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The World on Time



Female members of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal attacking a rickshaw near the Jatiya Press Club during hartal hours yesterday. - Star photo

Hartal again if surcharge not withdrawn: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leaders said that the a bomb exploded during the spontaneous observance of yeshartal hours.

cent surcharge introduced in

taxes immediately don't

push us to calling another har-

tougher programme if the gov-

ernment does not waive the im-

posed surcharge and release the

BNP activists arrested during

League had enforced hartals on

170 days during the five-year

rule of BNP and compelled the

to observe our hartal. The peo-

ple observed it spontaneously."

he told the rally, adding that

not a single car was damaged or

the institute, kidney patients

would get more medicare for

this cost induced disease, he

said in a statement responding

to a resolution moved by Alam-

gir Haider Khan (BNP-Chand-

has a ward with 25 to 30 beds

for the kidney patients and an-

other 50-bed ward would be set

up in the annexe of the hospital

Damaged ATP

From page 1

cial, it may take a few more

days to rescue the plane as the

insurance company is required

to complete its survey before

towing the ATP aircraft to the

tagong from Dhaka with 49

passengers on board met with

the accident while landing in

heavy downpour that made the

runway almost invisible, offi-

dumped into kneedeep mud

and water some 80 feet off the

runway with its front portion

unhurt by the airport personnel

by opening the emergency door.

The passengers later left for

committees have been formed

by Bangladesh Biman and its

Biman, headed by Chief of

Flight Safety Captain Pasha

Chowdhury, has been asked to

submit a preliminary report

Biman Managing Director Air

Commodore Rafiqui Islam.

The CAAB team is headed by

Civil Aviation Authority.

All passengers were rescued

Meanwhile, two enquiry

A four-member committee of

They said the aircraft got

The plane bound for Chit-

hanger for repair.

cials here said.

their destinations.

within four days.

damaged.

According to an airport offi-

The minister said the IPGMR

people to observe strikes

"But, we did not compel them

Bhuiyan said the Awami

yesterday "peaceful" hartal.

through destructive acts.

"Withdraw the increased

The BNP leader warned of a

the new budget

tal," he said.

BNP Vice Chairman Tarigul terday's countrywide hartal demonstrates that the people Islam said the people rejected have rejected the budget showthe new budget of Awami League government by observing the ing 'no confidence' in the prehartal peacefully and spontasent government. Addressing a post-hartal neously.

rally in city, BNP Secretary He said a united movement General Abdul Mannan Bhuiwould have to be launched against the government to yan said the party was forced to call the half-day hartal as the protest its "anti-people" activigovernment refused to revise ties, "misrule" and "autocratic" new taxes including the 2.5 per attitude.

> The people have shown noconfidence in the government by observing the hartal. They do not want to see this government in power any longer," said Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Sid-

> Organised by the city unit of the party in front its central office, the rally was presided by city BNP convenor Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP. It was also addressed, among others, by Abul Hasnat, Mirza Abbas, Ashraf Hossain, Haris Chowdhury, Goyeshwar Roy, Dr Moyeen Khan MP, Amanullah Aman MP, Khurshid Jahan Huq MP and Nazimuddin Alam MP. BNP standing committee members Dr Khandaker Mosharaf Hossain and Moudud Ahmed were present.

100-bed kidney Rohingya killed instt next in mine blast at year: Salauddin 'no man's land'

Health and Family Welfare From Our Correspondent Minister Salauddin Yusuf told COX'S BAZAR, July 3: A Rothe Jatiya Sangsad that a 100hingya Muslim was killed today bed national institute of kidney in a mine explosion at "no disease and nephrology would man's land" near Naikhongchbe set up by the middle of next hari on the Bangladesh-Myanyear, reports BSS. mar border. After the establishment of

The victim was identified as Abul Kalam. The explosion took place when he was coming to Bangladesh from Myanmar A cow also died in the explo-

JP presidium

From page 1

chairman and co-chairman of the new party. Shamim Al Mamun was elected the secretary general of

The presidium members include Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Mostafa Jamal Haider, Mainuddin Bhuiyan, Syed Didar Bakht, Syed Haider Ali, Riazul Haq Chowdhury, Azmal Huda Mithu, Ismail Hossain Bengal Nurul Amin Khan Pathan, Nurul Islam Milon, Ansar Ahmed advocate M A Bari, Shafiqul Islam Khoka, Ramjan Ali, Badruddoza Gama, advocate Shahidul Alam Sayeed and Humayun Kabir. Shamim Al Mamun will act as Member Sec-

retary.

confidence in the capital market by what they said harassing them with legal tangles.

The critics were vocal in recent months demanding his removal saying that when the SEC probe was followed by filing of charges against 32 people. including his own son-in-law,

The resignation would not have any impact on the market, said Ahmed Iqbal Hasan, a member of the Dhaka Stock Exchange. Those who are facing further investigation would be happy, he said.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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said that four hundred to five hundred supporters of BNP attempted to attack Awami League office in Barisal at 11:50 am and police dispersed the attackers resorting to baton charge and lobbing tear gas shells. Six out of 11 policemen, injured in the incident, were hospitalised. Thirteen persons were arrested and a case was registered. A news agency report said

8-hr hartal

that 15 people including two journalists were roughed up in Sirajganj when some unruly pickets attacked a group of people on the New Dhaka Road taking them to be anti-hartal elements. Allegedly led by a JCD leader, they also damaged a motorbike and a few rickshaws.

In the city some pro-hartal activists suffered minor injuries when police resorted to baton charge on them near the Matshya Bhaban close to Ramna Park, Jagannath College and at Fakirerpool. Two bus passengers were also hurt as pickets hurled bombs and threw stones on a BRTC double-decker at Shahbagh. Besides, some three-wheelers carrying journalists also came under attack at places.

All modes of transport except rickshaws, rickshaw vans and bicycles went off the roads in the capital while shops and many private offices kept their shutters down during the hartal hours. Educational institutions remained closed. Office-goers walked

Leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations brought out processions and held street-rallies in different areas of the city. Huge contingents of policemen aided by BDR teams were deployed in the

Pickets were active at strategic points in different areas of the city including Jatrabari, Maghbazar, Topkhana Road, Motijheel, Mirpur and Farmgate areas. Stick-wielding 'tokais' (street urchins) were seen busy enforcing hartal in Mirpur area while a few tyres of

Addressing a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, leaders of BNP's front organisations denounced passage of the 'antipeople' budget and imposition of 2.5 per cent infrastructure development surcharge and

According to Railway sources, all but one inter-city and mail trains to and from Kamalapur Station in the city left and reached their destinations without any disruption. Only 'Uttarbanga Mail' from Dinajpur faced obstacles at Joydevpur in the morning, but after few minutes pickets al-

Pro-hartal activists, however, detained some trains in different parts of the country including Sararchar in Mymensingh, Khulna, Akkelpur in Joypurhat, Bonarpara in Gaibandha and Kahalu in Bo-

No inter-district passenger buses could operate from the city's three bus terminals -Gabtali, Sayedabad and Mahakhali - during the hartal period. Movement of river transports, however, was seen normal at Sadarghat terminal. But, the number of passengers was

small. Official sources said, all international and regional flights left Zia International Airport yesterday as per schedule. However, two domestic fights -Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Jessore - were cancelled due to

Fazlul Huq Milon and Kamruzzaman Ratan, General Secretary and Joint Secretary respectively of Jatiyatabadi Sechhasebak Dal, were injured when police resorted to baton charge on a procession near the Matshaya Bhaban.

Uncertainty looms on formation of JS bodies

Uncertainty still looms on the formation of parliamentary standing committees as the ruling Awami League and the opposition BNP are yet to make any headway towards setting the modality, reports UNB. Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Ab-

dullah yesterday sent another letter to Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain with a request to send names of BNP members to be inducted in the standing committees on different ministries.

In his letter Hasnat stressed the need for constituting the committees according to the amended rules of procedure during the current budget session.

The Chief Whip requested his opposition counterpart to nominate the BNP members in a day or two and sought all cooperation in constituting the committees and making parliament meaningful.

Jatiya Party has already sent list of its members to the Chief Whip for the standing committees. But the formation of the committees is being delayed as the BNP is insisting on. proportional representation on those committees.

PM may visit Indonesia in Nov

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to visit Indonesia in November, according to official sources, reports

Details of the planned visit are being worked out by the two governments.

Bangladesh and Indonesia. both members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), have come closer by joining Development-8, an economic group, floated in June in the historic city of Istanbul. President Soeharto of Indonesia visited Bangladesh in

Shahabuddin, Hasina greet Clinton

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina felicitated President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of the 221st Independence Day of the United States of America to be observed today, reports UNB.

In a message to the US President, the Bangladesh President hoped that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will be further strengthened in the years to come.

In her message, the Prime Minister expressed her hope that the existing bonds of friendship, cooperation and understanding between the two countries will grow further in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of peoples.

She also wished good health, happiness and long life of President Clinton as well as for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the United States.

tiliser Factory and a power

plant were kept closed, whereas

the supply was ensured to

fered but we never stopped the

supply to KAFCO to keep our

commitment to foreign in-

AB gas pipeline has been now

completed and this will meet

whatever requirement KAFCO

Kibria assured the Japanese in-

vestors of all cooperation and

urged them to invest in elec-

tronics, textile and labour in-

tensive industries, noting that

Bangladesh offered good pack-

age of benefits and cheapest

labour was available anywhere

Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury

stated with firmness that the

government was determined to

honour all commitments and

look into the problems of the

ment and we will act on any

problem brought to our notice.

dullah Harun expressed the

willingness of private en-

trepreneurs in Bangladesh for

joint venture with the Japanese

investors. He also assured of all

cooperation from the private

pressed their satisfaction and

said that they looked forward to

further investments in

The Keidanren leaders ex-

They mentioned that a 100

million US dollar joint venture

project for production of syn-

thetic yarns in Bangladesh will

The Keidanren leaders said

soon be started at Ghorashal.

they will soon send another

delegation to explore further

investment possibilities in

danren president mentioned

that with Japanese government

assistance, JAIDO has been set

up to provide financial assis-

tance to developing countries

and Bangladesh will receive at-

tention. Under JAIDO assis-

tance, 40 projects in 23 coun-

In this connection, the Kei-

"This is a dynamic govern-

FBCCI President Yusuf Ab-

State Minister for Foreign

Finance Minister S A M S

He also said the work on the

KAFCO.

vestors."

in the country.

foreign investors.

he said.

sector.

Bangladesh.

Bangladesh.

When contacted, Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar confirmed the receipt of the latest letter from Abul Hasnat Abdullah but said they had not yet taken any decision.

"I will have to consult the matter with the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader. other senior leaders, and if necessary, with the parliamentary party of the BNP to take any decision," Delwar told UNB.

He, however, said he would personally stick to BNP's previous stance and names would not be sent unless the concept of proportional representation is guaranteed by the government

Delwar said he would also press for similar ratio on the question of chairmanship of the 35 standing committees.

Under the amended provisions of the rules of procedure. the parliamentary standing committees will be headed by non-minister MPs to make the government transparent and accountable to parliament. "We don't want to remain on

system — proportional repre-sentation from the parties in parliament on the standing committees," Delwar said. He made it clear "until and unless the matter is settled, we

mercy. We want to establish a

are now not in a position to send the list of our MPs." The Opposition Chief Whip also suggested that the anomalies regarding the formation of

11 other parliamentary committees be removed as per the 4point accord signed by the ruling party and Opposition BNP. He said except the public ac-

counts committee and public undertakings committee, they have reservation about nine other parliamentary committees where the proportional representation was not maintained.

From page 1

Alamgir Haider Khan was speaking on his demand for setting up a hospital for kidney patients in the country. Interrupting Khan, he smil-

JS snippets

ingly said, "You may conclude now for the members who have already understood the essence of your speech."

As the BNP MP was continuing his speech brushing aside the Chair's suggestion, the Speaker then commented in a lighter vein causing laughter in the House, "You're depriving us of the namaj (prayer) you're committing a sin."

The House enjoyed some lighter moments when BNP deputy Shamsul Alam Pramanik, in an extra-ordinary speed of reading, mentioned all the problems of his constituency and drew the attention of all the concerned ministers during the two-minute time he was allowed to read his call attention notice.

Attracted by his perfor mance, the BNP lawmakers thumped their desks while others laughed aloud to encourage Pramanik. Usually, one local issue is dealt with in a call attention notice.



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PM tells OECF chief No bottlenecks

in investment process

TOKYO, July 3: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said here today that political stability, now prevailing in Bangladesh, had brightened the possibilities of foreign investment in the country, reports BSS.

She was talking to Akira Nishigaki, President of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan, when he called on her at the hotel suite.

Sheikh Hasina said, "Our only concern is to improve the lot of the common man." She told the OECF President that there was no bottlenecks in the investment process in Bangladesh.

Nishigaki assured the Prime Minister, "The OECF will try to help you implement your wishes. It will try to respond according to the priority of Bangladesh.

Earlier, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) President Kimio Fujita also called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite.

Fujita apprised Sheikh Hasina of the functions of JICA which include imparting training at home and abroad.

Sheikh Hasina told the JICA President that she had discussed some development projects including the Rupsha road-cum-bridge and the Padma bridge during her meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister.

Sheikh Hasina also spoke of the urgency of assistance for improvement of the weather forecast centre in Bangladesh.

FBUTA From page 1

University), treasurer — Mrs Monira Hossain (Open University) and members — Prof ATM Zohurul Haque, Prof I M Aminur Rashid and Dr Hossain Mansur of Dhaka University, Dr Aminul Haque, Prof Abdur Rouf and Prof Sheikh Sekandar Ali of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir and Prof Tajul Islam of Jahangirnagar University, Prof M Abbas Ali and Aminul Haque Beg of Rajshahi University. Prof Alauddin and Prof Hamida Banu of Chittagong University, Prof Aminul Islam, Prof Rafigul Islam Bhuiyan and Prof Mainuddin of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Dr Jainul Abedin and Ahmed Nadim Saedee of Shahjalal University, Sarwar Hossain and Yakub Ali of Islamic University and Dr Abu Hena Mohammad Faruq and Golam Mawla of Bangladesh Open University.

Immediate past president of the federation Prof ATM Zohurul Haque conducted the election which was held at the office of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association last night.

CHT council

From page 1

When contacted, Bandarban Local Government Council Chairman Mong Kaya Ching Chowdhury told the news agency that they would not take any such decision that might hamper the ongoing peace process in the hill tracts.

The tenure of three local government councils had been extended by promulgating Ordinance in the past. But this time the process is not applicable as parliament session goes Some quarters observe that

people's confidence in these local government councils on the basis of their representation might be shattered with the formation of interim councils. Some apprehend that it might echo negatively in people's mind and affect the ongoing peace process.

PM: Incentives

From page 1 significantly to attract more

investment in Bangladesh. "We hope, our bilateral relation in terms of commerce and investment will be further strengthened in future under the dynamic leadership of this committee. The Prime Minister said her

government has enacted Private Export Processing Zones Act to encourage foreign investment. "We are happy to learn that

the Japanese investors have already constituted working group with a view to investing in the private EPZ in Bangladesh and expressed willingness to invest in foreign countries," she said. She said personal interac-

tions and exchange of views among the front-ranking personalities in the field of Commerce and Industries from both the countries will yield fruitful policies and pragmatic programmes. The Prime Minister expressed her confidence that "the

assimilation of your thought and ideas will find newer fields of cooperation for economic development of Bangladesh." "Let us be committed to con-

tribute our efforts to further strengthen the friendly relation between Bangladesh and Japan in the days come."

7 killed; 13 injured in road accidents

Seven people were killed and 13 others injured in separate road accidents across the country yesterday and the day before, reports UNB.

One person was killed and five others were injured when a bus and a car collided head-on in front of the Open University, on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Gazipur yesterday. Police said the accident oc-

curred at 3 pm as the Dhakabound passenger bus from Kaliakoir rammed the private car on its way to Jamalpur. Car passenger, Mofiduzzaman, 38, of 77/1 Fakirerpol in

the unidentified driver was rushed to Gazipur Sadar Hospial in critical condition. Four passengers of the bus also received injuries in the collision. The body was sent to the

Dhaka died on the spot while

Gazipur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Report from Rajshahi says:

Two people were killed and four others injured in separate accidents in Boalia and Mohonpur thanas of the district yesterday. Witnesses said an unidenti-

Semutang

From page 1

Sources close to Cairn, how-

ever, said emergency equipment

were being brought from Singa-

pore to rectify the mechanical

gasfield shows that accidents

similar to that at Magurchhara

may occur if Cairn is not care-

ful and Petrobangla does not

monitor its site, the sources

Khaleda

From page 1

and imposition of new taxes

have seriously hit national in-

dustrial production. "The gov-

ernment hatched a deep-rooted

conspiracy to make the econ-

omy a dependent one and de-

stroyed people's efforts towards

self-reliance through this bud-

The BNP Chairperson said

people of all spheres of life

would be seriously affected by

this budget, and this is why "ev-

She said not only the opposi-

tion lawmakers but also the

members of ruling party de-

manded withdrawal of sur-

charge and extended tax, but the

government didn't pay heed to

drawal of tax on some items

was nothing but an eyewash

and alleged that the govern-

ment passed this budget by dint

complained that police and ac-

tivists of the ruling party made

attacks on opposition activists

during the hartal in a number

many leaders and workers of

BNP and its front organisation

and filed unspecified "false"

attacks and demanded immedi-

ate release of all leaders and

workers, and withdrawal of

all patriotic political parties.

professional groups, organisa-

tions and people to be united to

protect independence.

sovereignty, democracy, econ-

omy and life and property of the

Shantu Larma

From page 1

wing of the PCJSS, demanded

accounts of the group's funds.

After an altercation they pulled

out their guns. But elder tribal

leaders shielded Shantu Larma

saving him from the Shan-

rity has been beefed up, the

sources said. The elder brother

of Shantu Larma and founder

chairman of the PCJSS Man-

abendra Narayan Larma, a

former MP, was also assassi-

nated by a dissident faction of

the Shantibahini led by Prity

Kumar Chakma in 1983 in

that Shantu Larma has firmly

indicated that he would be

mony of the agreement with the

government to restore peace on

BCI-Shokokai

From page 1

The meeting discussed vari-

ous aspects of mutual coopera-

tion. Sharif Afzal Hossain ex-

plained the investment sce-

nario of Bangladesh and urged

the Japanese entrepreneurs to

dent, Bangladesh Association

of Banks, Khurshid Alam,

Counsellor, Dhaka Stock Ex-

change and Subir Kumar Bhat-

tacharyva, Minister of the

Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo

Later, Sharif M Afzal Hos-

sain and Satoshi Ida signed the

agreement, on behalf of their

participated in the discussion.

Abdul Awal Mintoo, Presi

invest in Bangladesh.

available for the signing cere-

However, the sources added

After the incident his secu-

tibahini gunmen.

Tripura.

July 14.

in the meeting.

organisations.

Begum Zia also called upon

Besides, police arrested

She strongly condemned the

of places across the country.

The Leader of the Opposition

Begum Zia observed with-

erybody has rejected it."

get," she said.

of its majority.

cases.

cases.

The expansion of VAT net

rials, machinery and spares.

The history of Semutang

quite adequate.

problem of the rig.

said.

puller Motleb Ali. 20. Biman postpones 2 flights to Calcutta

fied man aged about 65 died on the spot when a truck knocked

him down in front of Polytech-

nic Institute in the city's Boalia

son was killed and four others

injured in a head-on collision

between a motorcycle and

mishuk at Trimohoni in Mo-

honpur thana on Rajshahi-

co-rider Mahbub, and three on

board the mishuk received in-

juries when both the vehicles

crashed at about 7.30 am. Of

them, Aslam died at Rajshahi

road accident at Ataikula in

Santhia thana of Pabna dis-

curred when a Nagarbari-bound

truck hit a rickshaw van from

behind, killing the three on

board the van, including its

Shahidullah Mondal, 27, Surjo

Mia. 35 and rickshaw van

The dead were identified as

Police said the accident oc-

Three people were killed in a

Motorcyclist Aslam and his

Naogaon road yesterday.

Medical College Hospital.

trict on Wednesday night.

puller

In another accident, one per-

thana at about 7 am.

Bangladesh Biman has cancelled one of its flights to Calcutta and postponed two others due to a general strike in the capital of Indian state of West Bengal today, reports UNB. A Biman press release said

due to a 'bandh' in Calcutta, authorities have cancelled its flight BG-091 and postponed its flight BG -093 until 9 am Satur-Biman's Calcutta flight BG-

697 of Friday scheduled to operate from Chittagong has also been delayed and will depart at 1:40 pm today.

Fake certificates, stamps seized in Ctg: 10 arrested

CHITTAGONG, July 3: Police arrested 10 people from the city and seized huge fake certificates and stamps from their shops on Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, special branch of Chittagong Metropolitan police raided three shops at Enayet Bazar and Hajarigali and recovered forged education certificates, stamps and police clearance certifi-

JS probe body From page 1

tribute copies of the list among the members had it been at all true," Shamsul Islam said and termed the minister's action conspiratorial, politically-motivated and a ploy to undermine the past BNP government.

In reply, Tofael Ahmed claimed the French company was given the contract for installing digital telephone line violating the precondition of financing by the company None of the four other companies that qualified in the international tender was given the work, he said adding Alcatel was given the contract and it was supplied with local currency from the Bangladesh Bank causing liquidity crisis in the central bank.

The minister then proposed a Sangsad committee headed by the Speaker and consisting of members from both the sides to investigate into the matter. "I'm ready to supply you (Shamsul Islam) all necessary documents if the committee is even formed under your leadership," Tofael announced amid desk-thumping by the ruling party mem-

Deputy Leader of the Opposition A Q M Badruddoza Choudhury then rose to say, "We happily agree to the minister's proposal to form a parliamentary probe committee."

He, however, criticised the industries minister for not allowing the BNP members to go through the list despite his claim that the present government believed in transparency.

Arsenic

From page 1

contamination of drains, ponds and other bodies of water," he warned. Another blunder to be

avoided, the expert continued, is to simply sink the tubewells deeper to tap fresh water from a lower level. This could serve to contaminate the pure water be-The head of a leading NGO

working in the affected areas said district committees should be formed to provide feedback to the National Steering Committee on Arsenic. Data banks for clinical as

be created to handle the entire situation more carefully, he He suggested the government

well as technical aspects should

should control the mushrooming of clinics and laboratories to test arsenic poisoning. "This may run the risk of misguiding the people as well as the government," he said.

SEC chairman From page 1

tually rocked the investors

he should have also resigned.

took rickshaws or From page 1 owned Chittagong Urea Fer-

city to prevent violence.

motor vehicles were also set on

other fresh taxes.

lowed it to start for Dhaka.

inclement weather.

tries had already been undertaken. Sheikh Hasina welcomed the willingness of the Keidanren leaders to visit Bangladesh. BSS adds: The Prime Minis-

Roundtable in Tokyo ter called upon the Japanese industrialists and businessmen to make massive investment in Bangladesh, utilising attractive incentives including foreign ownership without limit, legal He said "our own plants sufprotection against nationalisation and expropriation, generous tax holidays and unre-

stricted repatriation of capital

and profit, being offered by her

government. Addressing the businessmen roundtable conference, the Prime Minister also referred to a number of other incentives like residency permits for foreign experts, working capital loan as well as term loans from local commercial banks and tax exemption on royalties, being offered for foreign in-

vestors. The main attraction of investment in Bangladesh is the most inexpensive, productive and easily trainable labour force," she said, adding: "today Bangladesh has a growing number of managers, engineers, technicians and skilled labour force available for wages which are the lowest in Asia and com-

petitive world-wide." "We hope Keidanren will come forward with more programmes for the development of skill of our industrial work-

ers," she said. The Prime Minister said that her government is now encouraging the private sector to participate in infrastructure development.

She pointed out that the geo-

Bangladesh is suitable for establishing export-oriented industries. "We seek not only direct investment in new projects but capital inflows in the equity

and private-sector debt markets

as well," she said.

graphical location of

From the Japanese side, the Keidanren roundtable conference was attended by, among others, Hirotaro Higuchi, Vice President Hazuo Haruna, Vice President and Chairman of Japan-Bangladesh Joint Economic Cooperation Committee Hirotaro Higuchi Kazuo Kodama and Koretsugu Kodama.

ERD Secretary Mashiur Rahman, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Press Secretary to PM Jawadul Karim and business leaders Abdul Awal Mintoo, Shafiul Islam Kamal, Sakhawat M Chowdhury and Sharif Afzal Hussain, among others, attended the roundtable conference.

From the Bangladesh side