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BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia called on Palestinian President Yasser Arafat at his suit at Hotel Sheraton yesterday. — Star photo

Three accords signed

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expand under the cultural agreement which will provide scope for higher studies and training in that country.

The Turkish President referred to Bangladesh's participation in the new D-8 grouping of developing countries and hoped that the Bangladesh Prime Minister will participate in the D-8 Summit in Istanbul in June.

During the talks, President Nelson Mandela expressed the gratitude of the South African people for Bangladesh's consistent support to them against apartheid. He said despite his doctor's advice for rest, he came to Bangladesh to thank the people and to keep his commitment.

After the talks, the two countries signed a Declaration of Intent to widen bilateral economic and cultural cooperation. The two sides hoped that the two countries would sign a trade and cultural agreement shortly.

The 79-year old South African leader said that the two countries had historical ties and in the distant past, people from this part of land had migrated to South Africa. He said that nearly 300 doctors, now working in South Africa, were rendering dedicated service.

During the talks with the Palestinian delegation, Bangladesh reaffirmed its pledge to the cause of the Palestinian people.

Yasser Arafat gave a detailed briefing about the latest situation in the Middle East and in-

formed that actions being initiated by the present Israeli government was leading to a daily loss of between 7 to 9 million US dollars to the Palestinian people.

He informed that he would cut short his Bangladesh visit and fly to Tunis today to attend the meeting of the Al Quds committee.

Arafat was informed that Foreign Minister Abdus Samad would accompany him in his private aircraft to attend the meeting as a gesture of Bangladesh's commitment to the cause of the Palestinian people.

BNP team

From Page 1
the good offices of the President for their release.

The President gave them a patient hearing and said he will take up the matter with the Prime Minister.

The BNP leaders also alleged that parliamentary committees were not formed giving due share of representation to parliamentarians of the BNP.

The President assured them that he would discuss the matter with the Speaker and the minister of parliamentary affairs.

When contacted M K Anwar told UNB that they went to Bangabhaban at around 10-30 pm. He was accompanied by BNP Advisor former Ambassador Rezaul Karim and BNP Joint Secretary General Haris Chowdhury.

Khaleda

From Page 1
"I was prime minister.... The hartal was not for that I could become prime minister once again," Khaleda Zia said and mentioned a number of reasons for the shutdown.

She compared the present situation of the country to the period immediately after the independence and said they destroyed the economy, question papers were leaked and people's suffering aggravated due to crisis of power, gas, and water and mosquito menace.

"They are also trying to hold on to power making the country subservient to another," the BNP Chairperson said. "Seeing all these, we could not keep mum. I called the hartal being a mother, a guardian and also a party chief."

She also charged the ruling party with resorting to repression and torture on the opposition leaders and activists. "During our rule we did not file false case against anyone what they are doing now," she said.

Ankara avenue to be named after Bangabandhu

The Turkish government has decided to name one of the important avenues of Ankara, the capital of Turkey, after the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

The decision was taken in view of the contribution and sacrifices made by Bangabandhu and as a mark of respect to the great leader, said an official handout yesterday.

Turkish team keen to promote trade

Business leaders of Bangladesh and Turkey yesterday agreed to promote bilateral trade and investment, but said more familiarisation and frequent interaction are needed to achieve the goal, reports UNB.

In a meeting with local business leader in the city, a visiting Turkish trade delegation said Turkey has religious and cultural links with Bangladesh and they are positively interested in doing business here. "We are ready to cooperate by all possible means," said Sefa Gomeniz of Turkish Burc Group, who led a 16-member delegation in the meeting arranged by the Board of Investment at the Federation Bhaban.

Bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Turkey is very low. Bangladesh exported items valued a little over 25 million US dollars to Turkey in 1995-96 fiscal year. Its imports from that country totalled only 3 million dollars.

Local businessmen, led by President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Com-

merce and Industry Yussuf Abdullah Harun, expressed their keen interest to expand trade and investment between the two countries.

Samson H Chowdhury, President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said since Turkey is a member of the European Customs Union, Bangladeshi businessmen can make arrangement with their Turkish counterparts to send products to European countries.

BOJ Member Dr SY Farook, Member of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority Mohammad Saifuddin and FBCCI President Harun explained the prevailing trade and investment opportunities and gave an overview of incentives available here.

The visiting delegation expressed their interest in the fields of automobile, telecommunications, household appliances, construction and textiles and said they were eager to talk with the local entrepreneurs.

Hony commission

From Page 1
Abdul Qudus, artillery, Abdul Kalam, engineers, Faruk Ahmed, signals, Md Nurul Amin, east bengal, Md Monowar Ahmed Chowdhury, east bengal, Ashraf Uddin Sk, east bengal, Ahmed Ali, east bengal, Mostafizur Rahman, east bengal, Abdul Latif, east bengal, Mohammad Idris Ali, east bengal, Mohd Jalal Uddin, east bengal, Md Rafiqul Islam, ASC, Md Nazrul Islam Khan, ASC, Md Abdul Qudus Mia, EME, Md Tajul Islam, EME, Sk Shahid, EME and subedar Shamsuddin Ahmed, ACC.

Another report adds: Three honorary sub-lieutenants have been promoted to the rank of honorary lieutenant and four master chief petty officers have been granted commission to the rank of honorary sub-lieutenant in the active list of the Bangladesh Navy on the occasion of the Independence and National Day.

The honorary sub-lieutenants promoted to the rank of honorary lieutenant are SM Islam (R), M Abdullah (L) and Q Mohammad (Com).

The master chief petty officers granted honorary commission in the rank of honorary sub-lieutenant included MA Karim (X), MA Hussain DG, MA Khan (Com) and AU Chowdhury (S), an ISPR press release said yesterday.

ICC Trophy

From Page 1
42 not out as Bangladesh coasted to victory (83) in 19.5 overs losing only one wicket.

After a rest day today, Bangladesh will face strong Denmark on Thursday at the Royal Selangor Club ground.

30 cos

From Page 1
seminar has been organised by the US-based Gustavson Associates in their capacity as technical advisers to Petrobangla. The seminar has been arranged in two rounds, the first being in London from March 24 to 27 while the second will commence in Houston Texas, USA, on March 31.

On the opening day of the seminar, Bangladesh government officials explained the salient features relating to oil and gas bidding in Bangladesh. Syed Tanveer Hussain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, presented a detailed explanation of the model production sharing contract (PSC), while Syed Sajedul Karim, acting Chairman and Finance Director of Petrobangla, explained the fiscal incentives offered by the government of Bangladesh under the model PSC.

Warm reception

From Page 1
ronment Minister Ziauddin Tokar and Governor of Ankara Erdogan Shahtnoglou.

Arafat, who had visited Bangladesh several times in the past, is leading a 12-member delegation during his current visit.

The three leaders will fly to Savar this morning and lay wreaths at the national memorial paying tributes to the martyrs of the War of Liberation.

They will attend the concluding ceremony of the "Ignition of Eternal Flame" later in the day at Suhrawardy Udyan from where the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proclaimed independence 26 years ago.

In the afternoon, they will attend a joint reception at Bangabandhu, to be hosted by President Shahabuddin Ahmed in their honour. They will also attend a banquet to be hosted by the Bangladesh President.

Turkish President Demirel, accompanied by a big business delegation from his country, will have a breakfast meeting with FBCCI members at Sonargaon Hotel tomorrow morning before his departure for Chittagong.

He will unveil the plaque of Mustafa Kamal Pasha Ataturk Avenue, a road in the port city's Patenga area, named after the founder of modern Turkey.

The Turkish President will visit the Chittagong Export Processing Zone. He will also visit Andarkilla Jame Masjid and address a congregation.

Demirel will leave Chittagong for Ankara in the afternoon.

President Mandela and President Arafat are due to leave Dhaka on Thursday morning.

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PHILIPS

Child labour

From Page 1
garments factories earlier are now being provided educational facilities and monthly stipend of Tk 300 per head in 316 'special schools' set up by the BGMEA in different areas of the country following the agreement.

He urged the CLC leader to promote Bangladeshi garments sales in the USA and Europe by making it known to all concerned that there is no child labour in garments factories now.

PM: Directive

From Page 1
ing by the previous government.

With the present government taking the rehabilitation projects in the power sector with right earnest from the very beginning, a number of donor agencies is coming forward to finance the power sector, the meeting noted.

Meanwhile, a 134 million US dollar Asian Development Bank financed project has been negotiated in the first week of November last year for power transmission and providing assistance to 300 MW Meghna ghat power project and Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA). The project will come into effect from April 9.

Besides, the World Bank has indicated positively to finance the national load despatch centre (NLDC) and distribution of power under a 150 million US dollar project.

The meeting was informed that the available generation of power in the country is 1650 MW and peak demand is 2000 MW, causing loadshedding to more than 350 MW a day throughout the country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed the concerned authorities to evolve a coordinated policy in tiding over the present power crisis.

Independence Day

From Page 1
of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia in her message called for waging a mass movement against what she called autocratic Awami League regime and anti-independence conspiracies.

Begum Zia said the countrymen took part in the Liberation War in 1971 at the call of Major Zia who proclaimed Bangladesh's independence from Kalurghat radio station in Chittagong.

She recalled with gratitude sacrifices of martyrs of the Liberation War and prayed for their departed souls.

A rally of students, scouts, girl guide, children and youths will be held at the national stadium today.

An attractive exhibition on the country's liberation war and culture will be held on moving vehicles at Manik Mia avenue in the capital. Army, Navy, Air Force, BDR, Police and Ansar bands will play music in some specific areas of the city.

Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar will broadcast special programmes while newspapers bring out supplements highlighting the occasion's importance.

Special prayers will be offered at mosques and other places of worship seeking divine blessings for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the country.

SKOP postpones programme

The Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) has postponed its planned road barricade programme at Shyampur Re-rolling Mills on March 30 following assurance by the minister concerned, reports UNB.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will hold a reception at 4:30 pm at Bangabhaban on the day.

In honour of foreign guests and local elite, a cultural function will also be organised at Osmani Memorial Hall in the city.

Stay on Zobaida's bail: Hearing date refixed Mar 30

Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday refixed the date of March 30 for hearing the interim stay order on the bail of Begum Zobaida Rashid, an accused in the Bangabandhu Murder case, reports UNB.

Earlier, Appellate Division judge Justice Latifur Rahman fixed the date for hearing on March 31.

The revised date for taking up the hearing on the stay order was considered by the court following a petition from Begum Rashid who appealed for expeditious disposal of the matter for her sickness, said a press release issued by Advocate Mahbubur Rahman who is the chief defence counsel of Begum Rashid.

DSE index

From Page 1
During the brief trading hour 2.42 lakh shares and debentures valued at more than Tk 4.98 crore exchanged hands.

Out of 118 issues traded, 110 issues suffered losses and 7 gained.

The kerb market operators staged the sit-in from 10 am to 2 pm, went to the premises of the Jatiya Press Club in a procession and held a rally there demanding resignation of the finance minister for his alleged failure in handling the capital market.

কেন এই বিদ্যুৎ সংকট

প্রিয় দেশবাসী,
এই দেশ আমার, আপনার, আমাদের সবার।
দেশের সমস্যা ও সাফল্যে আপনিও সমান অংশীদার।
তাই আপনাকে জানাতে চাই - কেন এই বিদ্যুৎ সংকট।

বিগত বছরগুলোতে ক্রমবর্ধমান চাহিদার সাথে সঙ্গতি রেখে
বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন এবং গ্যাস সরবরাহ বৃদ্ধি করা হয়নি।
যার ফলে আজ সারা দেশে লোড শেডিং হচ্ছে।

এই সংকট মোকাবেলায় বর্তমান সরকার সর্বাঙ্গিক চেষ্টা চালাচ্ছে

এপ্রিল মাসের মধ্যে ৫৮ কিলোমিটার দীর্ঘ আশুগঞ্জ-বাখরাবাদ গ্যাস পাইপ
লাইনের কাজ সমাপ্ত হচ্ছে। এর ফলে দেশের উত্তর - পূর্বাঞ্চলের গ্যাস চট্টগ্রাম
অঞ্চলে সরবরাহ সম্ভব হবে এবং গ্যাস চালিত বন্ধ বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্রগুলো পুনরায়
চালু হবে। ফলশ্রুতিতে মে মাসে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন উল্লেখযোগ্যভাবে বৃদ্ধি পাবে।

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মনোহরদী-নরসিংদি এবং মেঘনা-বাখরাবাদ এই দুইটি গ্যাস
পাইপ লাইনের নির্মাণ কাজ দ্রুত সমাপ্তির পথে। কৈলাশটিলার
একটি নতুন কুপের গ্যাস শীঘ্রই সরবরাহের আওতাভুক্ত হবে।
ফলে গ্যাস চালিত বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র সমূহের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি পাবে।

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এ বছরের জুলাই মাসে রাউজান-এর নতুন দ্বিতীয় বিদ্যুৎ
উৎপাদন কেন্দ্র চালু এবং বেশ কয়েকটি বিদ্যুৎ
উৎপাদন কেন্দ্রের পুনর্বাসন সমাপ্ত হলে শীঘ্রই
আরো অতিরিক্ত বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ সম্ভব হবে।

■

এছাড়া সরকারী এবং বেসরকারী উদ্যোগে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন ও গ্যাস
সরবরাহ বৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যে ব্যাপক কর্মসূচী হাতে নেওয়া হয়েছে।

বিদ্যুতের এই সংকটকালে কৃষ্ণতা সাধন করুন, বিদ্যুতের অপচয় বন্ধ করুন
এবং আমাদের সহযোগিতা করুন।

এ সংকট কাটবেই

বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড ■ ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ ■ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড

২৬ মার্চ

মহান স্বাধীনতা দিবসে দেশবাসীকে জানাই শুভেচ্ছা

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক

দেশ ও জাতির সেবার প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ ব্যাংক