

Untying the  
Gordian Knot  
of Our Politics

A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS  
AND ARTICLES ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS

Jatiya Party  
leader Moudud  
Ahmed has  
termed the  
concept of  
caretaker  
government  
a Political  
Reform  
Programme  
which, he  
says, will  
help democracy  
take its root  
in the country  
permanently.  
"Unfortunately,  
the ruling  
party did not look at this  
proposed reform in the right  
spirit, which in fact has led  
to the present crisis. On the  
other hand, the government  
took an arrogant position on  
this issue," says the JP  
leader. According to him, the  
only way out for the government  
is to resign immediately, dissolve  
Parliament and hold general  
elections under a non-partisan  
neutral caretaker government. Full text  
of interview on Page 4.

**Moudud Ahmed**  
TOMORROW: Interview of  
Rajiqul Islam Mia, member,  
standing committee of the  
BNP and Minister for Housing  
and Public Works.

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## Dhaka Day by Day



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## NEWS BRIEFS

### City BNP meets today

A meeting of all vice presidents of the Dhaka City BNP and all presidents, general secretaries and organising secretaries of the party's Dhaka city thana units will be held today at 7 pm at the residence of the city BNP president and Labour Minister, Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali, reports BSS.

### UNAB symposium

The United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) arranged a symposium in Dhaka yesterday in support of the World Summit for Social Development now being held in Copenhagen. Educationists and researcher Raushan Jahan was the main speaker.

The composite price index

closed at 826.70 points as against 828.17 points of the previous weekend, although the index picked up to 837.44 on the second day of trading last week.

Analysts said the market during the last two months happened to be a buyers market, as a belief was strong that buyers of the present time would be the real gainers of the booming bourse.

The prices of shares are still very low and have been ranging within a small limit.

People gather around a destroyed motorcycle and a car at the site of a bomb blast which killed 10 in front of a Shiite mosque in Karachi during Juma prayers yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

## Share market: Index down, transactions up

By Sohel Manzur

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) closed last week with the index 0.177 per cent down compared to that of the previous weekend, but the transactions of shares were high due to a buying spree prompted by the price fall of new issues.

Market operators said prices of the new issues were very high because speculations were high. The prices were corrected last week creating a buying rush among the share traders.

The composite price index

which would no longer remain after the involvement of the institutional equity investors in the private sector, likely to appear on the bourse within a few months, they said.

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The prices of shares are still very low and have been ranging within a small limit.

### Gen Manzur murder More people questioned

By Staff Correspondent

Investigators continued their efforts to gather more information regarding the 1981 killing of Maj Gen Manzur, CID sources said yesterday.

No fresh arrest was made in connection with the case but several other persons were questioned. The sources declined to give details.

Another sources said five people were questioned Friday, two of whom were brought to the CID office at Malibagh. CID control room sources neither confirmed nor denied this.

It was not clear whether jailed former president H M Ershad was interrogated or not yesterday. Ershad was.

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## WB suggests turning T&T into PLC

By Krishna P Roy

The World Bank (WB) has suggested conversion of Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTTB) into a public limited company (PLC) for its 'effective autonomy.'

The bank is of the view that conversion of BTTB into a PLC should be adopted as a medium term objective over the next 2 to 4 years.

This would result in formal separation of ownership and day-to-day managerial control, the WB says in its final report on telecommunication sector reform.

The bank says, it would be the only means whereby BTTB's employees can in future be recruited, paid and

managed in accordance with a much more commercial and customer-oriented approach.

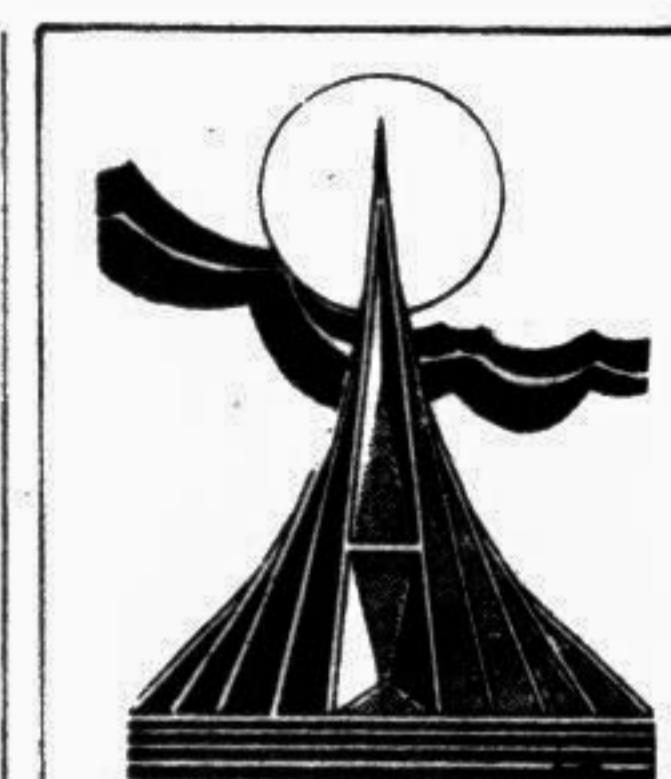
This is crucial to overcome many of the factors that have hindered BTTB's level of performance in the past, says the report compiled recently.

The process of converting BTTB into a PLC could itself serve as a vehicle for defining and implementing a full reform, the bank study says.

It, however, says there are several obstacles to the immediate conversion of BTTB into a PLC.

The quality of accounting information in BTTB would also not be adequate for a limit

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## Looking Back at March towards Independence

On this day in 1971 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman received a telegram message from Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who informed that he would be very much willing to meet Mujib in Dhaka to discuss important issues. Tajuddin Ahmad issued a series of directives to the people asking them to keep the "economy in full gear". The Chhatra Union circulated copies of its leaflet which contained a call for establishing an independent, sovereign state in favour of the people inhabiting the eastern wing of Pakistan. Air Vice Marshall (retd) Asghar Ali Khan sensed or smelled an imminent disintegration of Pakistan. As many as 24 prisoners fled from the Barisal jail. The conflict between the police and the prisoners took place in Comilla.

(More on page 4)

## Indian team likely to visit CHT March 14

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Mar 10: A four-member Indian delegation from Tripura including two state ministers and Chakma refugee leaders, is expected to visit the Chittagong Hill Tracts March 14 to see the condition of the repatriated tribal refugees.

An official source says, the visit of this delegation is aimed at restarting the third phase of Chakma refugee repatriation from Tripura.

Officials here said the delegation is expected to include Food Minister Keshab Majumdar and Sports Minister Jeevan Chakrabarti of Tripura.

The delegation will visit Ramgarh, Dighinala and Panchchhari of Khagrachari district and different areas of Rangamati district.

The delegation is also ex

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DANCE AS YOU LIKE International Women's Day Celebration Committee organised a function at the city's Ramna Batalal yesterday. — Star photo

### Opposition calls 48-hr hartal from tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The major opposition political parties have called a 48-hour hartal throughout the country from 6 am tomorrow.

The Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami have called the hartal to press their demands for dissolution of parliament and general elections under a non-party caretaker government.

The hartal call was given on January 25 at separate rallies in the city at the end of a country-wide strike on the day.

The Awami League yesterday brought out a torch procession in the city in support of the 48-hour hartal.

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## No environment for foreign investment, says Hasina

RAJSHAHI, Mar 10: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today said the government had failed to create environment for foreign investment due to its wrong policy, indecision and lawlessness, reports UNB.

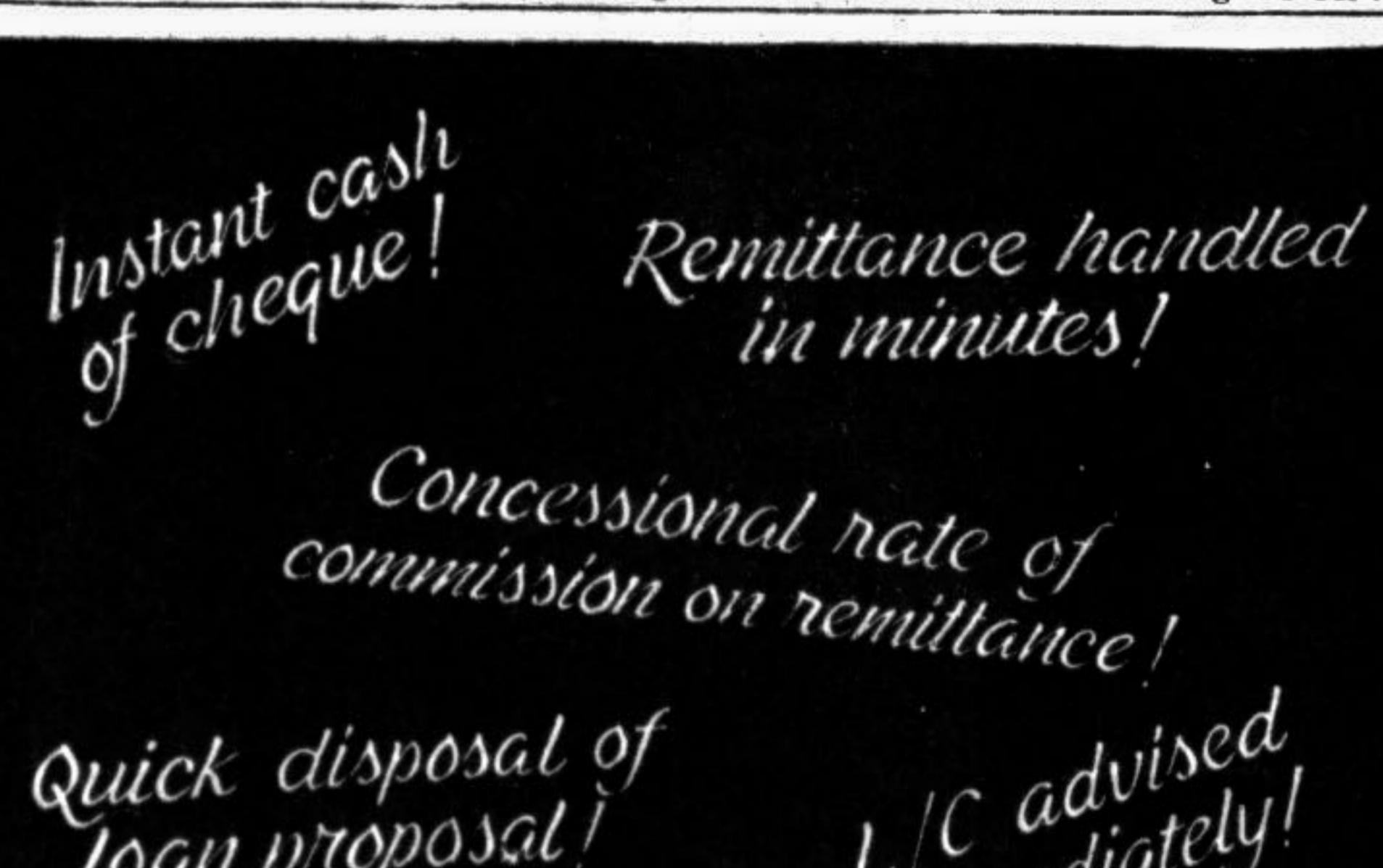
She also identified load-shedding, terrorism, bribery, complication in disbursing loan and administrative loopholes as the impediments of

investment.

Hasina was talking to a group of businessmen led by President of the Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Ali Sarkar at the local Circuit House this morning.

Hasina refuted frequent statements by vested groups that people's movement hampered foreign investment.

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## NBL observes Customer Service Month

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