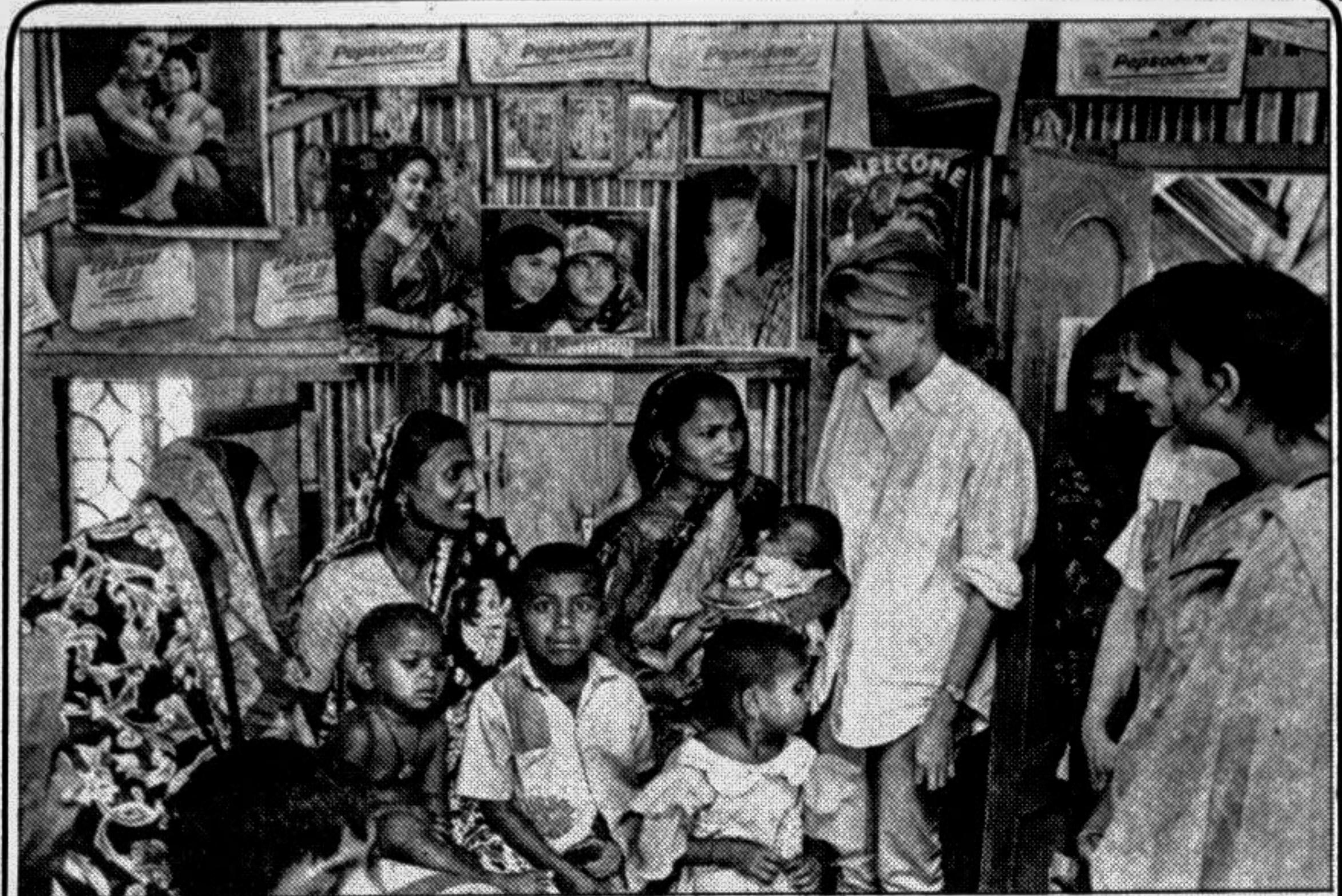


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The World on Time



UNICEF spokesperson Vendela Thommessen with a group of mothers during her visit to a EPI out-reach site in Manikganj yesterday.

— UNICEF photo

Visiting UNICEF spokesperson Miss Vendela yesterday said Bangladeshi children have the potentiality to grow into assets in future if they get their basic opportunities, reports UNB.

"I am very much impressed by the will force and energy of the world's poorest country's children. They are studious and meritorious," she said and called upon all quarters to come forward to ensure development of children.

Addressing a press conference, the internationally-known model and actress said that she visited some schools for the children who formerly worked in garment factories and diarrhoea hospital.

She said she had inquired about their study and wanted to know what they want to be in future. "The poor children replied to me that they want to be doctor, engineer, lawyer and also actress."

Vendela said that she found both boys and girls in schools are happy and have future dreams.

The UNICEF spokesperson said her visit to Bangladesh is the first international trip on

Foreign currency

From Page 1

Hakim who hails from Rauzan in Chittagong, was carrying three polythene hand bags.

He was taken to the Customs hall where the polythene bags were opened. The foreign currency and traveller cheques were found in several envelopes.

The recovered foreign currency and traveller cheques include about 44 thousand US dollars, 1.58 lakh Saudi Riyal, 23 thousand UAE Dirham, 1,195 Pound Sterling, 2,879 Qatar Riyal, 2,420 Deutsch Mark, 43 Malaysian Ringgit, travellers cheque of 3,000 US dollars and Tk 435. said an official of the Airport Customs.

Hakim told the airport officials that he was carrying the money of one person of Chittagong to hand these over to another man in Dubai, airport sources said.

BSS adds: The passenger was handed over to Cantonment police and a case was registered with the police station.

US Congress

From Page 1

The resolution tabled by five Congressmen led by Doug Bereuter on March 11 in the Congress was passed by 415-1 votes. The other Congressmen who moved the resolution were Howard Berman, Garry Ackerman, Edward Royce and Benjamin Gilman.

In his statement Congressman Benjamin Gilman, who is the Chairman of the House Committee for International Relations said that Bangladesh's recent general elections would provide the country with new hope to its democracy and that "the water sharing agreement would help put it more solid ground", the message said.

Showcause

From Page 1

should not be declared to have been made without legal authority.

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice H. M. Haque and Justice Md. Hasan Amin also said the said CPA order till disposal of the writ petition filed by the Managing Director of QC Shipping Limited (QCL), Glasquin Quader Chowdhury.

The petition challenged the legality of the CPA order issued on March 17.

Appearing for the petitioner, Barrister Rafiqul-Ul Huq noted that the CPA had entered into an agreement with QCL on September 24 last year, allowing QCL to use its own equipment for loading and unloading of its cargo at the port.

He argued that QCL had imported those equipment at a huge cost and, as such, the CPA now cannot refuse to allow the company to use those in the port area.

A weeping Vendela says I never saw such bad condition of children

behalf of UNICEF and added that she never saw such poverty-stricken children in the past.

"My visit to Bangladesh is a great experience for me because I have never seen the picture of poverty and miserable condition of children," she added.

While speaking of the diarrhoea hospital in Dhaka, Vendela started weeping and said that she was astonished to know children die here of diarrhoea.

She, however, said that Bangladesh has the success story in the world to contain diarrhoea.

After giving a brief resume on the overall situation of the children, Vendela said on return home and during UNICEF campaign she will seek increased support for the children of Bangladesh. "I must narrate

Ershad at JP rally

From Page 1

of Ershad in the meeting venue.

During the meeting, Nazirul Manju was seen pushing Kazi Zafar Ahmed while the latter was delivering his speech. Ershad, who was sitting on the podium had to intervene to bring normalcy and allow Kazi Zafar to complete his speech.

Ershad also narrated the "successes" during his nine years' rule.

The meeting was also addressed by among others, party president members Shah Moazzam Hossain and Youssuf Hossain Humayun, secretary general Anwar Hossain Manju and Nazirul Manju.

Edn boards

From Page 1

lying vacant due to non-availability of suitable persons. The two other boards of Rajshahi and Chittagong were being run by chairman.

According to the sources, Dr. Azizur Rahman, Principal of the Comilla Victoria College, has been appointed chairman of Comilla Board, Prof. Tozamamul Haq, Director of the Directorate of the Primary Education, chairman of Dhaka Board and Prof. Afzaluddin Sheikh, Principal of the Sharada Sundari College, Faridpur chairman of Jessor Board.

PDB union

From Page 1

Development Board engineers.

Some 200 MW power is now being supplied through this bypass line. In addition, some 250 MW power is being supplied in isolated manner from different power stations in these areas. The total demand for power in the areas is around 500 MW.

The East-West Interconnector project has 200 such towers, constructed in 1980 at a cost of Tk 287 crore. These towers can withstand wind speed of 200 or 250 miles, another source said.

He pointed out that the nuts and bolts of these towers could not be dismantled with ordinary tools or ordinary expertise. "In Bangladesh, only specialized organizations like PDB have the tools for dismantling these towers. It seems that it must have been done by miscreants using PDB expertise."

Ever since the installation of these towers, PDB has been maintaining and monitoring those regularly, the source said. "Maintenance is done every six months. We have an automated monitoring system which helps us detect problems in the towers instantly."

He however said that although there is a monitoring system, PDB workers are not always dutiful. "Sometimes they skip valuable maintenance works for undue gains."

Kamaluddin Ahmed, Vice President of Chittagong Cham-

WB team meets PM

From Page 1

term interest of the country.

The present government may not be responsible for the problems, but in the interest of the country it might consider the actions necessary, the World Bank team observed.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government is committed to building the country through adopting people-oriented policies, but she regretted that the government had inherited badly managed financial system, which couldn't be improved overnight.

She reiterated that her government would take all out measures to streamline the financial system of the country. In this regard, she said the government has already constituted a banking reforms committee comprising financial experts of the country.

Sheikh Hasina said the present government doesn't have to depend on distributing charity in the form of bank loans as the ruling Awami League has its foundation in the grassroots level of the society.

She said the so-called growing of private sector in previous years was nothing but exposition of politically motivated bad loans.

In this connection, she said that her government did not give political appointment to the post of executive of any bank, neither it sanctioned any loan with political motive.

JCD Aman-Ratan faction 'captures' Surya Sen Hall

By DU Correspondent

The activists of the Aman-Ratan faction of the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) captured the Surya Sen Hall of Dhaka University yesterday.

According to sources on the DU campus, 20 to 25 supporters of the Aman-Ratan faction entered the hall yesterday afternoon.

The activists of the Titu group, who were in the hall at the time, surrendered to them, sources said. No incident of violence was reported.

Police were at the gate of the hall at the time.

Traffic jam for hours after JP rally

By Staff Correspondent

Hundreds of buses and trucks carried the supporters of the Jatiya Party chief Hussain Mohammad Ershad to Manik Mia Avenue yesterday.

He held a rally there for the first time since he was deposed in a mass upsurge against his nine-year rule in December 1990.

It was also his first appearance before a public meeting in the city following his release on bail in last of the 19 cases on January 8 after having spent nearly six years behind bars.

Wearing a cream safari suit with a polka dotted silk handkerchief, meticulously tied around his neck, Ershad waved his hands at the cheering supporters, who came from all over the country on transports provided by his party.

This was the biggest ever concentration of transports around Manik Mia Avenue, Mirpur Road, Rokeya Sarani, Panthapath, roads around Sonargaon Hotel, Airport Road and the Farm Gate area. On some streets, the buses were parked two to three rows abreast, creating massive traffic jams.

Traffic moved at a snail's pace as the JP supporters started relearning homes in a caravan style after the meeting ended late in the afternoon. The traffic jam on the Airport Road continued for hours.

The JP supporters donned paper-made sun caps with inscriptions welcoming Ershad. Others carried a placards with colour portraits of Ershad.

Some newspapers earlier reported that Taka two crore had been budgeted for the meeting, which the JP did not deny.

Firefighters from the district headquarters and Magura rushed to the spot and put out the flame with the help of the local people after three hours.

Deadlock at Ctg port

From Page 1

Development Board engineers.

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He pointed out that the nuts and bolts of these towers could not be dismantled with ordinary tools or ordinary expertise. "In Bangladesh, only specialized organizations like PDB have the tools for dismantling these towers. It seems that it must have been done by miscreants using PDB expertise."

Through dredging and loop cutting, she said, land will be reclaimed for rehabilitation of landless people.

The Prime Minister directed the ministries concerned to give a comprehensive report in the next meeting of the council.

The meeting also constituted a specialised committee with Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak as its head to thoroughly study the water resources of the country. The other members of the committee will be nominated later.

He however said that although there is a monitoring system, PDB workers are not always dutiful. "Sometimes they skip valuable maintenance works for undue gains."

Kamaluddin Ahmed, Vice President of Chittagong Cham-

ber of Commerce and Industry, SU Chowdhury, Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Ship Owners Association, Mahbub H Ali, First Vice President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Tarek Kamal Chairman of Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association, Tarek Anis Ahmed Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Stevedores Association, and leaders of Port Truck Owners Association, Chittagong C and F Agents Association addressed the press conference and elaborated the prevailing situation in the Chittagong port.

Our Staff Correspondent in Dhaka adds: Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) have expressed grave concern at the 'non-functioning' of Chittagong Port for three days and urged the government to take urgent measures to put an end to the stalemate.

MCCI called upon the government to act decisively and to declare Chittagong Port facilities as essential service.

This incident highlights the necessity of privatisation of the port as soon as possible to prevent such happenings in the future and to ensure the smooth functioning of the port at all times," said the MCCI chief.

Meanwhile, President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) A S M Quasem also urged the government to take 'urgent measures' to resolve the problems now prevailing in the Chittagong Port and 'save the trade, especially the export trade, from peril.'

Quasem said that against the backdrop of the government's professed policy of free market economy, calling of a strike by the port workers on a trivial issue like use of privately-owned equipment for handling cargo was really unfortunate, especially when those equipment were only meant to supplement the existing ones being used by the Port Authority.

MCCI was utterly disappointed at the agreement reached between the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and the port employees' unions to the effect that private company's equipment would not be allowed to be used in the port.

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