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BNP stages walkout

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tribution of membership on the standing bodies."

The dispute surfaced when some ruling party members, including an influential minister, asserted to exclude the BNP proposal from the draft report of the committee.

It should be mentioned that the last three meetings of the committee produced nothing as the BNP members refused to discuss anything following the Sangsad Secretariat's failure to present the correct minutes of the October 31 meeting that recorded the BNP proposed amendment relating to proportionate membership on the ministerial bodies.

In yesterday's meeting, the Sangsad Secretariat placed the draft report that included the said BNP amendment seeking proportionate distribution of membership on the ministerial bodies.

The BNP legislators in the committee argued that the ruling party should stick to its earlier commitment that the membership on the parliamentary standing bodies on various ministries should be distributed among parties and groups on the basis of their respective strengths in the House.

Refusing to accept the proposition, the ruling party members in the committee said that they would follow precedence established during the fifth

Tk 500 cr DPRK projects for Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Mar 31: North Korea will build a five-star hotel-cum-shopping-complex, a satellite town and a monument in the port city at a cost of Taka 500 crore under overall management of the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), reports BSS.

A Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) to this effect was signed here today.

Ershad advised complete bed rest

By Staff Correspondent
The medical board formed for the treatment of former President and Jatiya Party chief H M Ershad has advised him complete rest and to lead a tension-free life, sources concerned said.

Kidnapped Ctg businessman rescued

CHITTAGONG, Mar 31: Police rescued a businessman within half an hour after he was abducted by gunmen from the busy Agrabad area of the port city today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, a group of four gunmen forced their way into a private car of businessman Sarwar Hossain Chowdhury as soon as he boarded the car at about 11 am in front of his residence at CDA Colony and drove the car along with the victim.

Noor Uddin

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ing" on gas. "There could be as much as 60 trillion cubic feet of gas in our untapped reserves," he said. "But detailed survey is required for confirmation."

He said in the next few years, four companies, which had signed Production Sharing Contracts for hydrocarbon exploration in eight blocks of the country with the government, were likely to invest around 500 million dollars in the gas sector alone.

"We are hopeful about a bigger amount of investment for the remaining 15 blocks which are now open for bidding," he added.

He informed the editors that the government was setting up a private power distribution company called Power Grid Company Bangladesh in Rampura under Asian Development Bank funding.

This power grid company would be a private company owned by the PDB and it would have a private management system. The PGCB will be a model for the PDB which will monitor if there is any improvement in power distribution. If the result is positive, we will go ahead with the idea on a greater scale," he added.

Dacoity & murder 5 get life term in Barisal after 19 years

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Mar 31: The District and Sessions Judge today convicted five persons to life term in a dacoity and murder case after 19 years the incident took place and the case was filed.

Two of the convicts have by now died and two others are absconding.

The convicted are, Abdul Khaleque Howlader, Abdul Mannan Howlader, Abdul Sattar Bakshi, Altaf Hossain Howlader and Dhohi Mia alias Fazlu Mia. Twelve accused persons were acquitted in the judgement passed by District and Sessions Judge Md Mominullah.

The dacoity was committed on a trawler loaded with paddy at Charmonar on the Bukhainagar river on March 4, 1978 in which four persons were thrown into the river and killed, according to the prosecution story.

Samad Azad

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operation, particularly increased investment in Bangladesh, will figure prominently in discussion.

South Korea, which has so far invested about 200 million US dollars in Bangladesh, has agreed to provide Dhaka with a fund of 30 million US dollars to purchase locomotives.

Besides, the Foreign Minister will meet Ministers for Labour, Trade, Industries and Energy in South Korea.

During the meetings, Azad will seek expansion of trade, more investment and setting up of joint-venture industries in Bangladesh and recruitment of Bangladeshi manpower for Korea.

The Foreign Ministers will also meet with the executives of leading Korean industrial complexes, including Halla, Hyundai and Samsung.

SC Bar Assoc polls held

SC Correspondent
The annual elections to the Executive Council of the Supreme Court Bar Association was held yesterday.

1256 votes were cast out of a total of 1448 votes.

The contenders for the post of President were Barrister Shafiq Ahmed and Barrister Nazmul Hossain.

Of 700 votes counted till the filing of this report close to midnight, Barrister Shafiq Ahmed was ahead of his contender by 13 votes.

Khaleda

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mer prime minister urged the public servants to perform their duties "fearlessly."

"This government is not the last one. There will be other government's in future," she remarked.

Begum Zia, accompanied by about 50 party leaders, including some top ones, reached the local Circuit House at about 3:30 pm. From there, she went to visit the grave of Tushar at Choto Dholla and also met his parents. She also offered foteha at the grave of Tushar. Before returning to Dhaka, Begum Zia also visited Nasir's house in the town to console his parents. She also offered foteha at Nasir's grave.

Chaired by the district BNP Convenor Mosharrif Hussain MP, the public meeting was also addressed by party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, central leaders Oli Ahmed, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, Tariqul Islam and others.

Begum Zia alleged that Awami League, after coming to power, has unleashed a reign of terror on BNP workers.

"They are involved in killing BNP workers instead of implementing election pledges."

She said, "the more you attack us, the more the movement will become vigorous."

Portfolio investors

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voted a big push to the privatisation programmes, saying privatisation is not only important because it addresses the losses, but also because it is a vehicle for accelerating development through better use of resources and attracting foreign investment.

About administrative reforms, he said the World Bank is waiting for the Administrative Reform Commission to become effective to manage reform programmes as the government has accepted many of the recommendations of the report titled "Government That Works."

Regarding the erratic power sector, the World Bank resident mission chief said some corrective actions are still needed to address the system losses "if Bangladesh wants a sound and efficient power sector."

The pricing situation of gas needs to be addressed to attract more foreign investment in the sector, he suggested.

Col Taher

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in action during the war. On July 21, 1976, Taher was hanged in the Dhaka central jail after he was found guilty of sedition by a summary military tribunal during General Ziaur Rahman's time.

Lutfa Taher said she had declined to receive the medal from previous governments, who were in power after the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as "those regimes were against the spirit of the Liberation War."

Handing over the medal, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that her government was trying to restore the spirit of Liberation War and give recognition to those who fought for independence.

She lamented that the nation had to pay a lot due to disunity among the pro-liberation forces and called for forging unity to build this country with new spirit.

Receiving the medal, both the mother and the widow of Col Taher demanded retrial of what they alleged, "killing of the valiant freedom fighter."

Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister, Dr Anwar Hossain, younger brother of Col Taher, said "Taher was killed at the instruction of Ziaur Rahman."

He said public prosecutor of the conspiratorial trial A T M Afzal (now Chief Justice) also did not approve of the capital punishment to the accused (Col Taher).

Dr Anwar said the body of his brother was wrapped with a torn bed-sheet after he was hanged. "They did not show minimum respect to the hero even after his death."



A fire broke out at a jute godown in Narayanjan yesterday.

N'ganj fire

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A late night BSS report says, eight godowns containing over 28,000 bales of high quality exportable jute worth about Taka 50 crore were gutted at Shitalakha area in a day-long fire which broke out early this morning.

District administration sources and owners of the godowns alleged that the incident of fire might have been committed by an organised gang of anti-state elements as part of the country-wide subversive activities.

Work permits

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The meeting was told that a lot of people who went to Malaysia with valid papers fell illegal changing their profession. And authorities concerned were directed to recover the passports of such illegal workers and take action.

It also decided to unearth the ways through which the people are going out and identify the rackets involved in unauthorised manpower export for taking action against them.

The meeting, which discussed the condition of expatriates in Malaysia, was informed that after taking the necessary actions, the prospects of exporting manpower to that country would expand as the efficiency of the Bangladeshi workers had been recognised by them.

The meeting was also informed that about 50,000 people were still living in distress in the forests of Thailand.

The government is conducting its diplomatic efforts to settle the issue with Malaysia to accommodate these people in the neighbouring countries.

ADP

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was revised downward during the last few years due to non-utilisation of budgetary allocation.

"We are extremely happy at the performance of various ministries regarding ADP implementation. The implementation is being smoothly spread over the whole of the year," the official said.

Planning ministry sources said the utilisation of ADP allocation during the last seven months (July '96 to January '97) was Taka 5283 crore which is 4 per cent higher than that of the corresponding period of last fiscal.

Of the total utilisation of ADP allocation during the last seven months, Taka 3153 crore spent from the domestic resources and Taka 2130 crore spent from the foreign aid.

Janaza

From Page 1
Bulu MP, Moazzem Hossain Alal, Abu Syed Khan Khokon and Mizanur Rahman.

He also condemned the filing of a 'false' case against DUCSU AGS Nazimuddin Alam MF.

Bhuiyan said the leaders and activists of the BNP and its different wings were being harassed as the government initiated 'false' cases aiming to halt the ongoing movement against the ruling party.

Police in plainclothes are frequently carrying out raids on the houses of BNP leaders, he further alleged.

He urged the government to refrain from such repressive measures on its political opponents and demanded immediate release of the arrested BNP leaders and supporters.

Hasina ready

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against them."

About the Special Powers Act, she said "It is not as black a law as it is made out to be. One can always make a writ in the High Court and get bail. Don't forget five successive governments kept it."

She expressed her dismay at the hartal call by the opposition on March 23 and asked, why were raillines uprooted, and jute godowns set on fire? "Such politics can never be for the benefit of the people," she said.

About the dramatic decrease in the water level in the Ganges within four months of signing the Treaty, the PM admitted that Bangladesh was getting less water than agreed. "We have already taken it up with the Indian government, and are looking into the causes of this decrease."

In reference to the recent BBC report that the West Bengal government has asked Delhi to talk to Dhaka about the quantum of water to be made available to Bangladesh, the PM said, "We have not received any

ADB, WB

From Page 1
tion on regional basis in the likely areas of energy, transport and infrastructure. He said the WB is taking the assistance of a team of experts and organisations in the sub-regional countries.

Dr Saleemul Huq, Director of the local think-tank BCAS, said his organisation is also providing some assistance in the study undertaken on identifying potential of likely projects for the "Development Triangle." He added the World Bank study is headed by a reputed Harvard University academic Prof Peter Rogers. Workshops will be held in Dhaka, Delhi and Kathmandu on the subject and a preparatory meeting is due to be held in Dhaka this month.

Police havilder closed in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Mar 31: A police havilder has been closed on a charge of releasing four youths who forcibly collected tolls from truck drivers near the Keane bridge here early yesterday.

Meanwhile, a case has been filed against the four young men.

Police said, the youths stopped some trucks and snatched Tk 4200 from them forcibly. Some transport workers caught them and handed them over to the police men who, after some time, freed the toll collectors.

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।

মনোহরদী-নরসিংদি এবং মেঘনা-বাখরাবাদ এই দুইটি গ্যাস
পাইপ লাইনের নির্মাণ কাজ দ্রুত সমাপ্তির পথে। এ নির্মাণ কাজ শেষ হলে
গ্যাস চালিত বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র সমূহের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি পাবে।

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। প্রয়োজনের অতিরিক্ত
বাতি, ফ্যান, এয়ারকুলার বন্ধ রেখে বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হোন
এবং আমাদের সহযোগিতা করুন।

এ সংকট কাটবেই

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

সেবার সমৃদ্ধি

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক তার প্রত্যেক গ্রাহককে একান্ত আপন মনে করে। গ্রাহক এবং অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পরস্পরের সঙ্গী সেবা
সেবার এবং সেবার। আমরা সেবার মাধ্যমে সমৃদ্ধি আনতে চাই। আর সে কারণেই অগ্রণী ব্যাংক বলেছে -

গ্রাহক সেবা ও পরামর্শ কেন্দ্র

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক তার প্রত্যেক গ্রাহককেই অগ্রণী সঙ্গী মনে করে। গ্রাহক সেবার মান উন্নয়ন এবং পারস্পরিক সঙ্গী
স্বীকৃতি করার জন্যই এই গ্রাহক সেবা ও পরামর্শ কেন্দ্র। এ কেন্দ্রের মাধ্যমে সেবার অন্তরায়গুলো দূর করতে চাই।
আমাদের কাছে আপনার চাওয়া আর আপনার কাছে আমাদের প্রত্যাশিত। পরস্পর লক্ষ্যে অগ্রণী ব্যাংককে মাঝে
মাঝে থেকে আনতে চাই। আপনার কোন পরামর্শ, অভিযোগ কিংবা আমাদের কোন অপরাধতা থাকলে সেটা বিনিয়োগ, কবি,
শির কিংবা বানিজ্য যে কোন বিষয়েই যেক নির্বিধার কিন্তু এই ঠিকানাঃ -

গ্রাহক সেবা ও পরামর্শ কেন্দ্র
অগ্রণী ব্যাংক
নিয়ন্ত্রন, বিপনন ও সমন্বয় বিভাগ
প্রধান কার্যালয়, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা।

অথবা
টেমিনকোনে বস্তুর **সালাউদ্দিন মাহমুদ খসরু**

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দেশ ও জাতীয় সেবার প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ একটি ব্যাংক

ডিএফপি-৭৬৬৯-৩৪/৩

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