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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a conference on investment in Bangladesh at a hotel in Tokyo yesterday. -PID photo

is a mountain climber since his

school days, said that he was

familiar with the Himalayan

terrain and that there was

tremendous scope for develop-

ment of the sub-region, sources

formed him that Dhaka was

giving priority to poverty alle-

appreciated the efforts of Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina in

running the country and lauded

the measures taken for

strengthening democracy. He

stressed the importance of de-

velopment of human resources

saying 'like Bangladesh, Japan

was a poor country with no nat-

ural resources but we utilised

the vast human resources for

productive purpose to attain the

Japan's cooperation in building

an international airport at

Sylhet. Hashimoto suggested

for examining the commercial

ter appreciated the letter writ-

ten by Sheikh Hasina to the

leaders of the G-7 plus seeking

financial support to the LDCs.

He said the letter was of im-

mense help to his country being

the lone Asian member of the

Japanese premier for conclud-

ing two major agreements in-

cluding the agreement on the

new international airport in

for being the single largest

donor country of Bangladesh to

provide assistance in various

fields and expressed the hope

that Japan would continue to be

Bangladesh's development

Couple commits

suicide due to

poverty

couple allegedly committed sui-

cide due to poverty a village in

GAZIPUR, July 2: A young

Motaleb, 22, son of late

married his co-villager

Taslima, 15, four months ago

following a love affair. They

his elder brother did not accept

was frustrated being unable to

bear the family expenses and

committed suicide by taking

Taslima also took poison when

her husband was being rushed

to Sadar hospital. Motaleb died

on way to hospital and Taslima

at home. A UD case was filed

From page 1

upto 800 kms, the paper said.

200 kms but the newly devel-

oped Hataf-3 can hit targets

ing of Hataf-3 missiles is the re-

sult of Pakistan's programme to

indigenously develop missiles.

the success of the Hataf-1 and

Hataf-2 series of missiles were

working on substantially in-

creasing the range of this mis-

sile and they finally succeeded

the Hataf series of missile has

come in the wake of alleged de-

ployment by India of its own

Incidentally, the report on

in it, Nawa-e-Waqt said.

It said the successful test fir-

The Pakistani experts after

Missile test

Motaleb's neighbours said he

grief-stricken wife

their marriage.

with local police.

poison.

She also appreciated Japan

Chittagong.

partner.

Sheikh Hasina thanked the

The Japanese Prime Minis-

viability of the project.

Sheikh Hasina mentioned

present position.

The Bangladesh side in-

BSS adds: Hashimoto highly

told The Daily Star.

viation and education.

Japanese aid likely

From page 1 han, ERD Secretary Mashiur Rahman and Bangladesh Am-

bassador to Japan S M Rashed

Ahmed. Sheikh Hasina apprised the Japanese side of the need for construction of a rail-cum-road bridge over the river Rupsha and development of Mongla Port. She pointed out that these would facilitate improved handling of increasing traffic and goods. Expansion of Mongla Port would generate increased employment opportunities and provide support to the Export Processing Zone. She also noted that the Rupsha Bridge and Mongla Port would allow Nepal access to the port. India has recently provided landlocked

Nepal with transit facilities. The Japanese Prime Minister fully appreciated his Bangladesh counterpart's views. He also supported the idea of having a good road link between Nepal and Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh side stressed the need for construction of the Ganges Barrage following the long term water agreement with India. It also apprised the Japanese side that the barrage would be a multi purpose project which would facilitate proper utilisation of water resources and help control of salinity and conservation of environment, particularly in the north-

eastern region of Bangladesh. Regarding the barrage, the Japanese side said that it was willing to provide technical support. Since the project involved large scale financial support from other donors, it might require detailed studies and a regional consensus. It, however, assured of support for carrying out detailed technical studies of the proposed barrage.

The Japanese premier, who **Business** guide in Japanese

From Staff Correspondent TOKYO, July 2: Business guide for helping Japanese entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh was published to-

Sreepur thana on Tuesday midnight, police sources said, re-Written in Japanese by Katsumi Hara, the book titled 'Economic Revolution and the Jamir Ali of Kashijali village, Business Activities in Bangladesh,' was distributed to investors at the 'Bangladesh investment conference' held here moved to his uncle's house as

The 502-page book is the first extensive business guide on Bangladesh and carries details of investment opportunities in different sectors. Fifty leading business and industrial houses have been listed in the

book. The author is presently director of Jetro in Yokohoma and worked in Bangladesh ear-

lier for three years. Road barricade

From page 1

9:30 am. But the factories remained

closed, the management said. The situation became normal following the intervention of the Gazipur district administration officials and the local MP who assured the agitating people that their problem of wa-

terlogging would be solved soon. Meanwhile, in a complaint filed with the Joydevpur thana. the management said that on Tuesday evening some local people, led by one Shahidullah had staged a demonstration in front of the factory and threatened to attack it the next day.

According to the complaint, some people scaled the walls and snatched away tools and equipment from the workers who were working in the fisheries project.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Energy Ministry asked to resume † gas supply to Ctg Urea Factory

The Advisory Committee on Fertiliser has asked the energy ministry to resume gas supply to the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory for its resumption of production, reports

The Committee, at a meeting Dhaka yesterday with its Chairman and former advisor to the Caretaker Government M Anisuzzaman in the chair agreed on resumption of production in the factory.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed. Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta MP. Industry Secretary M Akhter Ali, Agriculture Secretary Dr AMM Shawkat Ali. Energy Secretary Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowhdury, Commerce Secretary Sayed Alamgir Far-

Transport strike in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, July 2: An indefinite transport strike began here today snapping the road communication of the district from other parts of the country, reports UNB.

District Motor Sramik Union enforced the strike protesting assault of some transport workers by a union parishad chairman at Chaklerhat on Lalmonirhat-Chaparhat road on Saturday.

Sramik union secretary Azhar Ali at a news conference here today alleged that the UP chairman beat the transport workers when they refused to pay toll while they went there to salvage a bus that met an acci-

Investors

From page 1

The potential foreign in-

vestors are eagerly looking at

Bangladesh as much for the

abundant and cheep labour, as

for its advantageous geopoliti-

cal potentials, situated as it is

in the gateway to the most popu-

Hasina said as a matter of

lous area of the world, she said.

fact Bangladesh itself is a mar-

ket of 120 million people. Be-

sides, she said it could also be

the door to the market in South

Asia where the concept of free

trade is taking firm roots as the

region moves forward in re-

South Asia have decided that by

the year 2001, they will imple-

ment South Asia Free Trade Ar-

rangement (SAPTA) which will

make this region a fabulously

vestors are not easily led by

word promises. They need hard

evidence on ground to be con-

vinced," she said listing the

steps of the government under-

taken in last one year for at-

acted for setting up a Private

Export Processing Zone with

very attractive facilities, a

permanent Law Commission

has been set up for modernising

investment and trade related

sectors of the economy of for-

eign investment. These include

oil and gas extraction, electric-

ity generation and other manu-

The prime minister said

macro-economic management

of the country has been interna-

tionally recognised as prudent.

"We have limited inflation and

geared ourselves to avoid exces-

vide good governance, func-

tionally free and convertible

currency, and complete inter-

national guarantees against ex-

propriation of revenue or assets

of any foreign company in

is considering a report for set-

ting up Special Economic Zones

in Bangladesh for rapid indus-

enactment of a Special Eco-

nomic Zone Act," she said

adding all these would open up

avenues for future cooperation

between Bangladesh and Japan.

the Japanese Finance Minister

said that Japan's prime minis-

ter Hashimoto responded

favourably during his discus-

sion with Prime Minister

do my part for promotion of

economic and bilateral cooper-

ation between Japan and

Bangladesh," Mitsuzuka said.

He also said that the politics in

Bangladesh is stabled and it

would work as a model for the

Bangladesh Shah AMS Kibria,

World Bank Vice President

Mieko Nishimizu and President

of Japan-Bangladesh Joint

Committee for Commercial and

Economic Cooperation

Uzuhiko Uwatoko also ad-

adds: Over 120 entrepreneurs

and business managers from

They included presidents,

leading industrial houses par-

CEOs or senior management

personnel from Chiyoda Corpo-

ration, Fujitsui, Hitachi, Itochu

Corporation, Kawasaki Steel

Corporation, Komatsu Ltd.

Marubeni Corporation, Mit-

subishi Corporation, Nichimen

Corporation, NEC Corporation,

Nissan Motor Co, Orix Corpo-

ration, Shimizu Corporation,

The Sumitomo Bank, Sumit-

omo Corporation, The Bank of

Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Toyo Engi-

neering Corporation, Tomen

Corporation and Yamatake-

Honeywell Co.

ticipated in the conference.

Our Staff Correspondent

dressed the conference.

Finance Minister of

"As a finance minister I will

Speaking on the occasion

Hasina said the government

"We're actively considering

"We are committed to pro-

sive deficit spending."

Bangladesh.

trialisation.

Sheikh Hasina.

entire world.

facturing sectors," she said.

"We have opened almost all

She said a law has been en-

"We are aware that the in-

She said the countries of

gional cooperation.

big and rich market.

tracting investments.

laws.

Protest against govt decision to sell out jute purchase centre

JAMALPUR, July 2: Thousands of jute workers demonstrated at Sarishabari thana headquarters today protesting the government's decision to sell out all jute purchase centres under Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC), reports UNB.

Witnesses said several thousand jute workers from across the district thronged at the jute purchasing centre at Sarishabari responding to the call of BJC Sramik Andolan Com-

The demonstrators later held a meeting at Aramnagar Bazar after parading through the main thoroughfare.

The protest meeting was addressed by workers' leaders Abdul Jalil, Abdul Malek, Amjad Hossain, Mahbubur Rahman and Agor Ali.

They alleged that the government is handing over BJC's property worth crores of taka to some persons in the name of auction.

The speakers said about eight thousand workers would be jobless if the BJC's jute purchase centres and jute press houses are sold out.

The jute workers threatened to enforce a road-rail blockade if the government did not change its decision. Later, they submitted a memorandum to TNO Sontosh Ranjan Talukder in support of their demand.

Security men asked to show highest

patience

More than 5,000 personnel of law enforcing agencies will be deployed in the capital city during the hartal hours today. reports UNB.

Security men have been asked to show the highest patience in discharging their duties during the eight-hour hartal called by BNP for the second time since Awami League assumed power.

Senior police officials at a briefing at Rajarbagh yesterday afternoon, however, were asked not to allow any untoward incident or terrorist act.

Official sources said 5,213 security personnel included para-military BDR 561 (17 platoons), police 4,122, armed police 330 (10 platoons) and

Ansars 200. Ten deputy commissioners of Dhaka Metropolitan police will lead the police forces. They will be assisted by six assistant DCs and 30 assistant commisrouk Chowdhury, Bangladesh Fertiliser Association Chairman A Samad, Chairman of BCIC and BADC, Agriculture Extension Department DG and other members of the committee were present.

Production at the factory was suspended since December 10 last due to cessation of gas supply from Bakhrabad gas sys-tem, said a PID handout.

The meeting has decided not to provide any subsidy on import of Diammonium Phos-

phate (DAP) fertiliser. It also took decision to appoint maximum 10 dealers in each thana and asked the authorities concerned to rehabilitate the excess dealers to neighbouring thanas of the same district if they have sufficient establishments there.

Appointment and relocation of the dealers would be accomplished through lottery, the committee decided.

Besides, the meeting asked the BCIC to give allotment of TSP and SSP as per schedule prepared jointly by agriculture and Industry Ministry, and took stock of production, supply and price condition of urea throughout the country.

10 hurt as villagers clash with snatchers in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, July 2: Ten people were injured in a clash between villagers and a group of snatchers in Belkuchi thana today, reports UNB.

Waleda Begum, a staff of Grameen Bank at Daulatpur union, was attacked by the snatchers at Gagrakhali village when she was going to her office at 10:30 am.

Eye-witnesses said the snatchers halted Waleda on her way to office and started beat ing, and took away Tk 10 thousand from her.

Later, some locals being informed of the incident, rushed to the spot, gheraod the snatchers at a jute field and locked in a clash that left 10 people wounded. Gang leader Ainul Haq was severely beaten up but others escaped.

Ainul was sent to jail hajat while Waleda was admitted to local health complex. Other injured were given first aid.

Taiwan National Assembly deputies punch, kick each other

TAIPEI, July 2: Taiwan's constitutional reform process degenerated into chaos today as National Assembly deputies punched, kicked and gouged each other to the point where blood flowed. Two deputies were hospitalised, reports Reuter.

In scenes that looked more like Saturday's Tyson-Holyfield heavyweight boxing melee than a political forum, state television showed deputies from rival parties engaged in furious battle around the speaker's dais.

Some deputies jumped on to the speaker's table, while others attacked colleagues with flying kicks, bare fists and choke holds.

One deputy from the fledgling New Party was beaten seriously during the minuteslong chags, with blood streaming from the back of his head. Another New Party deputy was taken unconscious to hospital. Both were in stable condi-

The National Assembly, an increasingly marginalised elective body whose sole function is to revise the constitution, has been reviewing a package of amendments proposed by the ruling Nationalist Party, which dominates its membership.

21 killed as truck rams bus in India

HYDERABAD, July 2: A speeding truck collided with a parked bus packed with wedding revellers on a highway in southern India, killing 21 people, police said today, reports

The accident occurred when the truck driver lost control and rammed into the bus Tuesday evening near Durapally village, 240 kilometers south of Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh state.

8-hr hartal today

From page 1 front of its central office in the

city at 4 pm. Hospitals, ambulances, vehicles carrying newsmen, police vehicles, medicine and food shops and emergency services like water and power supply were, however, kept outside the

purview of hartal today. BNP, the largest ever opposition in parliament, termed the budget an anti-people, anti-development and anti-investment one and protested additional taxes including the 2.5 per cent infrastructure development

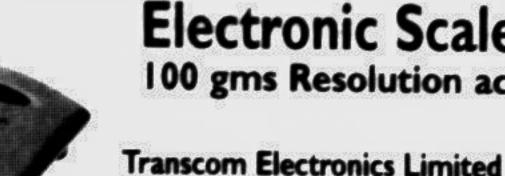
surcharge in the new budget. Leader of the Opposition in the House and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has urged people to observe the hartal. In a statement earlier the BNP chief had said that her party called the hartal to protest the budget because it was impossible to protect the interest of the people in parliament. The ruling party by force of majority ignored the proposals placed by the Opposition for making the 'anti-people' budget a balanced one, she noted.

BNP, its city unit and front organisations organised a series of programmes over the last three days to drum up support in favour of today's hartal. The programmes included bringing out processions and torch processions and holding of rallies and demonstrations. A party press release said, 58 street-rallies were held and a torch procession was brought out in the city yesterday.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement last night, condemned firing on a pro-hartal procession in Narayanganj yesterday, by 'armed workers of Awami League'.

He said one person, Sumon, was hospitalised with bullet injury while several other district level leaders of BNP. Juba Dal and JCD were injured during the attack and demanded immediate arrest of the persons

responsible. Mannan Bhuiyan warned the government of the consequences of repression on or arrest of the activists of his party and its fronts during the hartal period today.



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Mosharraf Hossain's retirement

declared illegal The High Court yesterday declared the forced retirement of former Industries Secretary A K M Mosharraf Hossain from his service illegal, reports UNB.
A division bench comprising Justice Kazi Ebadul Haq and Justice A K Badrul Haq gave the

verdict after final hearing. Mosharraf Hossain, now BNP MP, filed a writ petition on March 30, 1992 as he was first made OSD and later given forced retirement on November

23, 1991. The former bureaucrat challenged his retirement saying the order goes against the Public Servant Retirement Act 1974 as he was not 57 years old or completed 25 years of his job during the retirement order.

laiking to UNB, Mosharai Hossain said his legislatorship will not be affected following the order as according to the court order his retirement will be implemented from January 9, 1996 and he was elected MP

Sylhet-bound train will ply up to Srimangal

CHITTAGONG, July 2: The Railway authorities suspended direct train service between Sylhet-Dhaka and Sylhet-Chittagong sections temporarily on the advice of experts of the Occidental, a press release of Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong, said tonight, reports

However, from now on all Sylhet-bound trains will ply up to Srimangal, the press release

Rocket launcher case Four accused remanded again

Four accused in the rocket launcher case were brought again on police remand for two days yesterday, officials said, reports UNB.

Detective branch of police after producing them before the CMM's court sought remand for five days for further interrogation. The court, however granted two days. Accused Lalu, Sultan, Russel

and Khabiruddin were kept under DB custody, officials said adding Defence Forces Intelligence might take them again for interrogation.

Detective branch arrested them on Friday and recovered a high-powered rocket launcher following their statement Later, they were brought on remand for four days.

3 trawlers sink in Bay: Five fishermen missing

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, July 2: At least 5 fishermen are feared drowned when three fishing trawlers sank in the Bay of Bengal today, police and fishermen said.

A large number of trawlers were forced to go to safe areas in the sea when the Bay's weather got rough at 2 pm today. Some 28 fishermen returned

to the shore. There was also heavy rains here today.

Magistrate killed in road accident MANIKGANJ, July 2: Kam-

runnahar Begum, 25, a magistrate at Manikganj Collectorate succumbed to her injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) this morning, reports BSS.

Hospital and family sources said she was seriously injured in a road accident at Baltha on the Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday noon.

Kamrunnahar on board a truck was returning Dhaka from her working place to bring her household furniture. While the accident took place she was first taken to Manikgani Sadar Hospital and later shifted to

She was severely injured when the truck hit a road side

Saudi meat to reach July 5

CHITTAGONG, July 2: Some 54,000 pieces of sacrificial meat from Saudi Arab will reach the port on July 5, official sources said today, reports UNB.

M Shakawat Hossain, Divisional Commissioner, will receive the meat from representatives of Islamic Development Bank at the port.

PCP activists

From page 1 tion while 1795 others surrendered without arms.

Even during the ceasefire period beginning from August 10. 1992, 50 Shantibahinimen surrendered with arms and ammunition while 69 others without arms, the source added.

Those who surrendered were rehabilitated by the govern-

7pc growth rate likely

Ctg.: 716353, 723578, Khuina: 720304, Bogra: 6215

of GDP. Reviewing the economic performance of the country in the 1995-96 fiscal the ADB said, the GDP growth rate increased slightly to 4.7 per cent from 4.4 per cent in the 1994-95 fiscal.

The agriculture sector grew by 1.9 per cent, while the industry sector grew at the lower rate of 5.7 per cent in the fiscal, the report added. The present government is

planning to pursue appropriate monetary management, the re-port said, to keep inflation in

The inflation rate of the country was contained at 4 per cent in the 1995-96 fiscal following a good harvest, the report added. "In recent years, the monetary policy has been generally expansionary with sharp increase in credit to the

private sector," it said. Regarding the external sec-

US children better educated, but more likely to take drugs

WASHINGTON, July 2: More American children are starting their education earlier and completing it with college, but many of them are also likely to smoke or use drugs, according to a government report released Wednesday, reports AP.

The report, which compiles previously released statistics about children, says more kids are attending early education programmes and graduating from college. They also are getting immunized against childhood diseases and less likely to die during infancy and childhood

The report also found, however, that more adolescents smoke and take drugs than in the past. Other discouraging trends: Young black males increasingly have become victims of violent crime since the 1980s, and children from families with annual incomes of less than dirs 15,000 are 22 times more likely to be abused and neglected than kids from families that make twice that amount or more.

The report, intended to provide a snapshot of the state of America's children, also suggests the United States find more accurate ways to measure the number of homeless and

poor children. The report was ordered by President Bill Clinton and was compiled from data contributed by federal agencies, including the departments of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice and

JETRO

Labour.

From page 1 access easier for Bangladeshi

products. Yussuf Abdullah Harun, President of FBCCI and leader of the Bangladesh business delegation, thanked JETRO for organising the seminar on 'market access' and requested it to help Bangladeshi exporters by organising "buyer-seller meet and contact promotion programmes" to popularise Bangladeshi products in the

Matters related to export of garments and frozen food came up as core subject in the open discussion. Members of Bangladesh business delegation inspected various facilities of JETRO support centre. JETRO also hosted a luncheon for the delegation.

Japanese market.

BNP leaders

From page 1 With the bank holiday on July 1, the hartal would result in a four-day stoppage of the country's business operations, they

On contrary, the younger leaders of the party including some lawmakers and the leaders of BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal are learnt to have pressed for the hartal. They were also backed by those central leaders who lost the last general election.

Not only in the case of today's hartal, the BNP chief had been under constant pressure from this section of party leadership to go for a massive street agitation against the government. The moderate section of leadership, however, prefer consolidation of the party network across the country before going for a large-scale street agitation, explained a member of the BNP national executive

committee. The moderate group also finds it unwise to go for 'hartallike programmes' frequently because those anger the people instead of getting their spontaneous support, he pointed out.

The non-MP leaders, including those who joined BNP after the last general elections, love to see the party busy on the streets with a view to finding their existence felt by the people while the student leaders are interested in such programmes that bring them monetary benefits, commented an MP from the party, seeking anonymity.

tor the report said, the country's external trade began to recover after the general elections in

In the 1995-96 fiscal export growth declared to around 11.8 per cent, while imports grew by 17.9 per cent. Slow export growth and the stagnant inflow of workers' remittances raised the current account deficit to 3 per cent of GDP. Foreign exchange reserves fell to about 2 billion US dollars in June 1996.

the report added. On the domestic policies of the country the report said, "Compared with the achievements of Bangladesh's economic reforms in recent years, its progress in 1996 (1995-96 fiscal) was limited."

301 protest Jamaat comment on

President's message

A total of 301 intellectuals, writers, professionals and journalists yesterday protested the "insolent" remarks of the leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and their supporters regarding the President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed's message expressing homage to 'Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam on the occasion of her death anniversary,

reports BSS. "The Jamaat leaders have proved again that their fascist and communal attitude remained unchanged regarding Bangladesh's independence and sovereignty by their indecent comments about Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam and ridiculing the President's tributes to the Shaheed mother,' they said in a joint statement.

Prominent among the signa tories are: Begum Sufia Kamal. Shawkot Osman, Justice Devesh Chandra Bhattacharya, Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid, Justice KM Sobhan, Engineer Mazharul Islam, Dr Nilima Ibrahim, Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Poet Shamsur Rahman, journalists KG Mostafa, MR Akhter Mukul, Kamal Lohani, Santosh Gupta, Habibur Rahman Milon and Abed Khan, Barrister Amirul Islam, Syed Hasan Imam, Maor General (Retd) CR Dutta. Barrister Shafique Ahmed Professor Borhan Uddin Khan Jahangir and poet Foyez

Rohingya

Naikhangchhari thana of Bandarban district. More than 1,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees were pushed back to Myanmar by BDR men in last five days, but most of them entered the Bangladesh

territory again, local people The influx of Rohingyas is increasing alarmingly although additional BDR forces have been deployed along the bordering inlets of Teknaf, Ukhia and

Nai-khangchhari thanas. Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Mohammad Sakhawat Hossain and Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar Ali Imam Majumder visited the frontier thanas and the refugee

2 murdered From page 1 the killing could not be known

camps today.

immediately. In another incident, Cantonment police recovered the body of a man, aged about 30, from a bush in Kawla area in the morning. Police said that several marks of injuries caused by sharp weapons were found over the body. It was sent

to the DMCH for autopsy. Besides, one person identified as Noor Hossain, 25, who was injured in a bomb explosion in Kumaritola Tuesday night died at the DMCH at about 4 am yesterday. The explosion occurred allegedly when Noor and some of his accomplices were carrying home-made

It was also alleged that Noor and his associates were preparing to commit a snatching near Star Cinema Hall under Kotwali thana area at about

11:30 pm Tuesday. Three others were also injured in the explosion. They were under treatment at the DMCH. However, police said they did not have any informa-

tion in this regard till last

AL questions

From page 1

protest against the budget, the LGRD Minister said it has become a tradition that the opposition would criticise even if the government produced a good budget.

"We have tried to present a

balanced budget," Zillur said, adding that the opposition's many demands regarding the taxes were met. "I could not understand why BNP has called for this hartal," Zillur said. In a pointed reference to the Manikganj byelection, he said

BNP's conspiracy was foiled after free and fair voting in Manikganj. Awami League, he said, has

gladly accepted the election re-

indigenously developed Prithvi missiles near the Pakistani

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