners chanted slogans like "We salute you Shahid Janani," and "Down with fundamentalism" and "Razakars of 71 — Beware!"

Vehicular movement on the 15-kilometer-long route from the airport almost came to a halt as the motorcade slowly passed by.

People lined up on both sides of the road to pay their respects to the woman who came to symbolise the mothers of thousands of sons martyred in the nine-month-long bloody



French President Francois Mitterrand (R) embraces South African President Nelson Mandela after being presented the Order of Good Hope Award by Mandela in Cape Town yesterday. — AFP photo

## Toxic fertiliser

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ttagong and Khulna Divisions.

The government, the source said, is going to bear the cost of transporting the toxic fertiliser to Khulna and Chittagong ports along with the shipment cost to the US. This would involve a total cost of about three crore taka as freight charges are likely to be higher for toxic substances, he added.

The Asian Development Bank, which financed the purchase of the fertiliser, recently employed a consultant to recommend protective measures while handling the toxic fertiliser for re-shipment.

In January 1992, the BADC imported some 6,150 metric tons of zinc-oxo-sulphate fertiliser from a South Carolina-based company. Chemical tests, both here and in the US, on the consignment later revealed that it contained high levels of toxic lead and cadmium substances. A portion of the toxic fertiliser was used before the test results were completed.

Later, the government formed a probe committee headed by the Vice-Chancellor of the Open University, which recommended the return of the contaminated fertiliser to the US and also called for action against negligent government officials responsible for purchasing the fertiliser containing hazardous wastes.

## Mitterrand promises aid for South Africa

CAPE TOWN, SA, July 4: French President Francois Mitterrand began an unprecedented South African visit Monday by promising unspecified aid and unqualified friendship for the "rainbow nation," reports AP.

In ceremonies steeped in pomp and circumstance, Mitterrand received a red carpet welcome from President Nelson Mandela upon arrival at DF Malan Airport and several standing ovations in the parliament, where he became the first foreign leader to address the joint chambers.

"I came here to celebrate with you the victory of a people over fear and intolerance," Mitterrand said in the historic speech to the nation's first multiracial parliament elected in April.

"You have a magnificent task ahead of you — to build a new nation, the rainbow nation," he said in French that was interpreted for the audience. "After the tragic moments of the past and after the euphoria of the present moments of reconciliation, you will... certainly be up against the contradictions of day-to-day political life. Well, best of luck to you."

A longstanding opponent of

## Krishibid Instt for dialogue to end JS impasse

By Staff Correspondent

The Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh, in a statement yesterday urged the Members of Parliament and other politicians to arrange a national dialogue for resolving the current political impasse.

The institution also requested the Opposition legislators to return to parliament and discuss all national issues there.

"We think parliament is the proper forum to resolve all issues," the statement said and warned that continued boycott of parliament could destroy the democratic process and pave the way for autocrats.

The Opposition's boycott of the proceedings of parliament is a cause of concern for the people, the statement, signed by the institution's secretary general Zaved Iqbal, added.

## Master plan

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45 million. "Now the population has almost trebled while the forest area has reduced to one-third."

Experts maintain that only a well-planned massive afforestation programme can help improve the situation for which a long-term plan is essential.

Sources said that the draft master plan contains details of the afforestation programme to be implemented phase by phase. All the sectoral projects related to forestry will be implemented in accordance with the master plan.

The main thrust of the plan will be on afforestation programmes both by the public and private sectors. Local government bodies like union parishads and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will be involved in such programmes while individuals and private entrepreneurs will also be encouraged to participate.

The master plan incorporates programmes such as social forestry, agro-based forestry and utilisation of marginal agricultural lands for the purpose. The plan also proposes amendments to the laws and regulations related to forestry and updating training and research facilities in this regard.

The master plan emphasises involving rural women in the afforestation programme which will also help alleviate poverty.