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(97 pc people in Bangladesh now) get safe drinking water

NEW YORK, June 24: UNICEF's 1997 progress report is out and it gives Bangladesh some good news and some bad, reports UNB.

The percentage of people with access to sanitation is still very low, infant mortality rate continues to be high and a large number of children are still not going to school. But some or significant progress has been made in these and other areas.

Bangladesh got a very mixed score in the annual report which ranks nations according to their achievements in child health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation and women's rights.

lation now have access to safe drinking water, a big "success story" for one of the world's poorest nations, but only 48 per cent have access to sanitation. This disparity is also prevalent in most other developing coun-

The report shows that in the past six years, from 1990 to 1996, almost 800 million more people in the world have gained access to safe drinking water, but a staggering 2.9 billion people lack access to adequate san-

A bill is likely to be placed in

the current session of the Jatiya

Sangsad for enacting a new law

paving the way for speedy trial

of cases related to repression on

women, trafficking of women

and children and acid throw-

tary Affairs Minister Abdul

Matin Khasru told this at the

parliament yesterday while re-

plying to a question from

Awami League lawmaker

ernment had planned to set up

at least one or more special

courts in each district to dispose

of cases involving women,

children and terrorism in a

shortest possible time. And to

this end, a bill would likely be

placed in the House in the cur-

rent session for enacting a new

been drafted on the basis of a

report prepared by a committee.

He added that the committee

was formed earlier comprising

representatives of various

ministries including Home Af-

As NK Alam Choudhury of

Jatiya Party demanded the

floor. Speaker Humayun

Rashid Choudhury told him.

He said, the bill had already

The minister said the gov-

Khaleda Khanam.

law, he added.

Law, Justice and Parliamen-

itation, up from 2.6 billion in

The rural and urban disparity is also quite stark. In Bangladesh, for example, 91 rural pupils share one toilet. compared to 1 for 9 pupils in

Malnutrition is still pervasive in Bangladesh. Almost 50 per cent of all babies born in the country have low birthweight. Bangladesh has succeeded in

achieving a 45 per cent reduction in infant mortality rate over the past 15 years. However,

UNICEF report

with 115 infants per 1,000 live Over 97 per cent of its popu- births currently dying before reaching the age of five, its in fant mortality rate is still among the highest in the world.

A shocking 63 per cent of its children under five are stunted. As a result, these children face impaired learning capacity and poor work performance.

For girls, this presents an additional risk: It is associated not only with low adult height but also with smaller pelvic size, which increases the risk of obstructed labour and thereby of maternal mortality.

fairs, Women's Affairs and Law,

and those of different women's

organisations including

posed special courts would dis-

pose of cases relating to repres-

sion on women, dowry, rape,

child trafficking and acid

throwing within a short span of

time. He said, such courts would

follow 'summary trial' system

in disposing of the cases as

there were provision for 'sum-

mary trial' under clause 27 of

the Special Powers Act (SPA) of

from BNP legislator Md

Mosharraf Hussain, the law

minister said, there were

presently 4,87,370 under-trial

cases in the courts. Of these,

3,72,713 were civil cases while

Answering to another ques-

tion from AL deputy Sayed

Ashraful Islam, the minister

said, there are 36 judges in the

High Court Division of the

Supreme Court while the num-

ber of judges in Appellate Divi-

rated. I would like to ask former

prime minister Khaleda Zia

how much did she earn as a val-

ued human being." Hakim re-

Criticising the government

for lack of water flow from the

Ganges despite its signing an

accord, Amir Khasru Mahmud

Choudhury of BNP ridiculed,

"It's not a water sharing treaty

Speaking on the same issue

during general discussions on

the proposed budget, another

marked, "Taking a bath in the

Ganges, the finance minister

spoke highly of the so-called

agreement on water-sharing.

But his government failed to re-

alise a mangolghot (a pot used

by the Hindu pilgrims) of wa-

JS phone exchange

From page 1

nications ministry, the Shere

Bangla Nagar telephone ex-

change is administered by the

Sangsad Secretariat. Due to this

complication, the ministry is to

go through the Sangsad admin-

istration for any work other

two months ago, a new tele-

phone exchange was made

ready for installation but the

JS officials obstructed the move

in the name of official process,"

"We'll throw away the so-

called bureaucratic process to

coldstorage", a visibly agitated

Nasim said. "We're going to

bring the exchange from Tele-

phone Shilpa Sangstha tomor-

row (Wednesday) and Insha Al-

lah, the prime minister will in-

Earlier, Deputy Speaker Ab-

dul Hamid who was in the chair

drew the attention of the

telecommunication minister to

the long-standing problems

faced by the MPs in their dor-

augurate it on July 31.

he said.

"Following my instruction

than operation of the exchange.

BNP lawmaker MK Anwar re-

but a water-sparing treaty."

sion is five.

marked.

Sangsad snippets

1.14.657 were criminal cases.

Responding to a question

Matin Khasru said, the pro-

Bangladesh Mohila Parishad.

Women, child repression cases

Bill may be placed in

JS to enact new law

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh scores high in fighting against illiteracy and in narrowing the gender gap in school enrolment. In 1995, its primary schools recorded almost 82 per cent enrolment.

The disparity in enrolment in cities and villages was also marginal - only 2 per cent; and the gender gap in enrolment has practically been eliminated.

However, in terms of quality of education, Bangladesh is trotting behind. Only 44 per cent of its primary school teachers have a lower secondary education or less.

The UNICEF report compliments Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) for introducing innovative curriculum in the schools and encouraging girls' enrolment. BRAC's curriculum aims to teach basic literacy, numeracy and social awareness. Two

thirds of the students in BRAC-

run schools are girls. According to the report BRAC succeeded "in part by building its facilities in rural villages close to children's homes and giving preference in hiring to women, who make up about three quarters of its teachers."

thana today, reports UNB.

Police said the flame originated from a shop at about 5 am and engulfed the adjacent

Firefighters from Feni and Sitakunda rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze with the help of local people. Five people received burn injuries.

demand removal of DC

From Our Correspondent lawyers of the Gopalganj Bar held a rally in front of the Collectorate Building today demanding removal of the Deputy Commissioner, A J M Salahuddin Ahmed. Earlier, they brought out a procession.

Budget discussion

world... We also don't claim that it is a perfect one, but the suggestions to improve the budget were made only by the treasury bench members.

Chowdhury said bumper harvest was possible as the government took proper steps to strengthen the agriculture sec-

He hailed the budgetary allocation for human resource development, housing scheme, bank for creating self-employ-

ment by the youth. ernment closed the trade gap with India and increased export to India following the withdrawal of tariff restriction on

Salauddin Ahmed criticised a wide difference between the revenue expenditure of Tk 14,544 crore and development expenditure of Tk 12,800 crore. "This is no budget," he said.

Ahmed brought allegation of corruption against the State Minister for Land and said he had allocated 42 acres of land at Madhupur in Faridpur district for shrimp cultivation to the eldest son of the Environment Minister without following the prescribed rule.

Deputy Speaker to substantiate his allegation.

Reuters in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, Srinagar. "It is a healthy sign, but these two neighbours in future talks must include Kashmiris, main party to the dispute, for better results," said Shah, one

SRINAGAR (India), June 24:

Kashmiri separatists today cau-

tiously welcomed India's

agreement to discuss the divided

"I am happy that India has finally agreed to talk over the

Kashmir dispute," separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah told

region in talks with Pakistan

of the most popular separatist leaders in the state. High-ranking officials from India and Pakistan agreed on Monday in Islamabad to set up working groups to tackle all

outstanding issues devising the

longtime foes. AFP adds: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has termed the India-Pakistan agreement to place Kashmir on the agenda of future talks a breakthrough, official sources said today.

"Our sincerity yielded the success which could not be scribed the accord a good sign.

Kashmir rebels want to be included in **Indo-Pak talks**

achieved during the last 50 years," the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) quoted Sharif as telling reporters after the foreign secretaries of the two countries drafted an agenda but urged the two nations to include Kashmiris in the neto normalise relations Monday.

He said recognition of Indian held Kashmir as disputed territory by New Delhi was "a great success" of Pakistan. It has raised the hope to solve the core issue between the two countries, the Prime Minister said.

"The next step is how to resolve the dispute" on which the neighbours have fought two of their wars, the Prime Minister

Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan earlier read out the text of the joint statement of the two foreign secretaries in the National Assembly (lower house) amid loud thumping of

The House congratulated the Prime Minister on bringing the issue of Kashmir to the agenda of talks with India for the first time in the chequered history of the two countries.

Press reports said the main opposition Pakistan People's Party of Benazir Bhutto also de-

Khaleda: Movement

grammes implemented during BNP regime, Begum Zia said some 82,000 small and medium industries were established in between 1991 to 1995, but the present government in a planned way closing those through creating electricity cri-

She said the government failed to increase the growth in the industrial sector instead it has declined to 3.3 per cent although there is no hartal, strike and street agitation in last one The BNP chairperson said

Magurchhara From page 1

their number was small.

Two flames were seen at the drilling site. Local people told this correspondent that the height of the flames at times went down to the level of three to five feet but never (rose) bevond 10 to 15 feet. Some experts at the site

feared leakage of gas around the drilling site if the 'pocket gas' is not allowed to come out. They however, did not say how long the gas may take to burn. They said they are searching whether there is leakage in any other place around the drilling It is essential to detach the

possible sources of leakage before plugging the holes, they Meanwhile, cranes and bull

dozers were seen in use in and around the drilling site for clearing the area for making approach roads.

As a precautionary measure, the authorities were not allowing anyone to go to the site.

Sources said that due to the huge explosion, the sedimentary structure of that area might have turned into loosely fragmented particles, resulting into numerous cracks across the earth layers. The railway authorities told

that they might repair the damaged rail-track if they were given 'positive signal' from the Petrobangla and Occidental. Railway officials were seen supervision clearing of the burnt

Constable

From page 1 went to a nearby jute field in the morning.

Hearing her screams, her fa-

ther Abdul Jobbar, a day labourer, went out and caught the accused constable with the help of villagers. Later, hundreds of villagers from adjoining areas gheraoed the Champatoli police barrack and started throwing stones at the police. After getting the news of the

incident, the Additional Superintendent of Police of Dinajpur rushed to spot and with the help of local leaders brought the situation under control. All sixteen police personnel of the barrack have, meanwhile, been withdrawn and the accused constable has been sent to jail hajat, the police control room at Dinajpur said.

imposed new taxes and surcharge on essentials. Referring to attack on Monno Ceramic, she said the

production will further de-

crease as the government has

government is quite silent. The government has also no head pain although crores of taka are being destroyed due to fire at a gas field at Magurchhara. "The fire occurred some days

after the landing of a foreign helicopter," she said but did not elaborate it. She questioned that who

would give the answer about the destruction of forestry, land tea garden. In the meantime, she said

the government has ruined the economy of the country within only one year and called upon the people to resist the government's anti-people activities. Begum Zia blamed the gov-

ernment for signing agreement one after another and termed those as conspiracy against the country and its people. At the meeting, the BNP chief presented 'sheaf of paddy'.

the election symbol of her party BNP candidate at Manikganj-3 constituency's bypolls and urged the people to vote for Abdul Wahab Khan.

3 kidnapped

From page 1

Kotwali police, quoting their statements, said a person wearing a blue T-shirt called them saying their guardians were waiting for them outside. As soon as they came out of

school, they were taken to a vehicle where some other persons, accompanying the person wearing the blue T-shirt pressed their mouths, while blind folding them, police said telling the tale as told by the abducted school students. Later, the boys discovered

themselves in a boat on the river Shitalakhva. After sometime, the boat

came near the bank of the river when the kidnappers went ashore to buy food leaving one person to guard the boys. It was at this point, the boys

told police, they started screaming and managed to flee over powering the guard. The local people later helped

them reach the Kotwali thana at around 5:15 pm. The police recorded their statements and informed their guardians. Police told this correspon-

dent that they were looking for the criminals but none was arrested till writing of this report last night.

Shah Makhdum From page 1 shops and one house.

Masum's father and another

four persons were also injured in the attack. They were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Nurul Islam Bulbul, presi-

dent of Islami Chhatra Shibir, Rajshahi city unit in a statement held JCD responsible for the attack and demanded punishment to the attackers.

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Let's make things better. **PHILIPS**

City BNP meets today

An emergency meeting of the Dhaka city unit of BNP will be held today at 29 Mintu Road, the official residence of Leader of the Opposition in parliament, reports UNB.

City BNP convenor Sadeq Hossain MP has requested the committee joint convenors and members, unit presidents and general secretaries, BNP. backed DCC commissioners and president, general secretary or convenor of the party's front organisations to attend the meeting at 6 pm, said a press release yesterday.

Bhupen Hazarika wishes to mediate with Assam rebels

GUWAHATI, June 24: Noted singer and music director, Dr Bhupen Hazarika, has wished to mediate with the extremist groups to solve the insurgency problem in the region, reports "I am familiar with the po-

litical situation in the state," Dr Hazarika, a Dada Shaeb Phalke Award winner, said in an inter view telecast in the Doordarshan here today. The noted music director re-

plying to a question said that negotiation was the only way to solve the insurgency problem of the region.

Sarbahara leader killed in Pabna PABNA, June 24: A member

of out-lawed Sarbahara party was killed at Faradpur village in Sadar thana last night, police said, reports UNB. The victim Shukur Mollah

43, a regional leader of the Purba Banglar Sarbahara Party, was slaughtered by his rivals in the party. A case was

Dhaka 22nd largest city in world NEW YORK, June 24: Accord-

ing to a United Nations report made available this week Dhaka is among the 50 largest cities in the world. Its population in 1996 stood at nine million, making it the 22nd largest urban conglomeration, reports In 1995, Dhaka had 8.5 mil-

lion people and was considered the 23rd mega city in the world. The top slot, according to the 1996 revision of the UN's World Urbanisation Prospects, is retained by Tokyo. Its total population in 1996 stood at 27.2 mil Mexico City, with 16.9 mil-

lion people, is once again the second largest city in the world It is closely followed by Sao Paulo (16.8 million), New York (16.4 million) and Bombay (15.7 million). The smallest of the first 50

urban conglomeration is Mi lan. Its 1996 population was 4.2 million. The report projects that

Dhaka will continue to grow and, by the year 2015, will become the fifth largest city in the world. At that time, its population will stand at 19.5 million. Bangladesh's total popula-

tion will also grow, reaching a staggering 162 million by 2015.

Ershad leaves hospital Jatiya Party Chairman H M

Ershad was released from hospital yesterday, reports UNB. He was admitted to National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases on June 16 after he had felt serious chest pain. Ershad returned to his Gul-

shan residence yesterday noon after Chairman of the 8-member Medical Board Prof M Akhtaruzzaman examined him and gave permission to leave the hospital. The doctors suggested the

former president to take rest for some more days before joining normal work.

Relieving Zobaida from case

SC hears govt petition to stay HC order today

By SC Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will hear today the government petition for stay of operation of the High Court judgement discharging Zobaida Rashid from the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

Justice Latifur Rahman of

the Appellate Division passed the order yesterday evening at

his residence upon a petition of Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, counsel for Zobaida Rashid. The High Court yesterday rejected another criminal revision petition filed by Col (dismissed) Syed Faruk Rahman for quashment of the or-

ders of the District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka framing charges against him in the same case. The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury and Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman rejected the petition of

Faruk Rahman. In this petition it was submitted that the District and Sessions Judge passed the orders on April 4 and 5 after handing over the charge of the District and Sessions Judge to the Additional Sessions Judge when he became functus officio

and, as such, the orders were il-

In the order the HC observed that the District and Sessions Judge only authorised the Additional District and Sessions Judge to hear the urgent matters till his return after hearing the specific case (Bangabandhu Murder Case) in the court established in a building near the Dhaka Central Jail.

In the case of Zobaida Rashid the division bench of the HC comprising Justice B I Chowdhury and Justice M A Matin observed that there was no sufficient materials before the Sessions Judge to frame

The government soon after pronouncement of the HC judgement filed a petition before the Appellate Division for stay till filing of a regular petition for leave to appeal.

government. Senior advocate Sirajul Huq

PM: Question hour

maintenance of macro-economic stability and attain satisfactory growth keeping inflation under control as the prime objective of its economic policy. As a result, she said, invest-

flation remained under control. Hasina said the measures taken by the government are aimed at recovering a huge amount of overdue loans, restoring discipline in the financial sector and increasing efficiency in the bank management

of credit policy and annual credit programme, credit diver-The prime minister said the credit flow to the agriculture,

industry, and trade and commerce has reached a reasonable

Pry education

liament that one primary the villages and illiteracy

Pabna poura bypolls

nations are : Md Idris Ali Biswas (AL), Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain (AL), sitting commissioner Feroz Hossain (BNP), Kamrul Hasan Mintoo (BNP) and Mohammad Anwar Hossain Surja (Independent).

vacant on April 4 this year after chairman Sheikh Shahidullah Bachchu was shot dead by unidentified gunmen. Since then, panel chairman

The last date for withdrawal of candidature is June 29.

The donor group representatives appreciated the measures undertaken by the government in reforms programmes in different sectors. They also appreciated the

old age pension, housing scheme and employment bank.

be discontinued. Responding to questions of donor representatives, the Finance Minister said the government will continue the pro-

Minister said the surcharge provision is a temporary one. international market.

Japan, USA, Canada, France, EC delegation, Sweden, the Netherlands, UNDP, Norway, Belgium, Switzerland, WFP, UNICEF, FAO, DANIDA, Germany, Australia, Italy and

the Planning Commission, Finance Secretary, Chairman of NBR and Governor of Bangladesh Bank were present at the meeting.

charge against Zobaida Rashid and discharged her.

> Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman moved for Col (dismissed) Syed Faruk Rahman, while Attorney General K S Nabi along with others represented the

also appeared for the state in the case of Zobaida Rashid.

From page 1

ments have activated and in-

These included formulation

sification and legal reforms, she said. "Already the liquidity crisis of the banks has been removed," she added.

The Prime Minister told parschool would be set up in each of would be totally eradicated from the country within next 10

From page 1

The post of chairman fell

and pourasabha commissioner Nurul Islam Nannu has been functioning as acting chair-The scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held tomor-

Donors

From page 1 cus private sector participation in physical infrastructure sec-

poverty alleviation programme and social security programme proposed in the next budget like

The representatives appreciated the increase of fertiliser price. They expressed concern over subsidies to state-owned enterprises and suggested that the practice of administered price for certain commodities

cess of liberalisation. In this context, the Finance

He also stressed the need for protecting local industries for enabling them to compete in the The meeting was attended by the representatives of WB, ADB, IMF, CIDA, USAID, DFID, UK,

ERD Secretary, members of

Replying to Abdul Latif Mirza (AL-Sirajganj), she said it is an election commitment of the present government to free the country from the curse of illiteracy and bring every village

and mohalla under primary ed-

The government also set tar-

gets to increase the gross rate of enrolment to 95 per cent, rate of primary education completion to 70 per cent and adult literacy rate to 62 per cent by the year

Gram Parishad Hasina said the government

Replying to a question from Kazi Sekandar Ali (Khulna-3), she said a draft bill in this regard is being prepared by the Local Government Division.

The bill will be placed in par-

liament in due time, she said.

From page 1

Jamuna oil will start blending and marketing of the Mobil brand lube oil and supply of Mobil brand marine lube oils to ocean-going ships from July

1996 Jamuna Oil signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Mobil for establishing a joint venture company for setting up plants for bottling

this joint venture company, official reports said.

> AL body From page 1

AL presidium member Abdul Mannan has been made convenor of the committee. Other members are, Dr Md Selim, Shamshur Rahman Khan, Mozaffar Hussain Paltu, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin. Mukul Bose, Alamgir Kumkum, Siddiqur Rauf Khan, Siddiq Hussain, Shudhangshu Shekhar Halder, Mirza Sultan Raja, Nurul Majid Humayun, Phulu Sarker, Prof Fazlul Haq and Monaem Sarker.

Transmission Line Project which was conceived in 1987-88. The first phase, known as the Ashuganj-Comilla Transmission Line Project was completed in 1991 by ABB, Germany.

From page 1

dates are not available now. For the 17th BCS examina-

tions, PSC had invited applications on March 30, 1995 to fill up 1,475 vacant posts. Preliminary test was held on September 15. Written examinations were held from May 5 to June 1, 1996. Results of the written examinations were published on October 1996. Psychological test of the candidates who passed the written examinations were held on November 96. The viva voce has also been completed.

Meanwhile, the preliminary test of the 18th BCS examination was completed on May this year and the results were also published. The written test will start from mid-August, PSC sources said.

Commentary: PM has faced the public What Monday's programme Politicians, especially the top will try to ensure that the gov-From page 1 ones, seldom, if ever, submit to

nation that night. Gone were her impetuousness and temptation to combat every negative comment made against her government or her party. She was calm, dignified and even humble. On more than one occasion she actually accepted blame, and on several others she accepted partial failure - a quality she seldom exhibited before. Her impromptu wit came out on more than one occasion showing an impressive presence of mind, able to turn adversarial situation around. Even when

However it is in the substance of her answers that she left her eager audience unsatisfied. Too many references to the past, too many generalisations and too many over-simplified explanations left the audience with a feeling of a general lack of direction and that their concerns were not being taken seriously. Some of the answers did not address the questions, and those that did left a lot to be desired.

with suave.

proved — something that we journalists have been trying to convince political leaders of that it never harms a leader to face the public frankly and directly. It is always a WIN situation for the leader. Even when one gets cornered by questions, people say that at least he or she faced them. And if one can handle the questions as well as Sheikh Hasina did then public image jumps by leaps and bounds, as we think has happened in this case. The point we want to make

is that our leaders must make themselves more and more accessible to the people not so much to speak to them, but more to sincerely hear them. What we have today is mostly one-way communication where the leaders address public meetings or press conferences and tell the people what they are thinking. Even when they are stating utter falsehood, or giving their interpretation of a situation as if it were the truth, people have no way of questioning them or challenging their assumptions or positions.

direct questioning by the public. There is never an opportunity for the public to have their say and let the leaders know what's on their mind. Hence the significance of Monday's programme. Now that the PM has submitted herself to public ques-

the Jatiya Sangsad to submit herself to a similar programme. We think that Khaleda Zia should face the public and answer many of our questions directly. She should do so on television because in no other way can millions watch her face direct and hard hitting questions from the representative of the civic society. We know that BNP has many

the Leader of the Opposition in

formation Ministry. Yet Monday's event proved that programmes can be done with complete freedom. Let Begum Zia say in public what arrangements would satisfy her. We from the independent media

Begum Zia must face the challenge of directly answering hard hitting questions from independent panels and from the people. Ever since losing power the BNP chief has been making serious allegations against Sheikh Hasina's government. Let her make them in front of experts who can challenge her

positions, and then let us see how convincingly she is able to defend her stand. This is the only way to reduce the rhetorics from our public discourse and take our politics to higher and a more constructive level. We hope the Leader of the Opposition will rise to the occasion and take up the challenge.

ernment fulfills them. The Leader of the Opposition MUST face the public. If she refuses to do so now, we think her credibility will be greatly damaged. We recall that during her tenure as PM she never allowed direct questions to be put to her. She did not participate in the pre-

2000, Hasina said.

ucation by next 10 years.

has a plan to set up village council (Gram Parishad) as recommended by the Local Government Commission.

Jamuna Oil

agreement on behalf of respective organisations.

1, the official said. Earlier, on November 27,

LPG, blending lube oil, grease at Jamuna's own land at Patenga. An amount of Tk 120 crore will be invested initially under

PDB signs accord From page 1 transmitted to other areas through the new line. This project is the second phase of the Ashuganj-Comilla-Chittagong 230 KV Power

BCS exam

ers as freedom fighter candi-

"What's wrong with you. No bulb fell on your head, Did it?" Given the floor, Choudhury said, "there are many members and bulbs are hanging above everybody's head. But I wonder why the bulb over Saidee fell The House burst into laughter by the query of the JP deputy, "Chinilo kemoney? (how could the bulb identify the right person). "Only Allah can reply to your question," the Speaker

quipped.

BNP legislator Ziaul Haq Zia told LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman, whose reply did not satisfy the opposition MP, "If constructed, those roads will benefit not only the BNP men but also those of AL living in my area. Interrupting Zia, Deputy

Speaker Abdul Hamid com-

mented, "It appears from your

statement those having no

party affiliations are not enti-

While demanding resump-

tion of work for construction of

11 roads in his constituency

(Ramganj thana in Laxmipur),

tled to use these roads." Speaking on the law and order situation at an Oppositionheld constituency, AL member Zillur Hakim commented, "When the followers of Mashiur Rahman (BNP), equipped with modern arms, face the policemen on their parade through the Jhenidah roads, they ask for room. The hapless police with inferior weapons are seen

Retorting to BNP's frequent

blame that the AL had sold the

country, the ruling party law-

maker charged the past BNP

government of Khaleda Zia for

selling the country by surren-

man resources should also be

"If a country is sold, its hu-

dering its interests to India.

making room for them."

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

mitories.

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10 shops gutted in Mirersarai

CHITTAGONG, June 24: Ten shops were gutted in a fire at Shantirhat Bazar in Mirersarai

Gopalganj lawyers

GOPALGANJ, June 24: The

From page 1 "No budget is perfect in this

tor by providing subsidy of Tk 100 crore which ultimately shot up to Tk 219 crore.

He claimed the present gov-500 items.

He submitted a paper to the

she evaded questions she did it

tioning, we would like to ask

misgivings about the TV because it is controlled by the In-

election TV programme and sent Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury instead.