Salient features of WSSD declaration

The 10 commitments conopment reached in Copenhagen late Friday are as fol-

The commitments are included in a 23-page statement, to be known as the Copenhagen Declaration, and each begins "We commit ourselves

1. "creating an enabling economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development."

mankind."

views with world leaders

COPENHAGEN, Mar 11:

while attending a dinner hosted by President of South Korea Kim Young Sam at the Scandinavia Hotel here.

dinner. The leaders are now in the

capital of Denmark to attend the World Summit for Social Development.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and other leaders on their arrival at the

had informal discussions with President of South Korea Kim Nicaragua Violetta Chammora President of Latvia Ulmanis Prime Minister of Nepal Monmohan Adhikari, President of Gabon Bongo, President of Kenya Daniel Arap Moi, and President of Central Africa Republic Patasse.

countries. President Kim Young Sam

said he was looking forward to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting his country.

(Begum Zia) visit South Korea," said President Kim.

3. "promoting the goal of full employment as a basic priority of our economic and social policies, and ... enabling all men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and

4. "promoting social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just and based on the promotion and protection of all human rights, and on non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security and participation of all people including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons."

5. "promoting full respect for human dignity and ... achieving equality and equity between women and men, and ... recognizing and enhancing the participation and leadership roles of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life and in develop-

yesterd.iv

January 25.

48-hr hartal

mands including dissolution of

Parliament, resignation of the

BNP government, national

elections under a caretaker

administration and reduction

their hartal programmes at

separate rallies in the city on

continue till 6 am on Tuesday

without any break. AL General

Secretary Zillur Rahman told

The Daily Star last night. Only

medicine and food shops and

ambulance, fire service and

newspaper transports will

remain outside the purview of

the hartal, he said. Even

rickshaws will not be ex-

empted from the shutdown, he

called upon the people to ob-

serve the hartal. She was ad-

dressing a joint meeting of

her party's central committee.

advisory committee, presi-

dents and general secretaries

of the thana and ward units

and ward commissioners of

Dhaka City Corporation at the

Party Central office at

Bangabandhu Avenue yester-

Hasina also addressed a

public rally, organised by the

Awami Juba League's Dhaka

South Branch at Bangabandhu

Avenue to drum up support for

the hartal. She also attended a

meeting of the ward commis-

sioners belonging to her party.

Farmers

From Page One

a meagre quantity of urea fer-

tiliser against their real de-

February, demand for 6,150

metric tons of urea had been

placed to the authorities, but

the allotment was only 340

Manikganj

In Manikganj, several hun-

dred farmers today held a

demonstration in front of the

DC office to demand supply of

fertiliser all over the district at

arranged a protest rally there.

which was addressed by CPB

district president Azharul Is-

lam Arzu, JP district secre-

tary general Saiful Islam Badal

and JP student wing presi-

pressed grave concern over

the recent price hike of fer-

tiliser and called upon the au-

thorities to ensure supply of

fertiliser from thanas upto

union level throughout the dis-

Sirajganj

ganj adds: About 5,000 farmers

today staged demonstrations in

the town demanding immedi-

ate supply of fertiliser at fair

Awami League-backed Kr-

ishak League and Left Demo-

cratic Front organised separate

rallies and assembled in front

of the DC office to stage the

Addressing the Krishak

League rally, district Awami

League General Secretary Ab-

dul Latif Mirza blamed the ad-

ministration and local BNP

leaders for creating artificial

crisis of fertiliser in the dis-

were submitted by the organi-

College teachers

From Page One

sociation, in a statement

yesterday, said they would go

for an indefinite strike from

April 8 and boycott the HSC

examinations, to be held in

May, June and July, if their

demands were not met im-

greater agitation at 24-hours'

sations to the local DC.

Two separate memoranda

demonstration.

Another report from Siraj-

Speakers at the rally ex-

dent Israfil Hossain.

Later, the demonstrators

fair price.

He said since first week of

day morning.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina has

The parties had announced

The 48-hour hartal will

of the prices of essentials.

From Page One

6. "promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the access of all to primary health care.

7. "accelerating the economic, social, and human resource development of Africa and the least developed coun-

8. "ensuring that when structural adjustment programmes are agreed to they should include social development goals, in particular, of eradicating poverty, promoting full and productive employment and enhancing social integration.

9. "to increase significantly and/or utilize more efficiently the resources allocated to social development in order to achieve the goals of the summit through national action, and regional and international cooperation."

10. "an improved and strengthened framework for international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development, in a spirit or partnership, through the United Nations and other multilateral institutions."

SKOP leaders

From Page One mentation of the agreements already reached with the parties concerned on various points. They particularly refuted the contention of private sector mills owners that SKOP are not in a position to implement the minimum wage as accorded in the public

They alleged that had their been no protection from the government to the private sector particularly in jute.

- Star photo Slow pace of reforms

From Page One

progress in administrative reform, privatisation and other reform measures were highlighted in the draft CEM.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a joint meeting of the party's working

committee and advisory committee at the central office in the c'"'s Bangabandhu Avenue

It cautioned that the unfinished reform agenda would limit the success of the achievements of the past few years. Emphasising a faster pace of reform, the World Bank warned that the failure to carry forward the reform process would impair the growth prospect of the economy and would also cause setbacks for the poverty alleviation and other employment generating programmes.

The Bank also cautioned the government against the pitfalls of any surge in the unproductive current expenditures,

JCD stages anti-hartal rally at DU

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, brought out a procession and held an anti-hartal rally on the Dhaka University campus vesterday, reports

Addressing the rally held in front of the 'DUCSU Bhaban' JCE leaders criticised the opposition political parties for calling the hartal for today and tomorrow and described it as anti-people and anti-democ-

The rally was addressed. among others, by Moni-ruzzaman Monir, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney, Mosharraf Hossain and Jakir Ahmed

The leaders urged the student community to consolidate democracy and remain vigilant against all kinds of conspiracy to destroy the hard earned democracy.

Pro-Awami League Chhatra League also brought out a procession on the campus in support of the 48-hour hartal beginning today.

jeopardising the macro-economic stability prevailing in the country.

It noted that not much progress has been made in the administrative reform process and pointed out that in the government's privatisation drive only six per cent of the targeted public sector units. most since 1991, have so far been privatised.

The draft CEM noted that the annual losses in the 200 or so state-owned enterprises amounted to one per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and described it as a major drag on the economy. It also termed the system loss in the power sector as a major waste of resources.

Regarding financial sector reforms, it expressed concern over the high proportion of non-performing loans in the banking sector and over the poor rate of recovery. The Bank also called for

'depoliticising' the labour management relations and for instituting a productivity-based wages regime. This, it said, is necessary to

maintain an investment friendly environment strengthen competitiveness and improve the country's image abroad. The prospects for aid

commitments and disbursements to Bangladesh in the 1995-96 fiscal, the draft CEM says, would critically depend on how speedily the reform programme is implemented.

the bank concludes that Bangladesh would require some 1.85 billion US dollars in aid commitment for next year, including 1.3 billion in project aid, 400 million in commodity aid and another 150 million in food aid.

At last year's Paris meet. the donors pledged 2.1 billion dollars. Official sources said that only some 700 million dollars have so far been disbursed this fiscal.

ately lodged the FIR with the Investigators of the Criminal Investigation Depart

ment (CID) had contacted him once after the filing of the case and sought some documents. "I will tell everything before

Manzur's brother

seeks the truth

By Asiuzzaman

elder brother of Maj Gen M A

Manzur has said he wants

proper investigation into the

"I do not want publicity.

want a probe into the killing of

my brother, said Abul Mansur

who filed a case with

Panchlaish thana in Chittagong

matter seemed to be taboo for

a long time and I was not even

given a copy of the autopsy re-

port of Manzur, needed for fil-

ing the case "He said he had

miraculously got the report

late last month and immedi

He told The Daily Star The

killing of his brother, not me-

dia publicity

on February 28 last

Barrister Abul Mansur.

the court if I am summoned," he said, declining to elaborate. "I will not say anything that might hamper or influence the investigation. Abul Mansur denied that he

had talks with ruling party leaders and government attornevs before filing the case

These are speculations by a section of the press. I never spoke with the Prime Minister or the Attorney General," he said, adding: "Being a lawyer, know which document is nec essary for the case and waited for long 14 years for the autopsy report."

Abul Mansur said he be lieves a thorough and proper investigation would reveal the

Fertility level

From Page One reduction to disproportional use of chemical fertiliser and excessive pressure on land.

"In the past, farmers used to give their land a season's rest but this is hardly possible now," the BARC man clarified. Consequently the arable lands were not being replenished properly. Although the farmers are

being constantly informed by the agricultural wing of the government about the proper use of fertiliser and scientific ways of farming to increase production they are not recip-rocating up to the required mark because of a lack of incentives from the government. "Mere advice never pro-

duces practical results. To make the farmers listen and follow instructions, the government must cut back the prices of agricultural inputs through subsidy," the scientist opined

"Even in the USA or Canada. the government subsidizes farmers in order to keep the market price of crops profitable for them and also to increase output.

"If the current trend continues and we sit back taking no action to increase or replenish the fertility level, by 2010 our soil would lose its ability to produce crops economically," he warned.

Since the UN has 185

From Page One

because no economy -- developing, transitional, or developed - can escape the problems of social development, he pointed out. "New form of global conciliation and mutual

a sense of solidarity among the nations.

"Such a sense of solidarity cannot permit those who are privileged to ignore those who are poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged," he observed.

Welcoming the world leaders. Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen said social rights and duties were not written in the stars but belonged to the earth.

We. therefore, need to make a common and global framework for social development," he said.

Rasmussen saw affluence and poverty making strange bedfellows - as global wealth multiplied sevenfold in the past 50 years, so increased poverty, unemployment and social dislocation.

pointed out that only a fraction of the military spending by the rich nations could provide primary health care for everybody in the poor countries. He also appealed for debt-

relief which "is of huge importance for the poorest countries." Sponsored by the UN, the

World Summit for Social Development started on March 6. The three main themes of this global gathering is to ex-

According to the UN, the 118 leaders attending the summit include 72 heads of state including Cuban President Fidel Castro, six vice presidents and 44 prime min-

20 heads of state and government made their statements while 24 others spoke in the later half of the day.

the first day's session Indonesia, President Farooq Premier Li Peng, Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, Japanese premier Tomiichi Murayama, French President Mugabe, German Chancellor H Sheikh Jaber and Malaysia's Dr. Mahathir Mohammad.

Begum Zia is scheduled to address the plenary tomorrow

Major Emdad From Page One

Emdad. Until yesterday police did

not make any other arrest but interrogated several former top-ranking military and civil officials. The investigators also collected a lot of 'precious' documents which might help probe the more than decadeold case.

Emdad's lawyer Shamsul Hug told The Daily Star yesterday that he had filed a bail petition for his client on Thursday last which was to have come up for hearing yesterday.

Since it did not come up, he would move both the petitions for hearing today.

some materials to fight the case but declined to elaborate. When contacted. Emdad's

wife declined to comment on the matter, saying that she had hired lawyers to deal with the

member states, the participation of 118 nations in the Social Summit means roughly one-third of them will not represented in the summit.

Those missing include Russian President Boris Yeltsin, British Prime Minister John Major and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien Though US President Bill Clinton will not be attending the summit, he will be represented by Vice President Al

Leaders of Brunei, Egypt Iran, Iraq, Libya, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Latin American countries like Argentina Uruguay and Venezuela are also Hopes ran high among the

representatives of the developing countries as they viewed this historic event as a gateway to a new era of social welfare. "This is an occasion where we must get our voice heard,

Mostafizur Rahman told The Daily Star. He said that if the rich countries wanted to see sustainable development around the world, they must allow the

Foreign Minister ASM

economy of the poor country Leader of G-77 group Cielito Habito of the Philippines said that the most imprudent achievement of the summit was the commitment for addi-

tional resources. However, some of the countries were not as enthusiastic as others when they thought the Summit failed to tackle the resource issues in favour of the poor.

The Copenhagen Declaration, even if signed by all the 119 participating countries, will not be a binding document but a voluntary one.

Now the burning question is

The Midnight Kile

Pro-Rabbani troops rout Taliban forces in S Kabul

KABUL. Mar 11: Backed by tanks and truck-mounted antiaircraft cannons, troops loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani stormed into south Kabul late Saturday and routed Taliban and Shi'ite opposition forces. "We have given the Taliban such a lesson they'll never attack us again." boasted a victorious pro-Rabbani commander to AFP. The Taliban Islamic student militia entered south Kabul Wednesday afternoon to take over positions surrendered by the Shi'ite-Hezb-i-Wahdat faction.

Red Cross plane shot at, Sarajevo airport shut

SARAJEVO. Mar 11: The United Nations closed Sarajevo airport today after a Red Cross plane was hit by small arms fire while landing. 'The plane was hit from underneath and was able to unload its cargo and two passengers before returning to Zagreb," said Nina Lindquist, spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Sarajevo, reports Reuter.

Khaleda invites investors

From Page One foreign investment and strengthen trade relations with the other countries.

She gave a brief resume of her government's socio-economic programmes, including those on rural development, education and credit facilities for rural women.

The Dutch Prime Minister appreciated Bangladesh's efforts to improve the quality of lives of her people as well as to develop the country.

Kok also wanted to know about the Flood Action Plan (FAP) and floods that occur frequently in Bangladesh

Begum Zia said the people of Bangladesh are facing serious problems due to unilateral withdrawal of water from the common international rivers by the upper riparian country.

Begum Zia also had a meeting with Indonesian President Soeharto at the Bella Centre. Both leaders underlined

the need for further increasing relations between the two Asian countries, having common religious and cultural

She thanked President Soeharto for becoming the chairman of E9 and invited him to visit Bangladesh.

President Soeharto appreciated Bangladesh's successes in various socio-economic fields, including family plan-

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman. State Minister for Planning Dr A Moveen Khan and Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan were among others present

Begum Zia also had talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohammad and Bosnian President Alija Ijozbisk at the lobby of the Bella Conference Centre just before the beginning of the summit.

and briefly discussed bilateral. and international issues of common concern. The Prime Minister attended a lunch hosted by the

They exchanged greetings

Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen at the Belavista restaurant at the conference centre

SEC may reconsider From Page One of IPOs to the extent of 25 to

Avaz Ebrahim of the

Bangladesh Fund of Indosuez Asset Management, Charles Lansford of the Moghul Fund. Marianne Page of the Londonbased Smith New Court, Niall Scheiner of the Switzerlandbased UBS Securities and G. Lejoinder of WI Carr made the request for withdrawing the "lock-in" in a joint letter to Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed, Banking Division Secretary Shamsul Huda and SEC Chairman Sultan-uz-Zaman

"We are not closing our doors to foreign investment. We very much want it. What we are seeking is a quid pro quo from them. One should pay some price for the privileges ... it's not a gratis sort of situation and foreign investors should accept the fact of life," the SEC Chairman told a news agency a week ago, justifying the SEC regulations.

The SEC was expecting that the new guidelines would give a clear signal about the "rules of the game" to the foreign investors and thus benefit the market in the long run, he added. The SEC regulations, im-

posed in February, have limited the allotment of securities to foreign investors to a maximum of one-third of the issued share capital sanctioned in the initial public offerings (IPOs) The new guidelines also

imposed a 'lock-in' on foreign traders that restricts them from liquidating primary shares for one year from the receipt of allotment. Earlier, foreign funds were

allowed preferential allotment

80 per cent and there was no lock-in restriction. In the joint letter, the for-

eign fund managers said, "For the sake of the smooth run-

to Bangladesh's commitment to liberalisation. "We are equally happy to see that a greater role will be given to local investors in IPOs and right issues," they said, but apprehended that the negative effects of the "lock-in" may be greater than the positive ef-

The foreign investors have so far injected more than 200 million US dollars into the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) over the last two years. All the five securities firms have been operating in the sub-continent from their regional offices in Hong Kong.

DSE Vice Chairman Imtiyaz Hussain said the lock-in period may create a "grey market" of local shares outside the country, causing distortions in prices. The local brokers would also be deprived of commissions from the external trading of shares, he added.

He said the regulations reemerging stage, he felt.

From Page One

news agency reported.

The five state elections will have no immediate impact on Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, whose Congress Party controls Maharashtra, Gujarat and Arunachal Pradesh. But a bad showing could increase pressure on him to slow his free-market economic reforms and increase widespread feuding in his party.

A victory for Hindu funda mentalists in Gujarat and Maharashtra also could increase tension and even ignite violence between India's Hindu majority and the Muslim mino-

Results on the voting in Bihar, which also will be held on two other days, won't be announced until March 21.

As voting began Saturday, a land mine planted by suspec ted left-wing rebels who oppose the election killed Magis trate D M Sharma and his driver, Gulam Sarwar, in a jeep in Hazaribagh District in south Bihar, United News of India said.

In the nearby districts, dozens of clashes broke out near polling booths, killing four people, including a supporter of the governing Janata Dal Party, Press Trust of India

While travelling through Gaya District, this reporter saw Janata Dal Workers openly rigging the election by preventing supporters of other parties from voting. No troops were seen in the rural areas because most were deployed in towns and cities. More than 50 people were

violence between political rivals during the campaign that Saturday

dered one of the poorest, most backward and corrupt states in

From Page One

The more immediate

number of Mohammedan supporters at the nearly packed Dhaka Stadium yesterday was the fact that it was the first victory of their team over nst Abahani in the 1991-92

COPENHAGEN. Mar 11: tained in the declaration of the UN summit for social devel-

2. "eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of hu-

PM exchanges

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night exchanged views with a number of world leaders on bilateral, regional and international issues, reports BSS. Begum Zia met the leaders

Heads of state and government of Bangladesh, Mali. Ethiopia, Central Africa Republic, Latvia, Tanzania, Nepal, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Gabon, Botswana, Kenya, Peru and other countries, attended the

President Kim received

Prime Minister Begum Zia Young Sam, President of

During her brief talks with the South Korean President both the leaders stressed the need for strengthening bilateral ties between the two Asia

"We will be happy if you

Fertiliser crisis From Page One ministries of Agriculture, Industries and Communications to make fertiliser

available to the farmers at a fair

price. The government has also asked the DCs and TNOs (Thana Nirbahi officers) to take measures so that urea is sold within a maximum retail price of Tk 230 for every 50

kg bag. This rate is applicable for the urea directly handled by the DCs and TNOs. But there is no control over the general traders who mainly dominate the distribution system, said an official of the Agriculture Ministry, on condition of

anonymity. Reports reaching the capital say that farmers have to pay more than double — Tk 400 to 500 - to buy a 50 kg bag of urea from the open

As soon as the distribution

system was deregulated a new

dimension of free trading in fertiliser with anybody being able to buy the product from the mill-gates was introduced. Presently, the former dealers of the BADC and traders nominated by their respective

DCs can buy a fixed quantity of fertiliser from the mill gate. Arrangements have also been made to send fertiliser to the DCs as per requirement. The DCs distribute fertiliser through some selected dealers and, in some cases, directly

But allegations are there that the newly nominated dealers enjoy special political patronage. A BCIC official also said the number of new fertiliser traders is higher than that of the older ones. There is, however, a re-

among the farmers.

striction on the sale of fertiliser from one particular area to another area. Police re-cently seized fertiliser from Savar and Narayanganj for violation of this rule.

The buying rate for one

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

tonne of fertiliser is Tk 3725 at mill gate whereas the international price for a tonne of urea is Tk 9000 plus; accord-

ing to BCIC officials. Even though the BCIC could have earned a huge profit by exporting fertiliser urea, its export has been banned to

meet domestic requirements.

Sources alleged that a huge

quantity of urea is smuggled to neighboring countries where the price is much higher. A section of traders are also hoarding tertiliser to satisfy their lust for money creating an artificial crisis in the mar-

ket and causing a threat to

rice production, reports re-

ceived from different areas Some traders, however, alleged that the supply of urea from the mills is not adequate and that's why they could not make fertiliser available to the

But BCIC officials said there is no shortage of fertiliser at the mill level since the per day take-off of fertiliser reached

is to produce fertiliser. It is not liable for the marketing, an official argued. der the BCIC producing urea,

nutrient in the country. Since the inception of the BADC in the early 60s, the distribution system was controlled by it. The corporation had built up a network reach-

ing recommendations of the donors. The International Fertiliser Development Centre (IFDC), a US-based consultant firm, oversaw the process.

sector in the early 90s follow-

farmers. 9200 tonnes, a record level.

There are six factories unthe most used chemical soil

The prime duty of the BCIC

ing down to the union level. But the distribution system was transferred to the private

Under the new policy, there is no agency to monitor the distribution system and the administration has failed to check hoarding.

mediately. They urged the teachers to be prepared for launching a

notice.

tion will be announced on April 7 at the joint meeting of the representatives of teachers and association leaders, the statement said

Detail of the greater agita-

World leaders focus on the poor

been greater, he added. ... now is the time to act

progress are now necessary and possible." Ghali said the letter and spirit of the new social contact at the global level must reflect

Taking a pro-poor stand, the Danish Prime Minister

plore ways to reduce poverty. create productive employment and promote social integration.

In the first half of the day.

The 46 leaders who addressed included President Soeharto of Leghari of Pakistan, Chinese Francois Mitterrand Zimbabwe President Robert Kohl, Polish President Lech Walesa, Romanian President Ion Iliescu, Emir of Kuwait

June 1981. Manzur was killed in the Chittagong Cantonment on June 1, soon after being taken there by then Captain

He said he had collected

how to implement the programme of action and remove the social and economic brackets around the lives of the poor people.

ning of Bangladesh's capital market, we would be very appreciative if you reconsider the lock-in period of one year on private placements and allotment of securities, as the success of the (Dhaka) stock exchange last year owes much

fects they were meant to have.

garding right issues is good. reflecting that the SEC has been trying very hard to understand the market. But the "lock-in" is an "anti-foreign investors" rule, which may not be good for the bourse at this

Bihar polls violence

reported.

was held in the three weeks before the voting began on Bihar has long been consi-

killed in gun battles and other

MSC back in race

44.4 overs.

source of delight for the large

Abahani after two seasons. Mohammedans last won agai season.

(Contd on Page 10)