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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

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 84-page report, backed by a pile of documents, was submitted to the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday morning. The report looked into the developments in the

stock market during July-November, 1996. It has held responsible almost all the top notches of the DSE including its chairman Imtiaz Hossain, Shaikh Khan, Khorsheed Alam, Shakil Rizvi and Hemayetuddin for manipulation of the market.

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

crore from him to jack up share prices of his companies listed with the stock market.

Besides, it had taken views of FBCCI President Yusuf Abdullah Harun and interviewed Salman F Rahman.

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

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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

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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 Tabaekhara point of Khagrachhari 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 Abdullah 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.

ICC TROPHY



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 paltry 98 runs in 33.5 overs at the cost of five wickets at the Royal Selangor Club.

Bulbul made a useful inning 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 unbeaten team of the Group B, will play their remaining two matches with UAE on Saturday and hosts Malaysia on Sunday. (Details on page 10)

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 Tejgani 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

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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 Chotapal in Halishahar area, police said.

The dead was identified as Julfikar 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, Ammanullah Aman MP 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 Division 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 thana 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 p.c.s including connection boxes and angles stolen before the collapse of the two towers.

The raid was conducted following the confessional statements of two persons, Sharif, 25, and Chunnur, 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 at 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, President of South Africa Nelson Mandela, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel.

Laying special emphasis on coordinated 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.

"This flame will never be put out, this will continue as long as Bangladesh will live, as long as Bangladesh will remain independent," declared the Prime Minister at the lush green Suhrawardy Uddyan, where Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had delivered his historic speech on March 7, 1971, calling upon the people to prepare for an all-out struggle and where the Pakistani occupation forces had surrendered on December 16, 1971 after a nine-month bloody war.

People in their thousands attended the function and chanted Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu slogans.

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 Dhanmondi.

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

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placing the Shikha Chirantan at Suhrawardy Uddyan in the city on Wednesday. —Star photo

'None can put out Shikha Chirantan'

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placed the Shikha Chirantan (eternal flame) beside the 'Swadhinata Stambha' at the Suhrawardy Uddyan in the city at the closing ceremony of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Independence on Wednesday.

The PM had unveiled the 'Swadhinata Stambha' (independence monument) on the Victory Day last year at the venue where Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had delivered his March 7, 1971 historic speech calling upon the people to prepare for an all-out struggle for independence and where the Pakistani occupation forces had surrendered on December 16, the same year.

"The Shikha Chirantan has lighted people's hearts... It will last for ever and none will be able to put it out... We won't allow any more intrigue against our independence," Sheikh Hasina told the function graced by President Shahabuddin Ahmed and three other presidents — Nelson Mandela of South Africa, Yasser Arafat of Palestine and Suleyman Demirel of Turkey — who also spoke on the occasion.

"On this auspicious day, let's materialise Bangabandhu's dream for a 'Sonar Bangla' by making the country free from hunger and poverty..." the Prime Minister told the colourful ceremony amid thunderous applause and cheers.

All the three celebrated

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PM orders enquiry Coconut shells thrown at Arafat's motorcade

Star Report

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the DMP to enquire into and submit a report on the hurling of coconut shells at President Yasser Arafat's motorcade on its way to the Zia International Airport on Wednesday evening, sources said.

Arafat and Sheikh Hasina were in the same limousine when two coconut shells were hurled at the motorcade as it was passing by Hotel Sakura near Dhaka Sheraton, the sources said.

Secy-Gen of China's State Council due tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The Secretary General of the State Council of China, Lu Gan, arrives in Dhaka tomorrow on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh.

Lua holds the rank of a Vice Premier of China. His visit is being considered very significant as he is coming following the death of paramount leader Deng Xiaoping. Besides, the visit is taking place immediately after the meeting of the Chinese National People's Congress.

The Chinese Vice Premier will lead a 14-member delegation that will include an Assistant Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation and another Assistant Minister of the Foreign Ministry.

The Chinese government has recently offered a 30 million

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Visit by Mandela, Demirel milestone in ties, says Shahabuddin

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Wednesday said the visit of world leaders to this country will remain an important milestone in the development of bilateral relations, reports UNB.

He said, "Your decision to visit Bangladesh at this point (silver jubilee of independence) is indeed a true reflection of close ties of friendship and goodwill that exist between the peoples of Bangladesh and South Africa and Turkey."

The President was speaking at the state banquet hosted by him in honour of the visiting South African and Turkish Presidents at Bangabhaban Wednesday night.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, Chief Justice A T M Azal, former chief advisor Muhammad Habibur Rahman, ministers, Dhaka city mayor, judges, MPs, former ministers and advisors, diplomats, Chief Election Commissioner, high civil and military officials and the elite were present.

President Shahabuddin said, "We are in the last few years of a tumultuous century and a millennium. We straddle the threshold of a new era carrying with us the aspirations of our people for a more prosperous life, a life of dignity and fulfillment."

He stressed the need for combined efforts to meet the

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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, reports 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

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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," 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 our commitment to international legalism."

He said that he is aware of the challenges Bangladesh was facing to modernise and take a rightful place among the community of nations.

"The destiny of your people will be defined in terms of prosperity, so long as you maintain the resolve that I have witnessed in the leaders and the people of Bangladesh, you will realise your aspiration with no difficulty," he said.

He said the Turkish people always remember the moral and material assistance the Bengali Muslims provided to Turkey during the war of liberation of Turkey.

Demirel suggests joint business council in private sector

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel yesterday said trade between his country and Bangladesh is "no way satisfactory" and called for extensive exploration of business opportunities the countries can offer, reports UNB.

"I believe that Turkey and Bangladesh have much to offer to each other for more extensive and expanded trade relations," he said and suggested formation of a business council between the private sector entrepreneurs of the two countries.

Addressing a breakfast meeting with leading businessmen at a city hotel, Demirel said the governments of Turkey and Bangladesh have agreed to cooperate and collaborate more with each other in the fields of economy.

"Turkey is ready to cooperate and collaborate more and more... the Turkish government will continue to encourage co-operation between our two private sectors," he told the meeting, arranged by Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Bangladesh imported goods worth 3.6 million US dollars in 1996 from Turkey while its exports amounted to 16.9 million US dollars, showing a very minimal trade relations between the two countries.

"This is no way satisfactory for both countries," the visiting

Turkish President said.

Demirel said Bangladesh should benefit from the experience of Turkey and expressed his firm belief that distance is no longer an obstacle to further economic and commercial relations.

"I am confident that businessmen from both the countries will create new opportunities when they bring their ideas, experiences and capital together. We've much to profit from our mutual cooperation."

He pointed out that Turkey has a developed base for small and medium scale enterprises which is the backbone of its economy and offered expertise to develop such enterprises in

Bangladesh.

The Turkish President mentioned the agreement between the Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TIKA) and the Bangladesh authority, and said it will help promote Bangladesh's exports to new markets in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Turkey has played a leading role in the establishment of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Initiative and is one of the founding members of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), he said.

In this context, he said regional economic and groupings are driving forces for shared prosperity and increased confidence among their member states.

"They should, however, not be exclusive in nature and should not hinder free trade and investments," he suggested.

Earlier, FBCCI president Yusuf Abdullah Harun explained the opportunities in Bangladesh economy, and incentives and liberal policies offered by the government to attract investment, mainly foreign private capital.

He said the potential for economic cooperation between Turkey and Bangladesh are quite significant, but the current trade position unfortunately does not show an encouraging picture.

Harun said Bangladesh can offer products like leather goods, ceramics and melamine tablewares, pharmaceuticals, textiles, including readymade garments and knits, cosmetics, light engineering goods, frozen foods and shrimps.

On the other hand, it can import cement, dry fruits, ferrous and non-ferrous metals and rolling stocks for railways from Turkey, he added.

The FBCCI chief also informed the Bangladesh entrepreneurs' keen interest in undertaking joint ventures in the production of cement, leather products, porcelain-ware and engineering industries.

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.

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