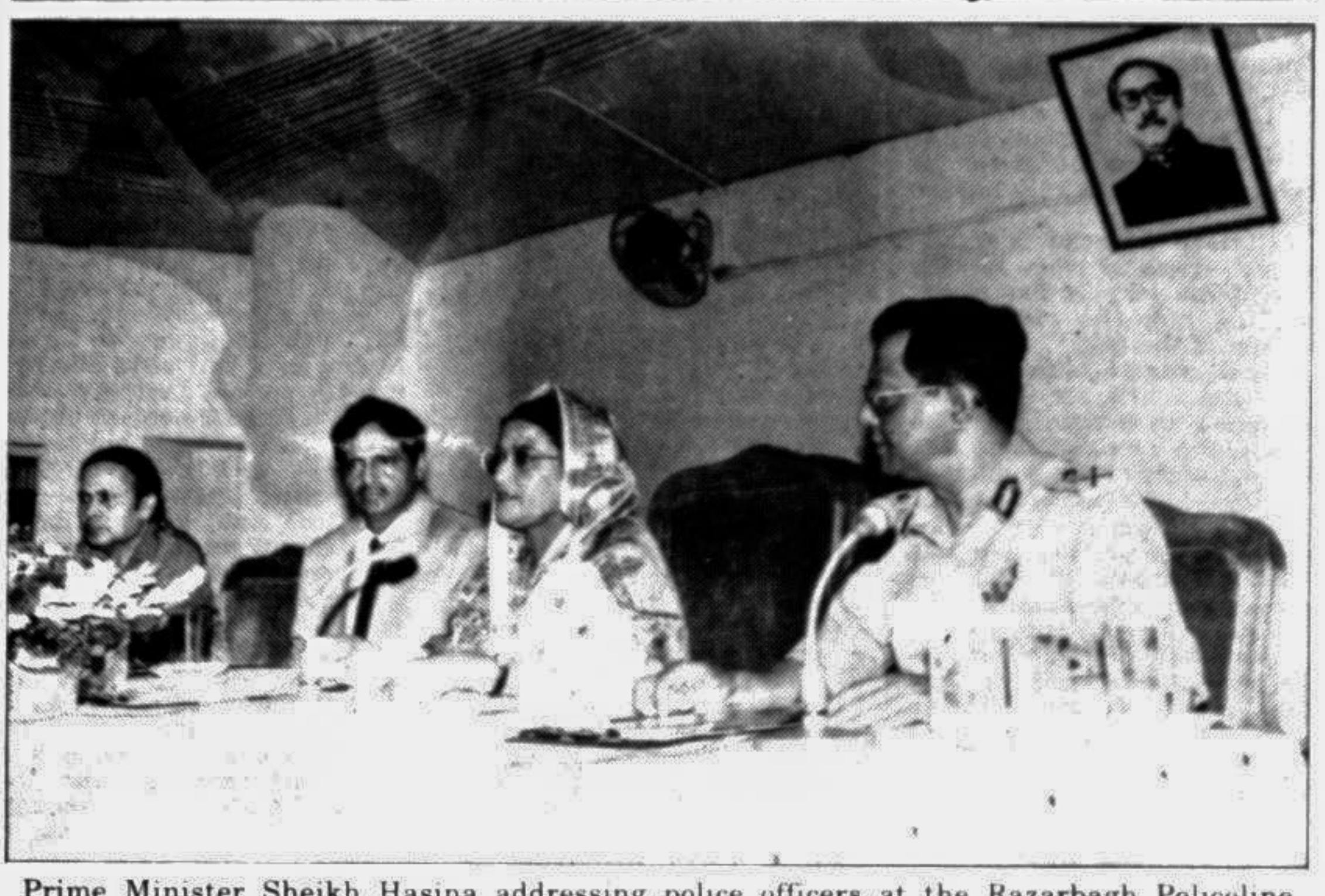


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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing police officers at the Razgarbagh Police Auditorium in the city yesterday.

— PID photo

Hasina tells policemen

Arrest terrorist even if he belongs to my party

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the police to improve law and order for establishing a terrorism-free society and attracting foreign investment in the country, reports UNB.

"Terrorism, toll collection and hooliganism have stalled all kinds of works," she said while calling the police for uprooting these 'vices' to create a congenial atmosphere for unhindered development activities and foreign investment in the country.

Addressing police personnel at Razgarbagh Police Auditorium in the morning, the Prime Minister said her government is determined to eradicate terrorism from the society and sought their cooperation to fulfill her government's commitment.

Economic development is related to law and order for which police can play a vital role, she said.

"Don't hesitate to arrest a terrorist even if he belongs to my party," she said asking the police to carry out their duty impartially.

The Prime Minister, however, asked them to behave politely with the people in a bid to earn their trust, faith, confidence and respect.

She said the main aim of the police should be to maintain peace and congenial atmosphere in every sphere of life braving fear and illegal influence.

Hasina lauded the role of the police during the Liberation War in 1971 and appreciated

their role during the last general election.

She recalled that the first resistance against the Pakistani occupation forces came from Razgarbagh Police Line and it remained a glorious part of the history of our liberation war.

The Prime Minister said the government is aware of the problems police are facing in performing their duties and assured them of taking steps on priority basis to build up a modern and service oriented police force in the country.

Responding to a request of the Inspector General of Police, the Prime Minister announced that from now on one lakh taka will be provided to the family of a police personnel who would die while performing his duty. Earlier, the amount was Tk 50,000.

She also announced increase of family ration of police to 40 per cent from existing 20 per cent, for which additional Tk 13 crore will be spent from the government exchequer.

Earlier, on her arrival at Razgarbagh Police Line, the Prime Minister was received by Home Minister Rafigul Islam, the Home Secretary and the Inspector General of Police.

The other members of the delegation were Kushi Kabir, Mahbubul Karim, Aroma Goon, Rokeya Kabir and Omar Faruque.

The Prime Minister assured them of her all cooperation to their endeavours for bringing about welfare of the oppressed and poor masses. The Prime Minister also lauded the role being played by the ADAB members for the overall development and progress in social life.

Two BNP dist committees dissolved

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has dissolved its Joypurhat and Sharifpur committees and formed convening committees for the two districts to hold conferences within two months as per the party constitution, reports UNB.

According to a party press release in the city yesterday a 92-member convening committee of Joypurhat district BNP was formed with Mozahar Ali as convener, and Tozammel Haq, Matiur Rahman, Zahurul Alam, Taifur Rahman Talukder, Sardar Liqquat Ali and Dewan Korbar Ali as joint conveners.

Besides, a 36-member convening committee of Sharifpur district unit was constituted with Alhaj T M Giasuddin as convener, and Shafiqur Rahman Kiron and Amjad Hossain as joint conveners.

In a separate joint press statement, 41 guardians also requested the Academic Council to reopen the college immediately.

Fire in city garments factory: 5 hurt

By DMCH Correspondent

At least five workers were injured in a stampede following an outbreak of fire at a garments factory at Kathal Bagan in the city yesterday afternoon.

Of the injured, two identified as Delwar, 30, and Morjina, 22, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital and Fire Service sources said.

Witnesses said the workers were injured when a fire broke out in a carton store at the garments factory in the fourth floor of the building at about 6:15 pm. The workers got panicked and tried to move out of the building.

Two fire fighting vehicles from Mohammadpur station rushed to the spot immediately. However, the flame had been extinguished before the firemen arrived, Fire Service sources added.

The release was issued jointly by Touhidul Islam John

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Quick economic growth needed for human development: Kibria

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria yesterday said the policy of the present government is to achieve quick economic growth by encouraging more investments in different sectors.

At a press conference in the city held to mark the release of the Human Development Report 1996 prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Minister said the government is committed to ensure social justice and economic self-reliance.

"We want quick growth", he said "there is no alternative focus because unless we ensure growth by removing stagnation from the economy, there cannot be any human development."

He went on to add: "We want to alleviate poverty. But if there is no revenue surplus how can we fund poverty alleviation schemes? A lot of good works could not be implemented in the past because of the retarded growth of the economy."

He said that the quality of the public sector services would be gradually improved and the government would try to up-

root corruption as much as possible.

"Once we can control corruption, it would also save a lot of resources," he added.

Describing the strategy of the government to achieve a minimum 6 per cent growth, the Finance Minister said, "through increasing investment in all the sectors of the country, we can attain the desired growth."

Investment would not be limited within the industrial sector. It will be encouraged in infrastructure, human resources, agriculture and other sectors as well," he noted.

To strengthen investment, we shall encourage savings. The level of savings went down in 1995, this has to be improved."

He noted that by achieving a high growth rate, the country would be able to fund human resource development schemes. While by ensuring social justice, equity of the growth would be ensured.

The Human Development Report 1996 exclusively suggests that economic growth should be equitable in order to ensure human resource development.

From Page 1
The per capita daily calorie intake in Bangladesh is 2,019 and the rate of literacy stands at 37 per cent. The per capita income in Bangladesh is 220 US dollars.

In administration and managerial jobs, the participation of women in comparison to men is only 5 per cent while in professional and technical works, the percentage is 30 per cent and in clerical and sales work, it is four per cent and among service workers the percentage of women workers against men workers is 87.

For every 1000 persons in Bangladesh, there is 44 radios and five TV sets while they consume only 0.4 metric ton of printing and writing paper. For every 100 people there is only 0.2 telephone lines.

Some 49 per cent of the population constitute the labour force of the country while the women's share of adult labour force is 41 per cent. Some 56 per cent of people in the urban areas and 51 per cent in rural areas are living in poverty, the UNDP report noted.

Presenting the report to the press, Grameen Bank consultant Dr Mohammad Farashuddin said that the gap between the poor and the rich

of the world continued to widen.

Twenty per cent of the countries in the world share 78 per cent of total global resources. The remaining 80 per cent countries share 22 per cent of the resources.

Farashuddin noted that the wealth of 358 billionaires of the world equals 45 per cent of the resources of the least developed countries.

The development report suggested that in order to break the vicious cycle of poverty, the least developed countries should aim to create a cycle of prosperity by ensuring a three per cent growth rate.

The people is the main focus of development. Human development and economic growth are related with each other. But economic growth alone can not ensure human resources development if the growth is not equitable," said UNDP Resident Representative Emi Watanabe.

A deliberate design is needed to thrust both human resources development and economic growth. The government needs to be determined to achieve such goals," Watanabe said adding, "equity should be ensured in order to make a growth meaningful."



A Rathajatra procession of the Hindu community in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Alleged terrorist held at Demra

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, July 17: Demra police arrested an alleged terrorist, Mominullah David, from Bibir Bagicha area under Demra thana last night.

David, wanted in connection with 19 criminal cases, was caught red-handed while trying to mug rickshaw passengers on the road.

In another drive, police recovered clothes worth about Tk 10 lakh last night. The clothes were looted by dacoits from a garments factory.

Armed robbers intercepted a truck carrying the clothes of Knit Concern around 11 am and diverted it to Daobhog Pucca Road.

Acting on a tip-off, police rushed there around 12 o'clock and recovered the goods.

Police raided different areas of the city during the day yesterday.

One Nazmul, 25, was arrested from the spot.

SAARC-EC MOU on administrative cooperation

From Our Correspondent

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) on administrative co-operation was signed in Brussels recently, between the European Commission (EC) represented by its director for South and South-East Asia, Emiliano Fossati and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) represented by its Secretary General, Naeem U Hasan, and Dewan Korbar Ali as joint conveners.

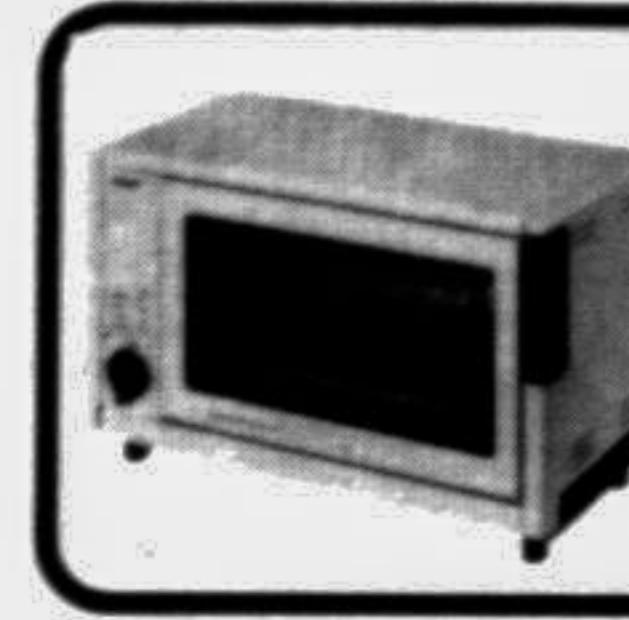
The MOU mainly focuses on exchanges of information, institutional support and training and technical assistance, European Commission office in Dhaka said.

Political dialogue between EU and SAARC had been officially opened in September 1994 in New York between the foreign ministers of the EU-Troika and the Bangladesh foreign minister representing at that time the SAARC-chairmanship.

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Govt plans \$122m transport project for Dhaka city

By Masud Arif

The government is planning to initiate a 121.7 million US dollar Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) to improve the city's communication network.

The proposed project is expected to be launched from 1998 with funding from the World Bank, according to a senior official of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

The DUTP has been planned with a short and a long term objectives, he said. The short term objective of the project is to address urgent policy issues and traffic management constraints and removal of physical infrastructure bottlenecks.

The long term objectives of the DUTP is to focus on planning, institution strengthening and developing policies to adequately tackle the urban transport issues over the next twenty years, according to a project profile prepared by the BRTA.

Meanwhile, the BRTA and other concerned bodies were preparing to start the project preparation studies which is

expected to be completed in three phases by the end of 1997, the BRTA official added.

Presently, around 1.48 lakh different types of vehicles, about 2.5 lakh rickshaws and some 40,000 autorickshaws and tempos are plying on the roads of the urban areas of the capital, BRTA sources said.

The government approached the World Bank in March 1994 to assist in planning and financing the transport sector improvement project in the city.

In August last year, a six member World Bank Mission arrived in Dhaka and after detailed discussion with the ministries concerned agencies and private sector organisations identified the project and signed Ad Memoir.

The key components of the proposed project identified on a preliminary assessment include improvement of accident blackspots and relocation of utilities, rehabilitation of the existing bus terminals, land development for new bus terminals, and terminals for city bus, construction of heavy goods vehicle terminal, rickshaw road network development, off-street parking and construction of flyovers, rail and road over passes and improvement of railway commuter services.

tenance, construction of grade separated interchanges like rail, road overpass and flyover, improvement of existing commuter railway facilities in the city, institutional strengthening and capacity building and planning and policy studies and project implementation support.

The tentative investment components of the project are civil works, equipment for traffic management, institutional strengthening, planning and project implementation support.

The 64.1 million dollar civil works component of the DUTP includes intersection improvements, improvement of accident blackspots and relocation of utilities, rehabilitation of the existing bus terminals, land development for new bus terminals, and terminals for city bus, construction of heavy goods vehicle terminal, rickshaw road network development, off-street parking and construction of flyovers, rail and road over passes and improvement of railway commuter services.

BNP's no

From Page 1

Ister M Saiful Rahman to share the latter's experiences.

Commenting on this, a ruling party source alleged that the BNP was showing a "clear gesture of non-cooperation to the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Elaborating, the source stated that the BNP chief and former Prime Minister also declined to be the chief guest at the concluding session of a day-long national workshop on law and order, planned in the home ministry on July 20.

The Home Ministry has meanwhile, sent letters to leaders of eight political parties including the BNP inviting them to attend the July 20 workshop.

While talking to these correspondents, Mannan Bhuyan also confirmed that his party received the Home Ministry letter. Asked whether they will join the planned workshop, the BNP leader repeated, "We want to discuss all issues including the country's deteriorating law and order in the floor of the House."

Contacted over telephone, Jatiya Party secretary general and Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju commented that inviting the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament to the on-going pre-budget discussions amounts to invitation all the parties in the House.

"I participated in today's pre-budget discussion, attended by some selected ministers," he said.

Atlanta

From Page 1

The Atlanta organisers had no guarantee from the public purse, although the federal government is footing a bill estimated to be around 200 million dollars for security and transport.

The lack of public funding has been a constant concern to the conservative mandarins of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and no city will be allowed again to win a bid without a financial safety net.

These are the Olympics of urban America — most venues and the Olympic Village are looped by traffic-choked highways. The main stadium and a park in the middle of the "Olympic ring" were converted from drab districts of down-market housing and deserted warehousing.

It is not a peaceful city. Beggars, drug addicts and common used to hold sway after dark although a huge security force promises to make Atlanta safe for international guests.

Atlanta will be the safest place on earth during the Games," said A