

**Wise words
from
Mandela**

By Mahfuz Anam

It is always a privilege to be in the presence of great men. But this writer had never been made more aware of that privilege than on Wednesday night listening to the South African President's banquet speech at the Bangabhaban. After finishing his set speech, and before going for the traditional toast President Mandela said "Before concluding I would like to say a few words about what we did in South Africa to achieve national reconciliation."

What he said captivated the audience who listened with pin drop silence as the legendary leader of the anti-apartheid movement and now, by far the most loved and honoured leader in the world, moved away from

See Page 12 Col 3

'Coordinated efforts vital force of democracy'

By Staff Correspondent

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon the national leaders to solve national problems through co-ordinated efforts which he termed the vital force of democracy.

"All will have to take a fresh vow through invigorating this vital force to solve the national problems," the President said addressing a function at the Suhrawardy Uddyan marking the Silver Jubilee of Independence.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina lit the Shikha Chirantan (eternal flame) at the function also attended by South African President Nelson Mandela, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel.

Laying special emphasis on co-ordinated efforts by both the government and the Opposition, the President made an appeal to all for dedicating themselves to build the country with the spirit of the Liberation War.

See Page 12 Col 4

**Cabinet okays
IRRI, Boro
procurement
policy**

The cabinet has approved the policy on IRRI/Boro procurement for the year 1996-97, reports BSS.

The approval was given at a cabinet meeting held with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair in the cabinet room of the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

Inside Today

Article

**BNP's First
Hartal: Domestic
and International
Issues**

Column: Currents and Crosscurrents by M M Rezaul Karim
Page 4

International

Albanians urged to lay down arms, give safe passage to aid convoy

Ross sent back to ME for talks with Arafat, Netanyahu
Page 5

Business

GrameenPhone launched
DSE index rises by 83 points after ten days of fall
Pages 6, 7

**Teens and
Twenties**

The enigmatic Enigma; Yesterday once more; and A life-sketch of a hero
Page 8

Rising Stars

Defying the odds; and Start stories
Page 9

The Daily Star

**Probe report confirms manipulation
20 member-dealers of
DSE, CSE involved**

By Inam Ahmed

The inquiry committee on the share scam has identified at least 20 member-dealers of the Dhaka and Chittagong bourses as responsible for the recent manipulation of share prices.

It has also named a number of listed companies alleging that their managements were involved in artificially jacking up prices of their shares.

The committee had interviewed a wide range of people including brokers, company authorities and business people. It had also interviewed former adviser to the caretaker government Manzur Elahi about his public statement that certain brokers had asked Tk one

stock market during July-November, 1996.

It has held responsible almost all the top notchers of the DSE including its chairman Imtiaz Hossain, Shaikh Khan, Khorshed Alam, Shakil Rizvi and Hemayetuddin for manipulation of share prices.

The report alleged that identified brokers were responsible for insider-trading by leaking information from companies.

A former chairman of DSE has been held responsible for manipulating the share price of multinational company of which he was also a director. On the other hand, the committee

See Page 12 Col 7

See Page 12 Col 7

Kerb marketmen lock up DSE gate to protest fall in prices

By Staff Correspondent

A group of kerb market share traders of the Dhaka Stock Exchange locked the gate of the DSE building yesterday morning, protesting the "continuous fall" in share prices.

Officials of the DSE, when contacted, said that they found the gate locked in the morning and a group of kerb market operators tried to resist them from entering the building for organising routine auction of stocks.

Later the kerb market traders were removed with the help of police and the gate was opened, they said.

Talking to The Daily Star, DSE Chairman Imtiaz Hossain admitted the incident. He however said that most of the issues showed upward trend

See Page 12 Col 1

See Page 12 Col 1

First batch of tribal refugees returns home today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 27: The stage is set for repatriation of tribal refugees from the Tripura state of India to their homes in the Chittagong hill tracts from tomorrow, official sources said.

Some 6,700 refugees will be repatriated in phases till April 7. From tomorrow to March 31, the repatriation will be through the Ramgarh point while from April 1 to 7, the repatriation will take place through the Tacobchhari point of Khagrachari district.

The refugees will reach the Ramgarh border town by crossing the Feni river where a bridge has been constructed for the purpose.

There will also be reception camps from where the returnees would be sent to their homes.

The members of the national committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts led by Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdulla will fly to Ramgarh from Chittagong tomorrow morning to receive the tribal refugees.

Earlier, on Tuesday-Wednesday, a five-member team from Tripura visited the Ramgarh transit point, different reception camps, banks and the wooden bridge over the Feni river and expressed their satisfaction over the arrangements, according to UNB.



Bangladesh beat Denmark by five wickets

Bangladesh recorded the third consecutive victory to brighten their chance for a second round berth in the ICC Trophy defeating formidable Denmark by five wickets yesterday in Kuala Lumpur, reports UNB.

Middle-order Aminul Islam Bulbul returned to his form with a breezy 33 in 53 balls, helping Bangladesh to surpass the Danish paalty 98 runs in 33.5 overs at the cost of five wickets at the Royal Selangor Club.

Bulbul made a useful innning studding with five hits to the fence that earned him the man-of-the-match award, according to a message received in Dhaka.

Bangladesh, the only un-beaten team of the Group B, will play their remaining two matches with UAE on Saturday and hosts Malaysia on Sunday.

Jubo League leader shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent

A Jubo League leader was gunned down by an unidentified gang near his house at Tejkunpara under Tejgaon thana in the city yesterday.

Mahmudul Huq Khan alias Galib, 32, sustained fatal injuries when a gang of about four fired on him at close range around 5 pm. He died from the injuries on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), police and hospital sources said.

Galib, the President of Jubo League of a ward in Tejgaon and a central leader of the youth front of the Awami League, was

See Page 12 Col 3

BCL activist shot dead in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 27: An activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League was shot dead by unidentified gunmen yesterday at Chotapul in Halishahar area, police said.

The dead was identified as Jufikar Ali Sujan, 22.

Sujan was returning home at around 1:30 pm by a rickshaw when the gunmen fired on him. They fled the scene by a microbus.

Sujan succumbed to his injuries on way to Chittagong medical hospital.

However, none was arrested so far.

Ammanullah Aman, 14 others charged with ransacking city AL office

DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman Md and GS Khairul Kabir Khokon, and 13 others have been charged with ransacking a ruling party office in the city on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said the Awami League office on Tongi Diversification Road in Ramna was ransacked when an Independence Day procession of opposition BNP was passing by it on Wednesday evening.

The attackers also damaged the portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and furniture in the office.

Police chased the attackers and picked up three young men from the scene. "We are on hunt to nab other people responsible for the attack," said a Ramna police officer yesterday.

Breakdown of power towers: 7 held so far

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Mar 27: Seven persons have so far been arrested in connection with the breakdown of two power towers of the East-West Interconnector near Ishurdi earlier this month, police said here today.

CID police raided three shops in the town and arrested shopkeepers Rawshan Ali, 30, Krishna Kumar, 25, and Ishaq Ali, 35, on Wednesday.

They also recovered some parts including connection bars and angles stolen before the collapse of the two towers.

The raid was conducted following the confessional statements of two persons, Sharif, 25, and Chunnu, 32, arrested from Manoharpur village in Sadar thana on Tuesday. Two others were held on Monday.

Fresh vow to uphold spirit of Liberation War

By Staff Correspondent

The nation on March 26 celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Independence amidst fanfare and jubilation and with a renewed vow to uphold and materialise the spirit of the Liberation War.

The whole country was in festivities as a grateful nation paid homage to the martyrs, who made supreme sacrifices for independence of the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Suhrawardy Uddyan (formerly Race Course Maidan) turned to be the centre-point of the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

Placing of the Shikha Chirantan (eternal flame) by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina beside the Swadhinata Stambha there was the most significant event of the day. The colourful function was graced by three celebrated world leaders.

Earlier, the day's programme started at midnight Wednesday with playing of the last post for five minutes at different points in the capital by buglers of the Army, Navy, Airforce, BDR, Police and Ansar in reminiscence of the black night of March 25, 1971, when the Pakistani Army massacred the Dhaka city.

The day dawned with a 31-gun salutes. The National Flag was hoisted atop all public and

private buildings as the main roads and road islands in the city were tastefully decorated with flags, festoons and lights.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and three visiting presidents — Mandela, Arafat and Demirel — placed wreaths at the National Monument at Savar in the morning paying rich tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation War.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is also the president of ruling Awami League, also placed wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Museum at Dhamondi.

Leader of the Opposition in parliament and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia also placed wreath at the National Monument. Leaders of other political parties, socio-cultural organisations, professionals and people from all strata of life also visited the Monument and paid their tributes to the martyrs.

In the afternoon, President

See Page 12 Col 8

See Page 12 Col 8

See Page 12 Col 8



(From left) President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, President of South Africa Nelson Mandela, Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stand in solemn silence during playing of National Anthem at the concluding ceremony of the Silver Jubilee of Independence at the Suhrawardy Uddyan in the city on Wednesday.

—Star photo

Banquet at Bangabhaban

We can shape our own destinies: Mandela

South Africa's legendary hero President Nelson Mandela Wednesday said his country is committed to work with Bangladesh in both bilateral and international spheres for promoting common goals, reported UNB.

In particular, "we look forward to close cooperation in forums such as the Non-Aligned Movement, the Commonwealth and the United Nations," he said in a speech at the banquet at Bangabhaban.

Referring to bilateral ties, President Mandela said trade between South Africa and Bangladesh has doubled in the

past five years.

As two economies are seeking accelerated growth with export-led expansion and strong manufacturing sectors, both the countries have much to gain from widening these ties, he said. "There is enormous potential to do so."

Mandela mentioned that these objectives would be promoted by the declaration of intent between South Africa and Bangladesh that he and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina signed Tuesday.

"As independent nations, we can shape our own destinies in

See Page 12 Col 3

Bangladesh destined to move forward: Demirel

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel Wednesday said Bangladesh was destined to move forward to modernisation and prosperity as it was endowed with a great visionary torch bearer Bangabandhu, who made the aspiration of the Bengali people a reality, reports UNB.

Bangabandhu, the father of the nation, was born to change the destiny of his people. His name unites his people, he told a banquet at Bangabhaban.

Under the vision of Bangabandhu, the people of Bangladesh are marching forward on the road to fulfill his great dream of "Sonar Bangla," he said.

President Suleyman Demirel said: "Our country may be far apart, but our hearts unite in the common values that we share."

Friendship and solidarity built over the ages are all the more strengthened by these values, represented by our dedication to democracy, to the welfare of our peoples, to