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But we want to be convinced of

fair play and unbiased conduct

of the BTV authorities . . . Also

we want guarantee that the

Bhuiyan replied in the negative.

mation to be gathered from the

BNP considering BTV's invitation to Khaleda

Star Report

In a major shift from its previous stance, the opposition BNP is now considering the invitation to party chief and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia for appearing in the BTV programme — Deshbashir Mukhamukhi (facing the countrymen).

The party is now in contact with the BTV authorities to know all about the programme. Consultation within the party is also going on whether or not to respond to the invitation positively, according to sources in the party.

The BTV authorities sent a letter to Begum Zia on June 24 requesting her to participate in the programme, seeking a reply

The offer to the leader of the Opposition was made after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina appeared in the newly-introduced BTV programme on June

Contacted by telephone, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP told The Daily Star last night, "We're eager to participate in the programme.

Transport strike

From page 1

passengers buses on July 10. The decision to enforce the strike was taken of a joint meeting of the Barisal, Patuakhali, Jhalakati, Barguna and Perojpur districts bus and minibus owners associations and workers unions held here yesterday.

Abdur Rashid Khan, president, Barisal minibus association was in the chair.

From page 1

ond floor of house and awoke

Sheikh Kamal and his wife and

ran down to the first floor and

awoke Sheikh Jamal and his

wife and informed them about

Sheikh Kamal, wearing a pant

and shirt went down, Rama

said. Afterwards, "I heard sound

of firing and groaning of 'Kamal

upstairs into his room and

closed the door when he (Rama)

took shelter in an adjacent

room and also closed the door.

Tremendous firing was going on

outside the house at that time.

his room, Rama told the court,

he also came out and saw a

group of armymen surrounding

Bangabandhu standing near the

ing him and dragged him to-

wards the stairs, another group

fired on him. Bangabandhu fell

an army person enquired me

about my identity and asked me

to go inside. I then ran to

Bangabandhu's room and went

found Begum Mujib along with

Sheikh Jamal, Sultana Kamal,

Rosy Jamal, Sheikh Russel and

and gave a bandage to Sheikh

Naser, added the house servant.

saheb," Rama told Begum Mu-

come to the room and knocked

the door, Begum Mujib said: "I

will open the door," Sheikh

Jamal, who was standing beside

his mother, said he would open

the door. But Begum Mujib said:

"Let me open the door. If we die,

the door and the armymen

"brought out Begum Mujib, me,

Sheikh Russel and Sheikh

Naser and dragged us down-

the room and got struck seeing

the body of Bangabandhu....

she shouted "I will not go any-

As Begum Mujib came out of

The army personnel then

dragged Begum Mujib towards

the bedroom and soon sounds of

firing and screams of women

were heard, Rama said making

his deposition on the fifth day

of cross-examination in the

trial of the stately murder case

the armymen brought him,

Russel and Sheikh Naser to a

line outside the building. "I saw

there the body of policeman in

plainclothes lying on the

Sheikh Naser about his identity

and took him inside the build-

ing. "I heard sound of firing and

groaning of Sheikh Naser

plaintiff of the case, and asked:

"Will they also kill me?" Muhi-

went near AFM Muhit

A scared and weepin kussel

One army person then asked

He went on saying that then

stairs", said the witness.

where. Kill me here."

that began on July 6.

ground."

baba ... ma...."

Then Begum Mujib opened

we will die together."

Begum Mujib tore her saree

"Amma, they (army) shot

Soon after the army had

injured Sheikh Naser."

into the bathroom where

As the armymen surround-

After killing Bangabandhu,

As Bangabandhu came out of

He said Bangabandhu went

Bangabandhu's eldest son.

the attack.

he added.

bedroom.

dead on the stairs.

Rama then went to the sec-

Shima murder Stern action for faulty investigation'

ports UNB.

The meeting, with Home Minister Rafiqul Islam in the chair, reviewed certain comment made by the judge concerned, as published in newspapers, while pronouncing the verdict of the sensational case

The meeting directed the authorities concerned to send Ministry for its perusal.

sary steps for the protection of life and property of the people without any partiality. It was also mentioned in the handout that the four police-

men accused in the case had been sacked and they were no more members of the force.

Khaleda to visit flood-hit Feni July 17

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will visit the flood affected areas in her constituency on July 17, reports

The areas include Fulgazi, Parshuram and Chhagalnaiya thanas and other parts of Feni district, said a press release

AL candidate elected Pabna poura chairman

Officials said Mosharraf bagged 17,948 votes while his nearest rival Kamrul Hasan Mintu of opposition BNP polled 16,608 votes.

A total of 36,556 votes out 60.431 were cast.

killed on April 4, this year.

date Kamrul Hasan alleged that the election was rigged.

After some time, Rama told the court, a tank came rolling near the gate of the house and some armymen coming out of the tank asked the soldiers at the gate: "What is the situation." Replied one (army person)

Rama said he was released

by the army from the house at

hu's servant, after 22 years of the killing, completing his deposition. Rama is now working as

peon at Livestock Directorate in Gopalganj

of deposition by Abdur Rahman alias Rama, defence counsels began cross-examination of the witness. Anwar Jahid Bhuiyan, counsel for accused Capt (Retd) Abdul Wahab Joardar, began the cross-examination in absence of his senior, Abdur Razzak Khan.

Earlier, Sharfuddin Mukul lawyer for accused Taheruddin Thakur, completed his crossexamination of AFM Muhitui

Samad Azad

From page 1

demning the heinous Zionist act in occupied Palestine.

Azad, accompanied by acting President of Awarm League Amir Hossain Amu and State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleq, flew here today to see the flood situation which has started improving in the dis-

After the review meeting, the foreign minister flew low in a helicopter over the flood affected areas of the district, including the worst-affected Chokoria thana, and then landed at Bandarban district town to see the flood situation

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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An emergency meeting yes-terday resolved to take stern action against anyone to be found at fault in investigation. preparing chargesheet and conducting the rape and murder case of Shima Chowdhury, re-

on Sunday.

the certified copy of the judgement immediately to the Home An official handout said the government ensures all neces-

yesterday.

PABNA, July 14: Awami League candidate Mosharraf Hossain was unofficially elected chairman of Pabna Pourashava today, reports

The post fell vacant as for-

mer chairman Sheikh Shahidullah Bachchu was Meanwhile, pro-BNP candi-

Barring some stray incidents, the election was held peacefully at 24 centres in the town. Two fake voters were arrested during the polling hours.

Killing of 5 From page 1

and Md Nurul Islam Tutul, aged 22, son of Dulal Gazi of Haji Nasiruddin Road, Dhonia. Two other bodies, not yet

identified, are lying in the hos-Police are yet to recover the revolver, reportedly used by the

The SP of Narayanganj today sent a report on the five killings to the police headquarters in Dhaka.

Police are continuing their operation to arrest the people responsible for killing the five alleged muggers.

Govt scheme

From page 1

bond is likely to be issued by the government in order to generate resources only for industrial

financing. He said the revenues to be mobilised by selling out the state-owned enterprises (SOEs) would be ploughed back in the manufacturing sector as industrial financing

Moreover, he said, the banks and the development financial institutions would be revamped. enhancing their capacity to disburse credit to the industrial

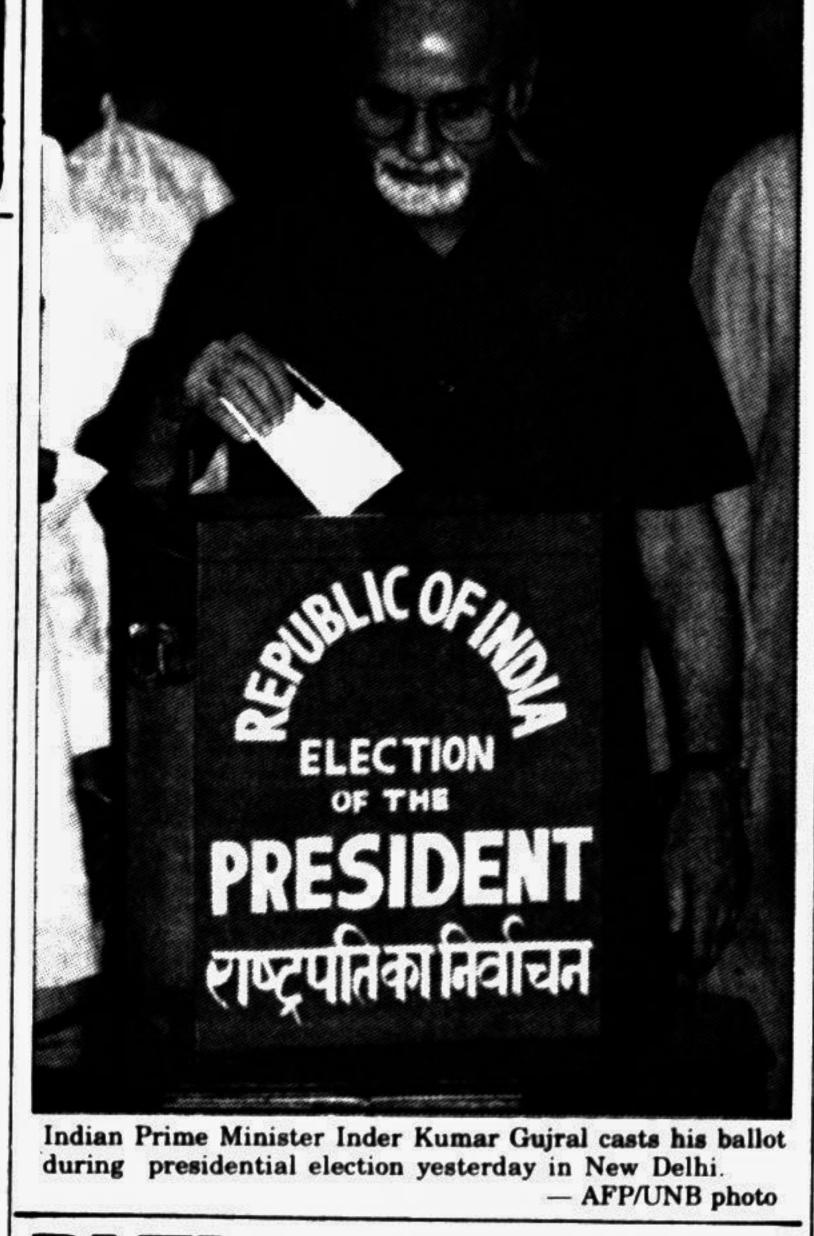
aim is to further strengthen the industrial financing," Kibria said with a note of optimism that the industry would pick up as a favourable environment has been created by the government.

At present, many foreign investors are negotiating with concerned agencies here in a process to invest in the country. he said, adding the untaxed moneyholders have also started

trial credit last year, the minister said it was "not correct" that credit to the private sector was restricted during the last fiscal (1996-97), the first year in office of the Awami League government.

He said the credit to the private sector rose to Tk 34.246 crore on May 15 this year from Tk 32,421 crore on June 30. 1996. Credit to public sector also rose to Tk 13,055 crore from Tk 11,032 crore during the period.

year back and said the expansion of credit in 1995-96 was unusually high. And "that was directly linked with the default culture."



DMK walks out of UF govt with 4 ministers

NEW DELHI, July 14: India's fragile minority ruling coalition suffered a major new blow today when one of its partners walked out of the government, taking four cabinet ministers with them, reports AFP.

K Karunanidhi, chief of the Dravidian Progressive Party (DMK), said in a statement: "The DMK is not willing to go along with parties which are functioning with minimal plans and with persons trying to fulfil their personal ambitions." Karunanidhi stressed, how-

ever, that the DMK party, which is based in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, would continue to support the government from the outside.

The four ministers included high-profile Industry Minister Murasoli Maran and Transport Minister TG Venkataraman.

Their departure, along with two junior ministers, from the 43-member cabinet comes a week after Gujral's Janata Dal (People's Party) split in two in the wake of a corruption scan-

That led to three coalition ministers and 17 members of parliament in all — quitting the

Hartal protested From page 1

Bangladesh Muktijuddha Smrity Sangsad Chairman Mubedur Rahman and general secretary M Ziaul Haque Kaabi, in a statement, called upon the people to resist the hartal "called by the anti-independence forces who used to trade

on religion. Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association yesterday called upon the people not to support the hartal and termed it "a design to create anarchy in the country to attain the objectives of the anti-liberation

forces. President of "Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat, Bangladesh" Syed Maulana Mainuddin Ahmed Al-Hasani Maijbhandari, in a statement, strongly criticised the hartal call and questioned the objectives of the programme when the parliament has unanimously condemned the blasphemous act.

Maulana Maijbhandari also questioned the intention of the sponsors of the hartal which, he said, was called in the holy month of Rabiul Awal and to disrupt the programmes of the Eid-e-Miladunnabi.

From page 1

ter's visit, the Investment Pro-

tection Agreement was signed.

The agreement bolstered their

confidence since it was learnt to

be based on the Japanese draft

and was beneficial to both the

also said that they were already

proceeding with a 100 million

US dollar project for manufac-

ture of polyester textiles in

Ghorashal where participation

of a Japanese company and a

German firm is expected along

with financial assistance from

ers pointed out that JAIDO.

which has been set up with

Japanese government assis-

tance for providing financial

support to developing countries.

is likely to assist future private

sector projects in Bangladesh.

JAIDO has already provided as-

sistance to many projects in 23

gain from the visit was an as-

surance to import from

Bangladesh sea foods worth 2.2

million dollars this month and

opment was fixing the date for

the Joint Economic Committee

meeting. It will be held in

Tokyo on October 24.

Another important devel-

3.2 million dollars in October.

The immediate business

The Japanese business lead-

Keidanren business leaders

countries.

JAIDO.

countries.

Janata Dal to join the new breakaway faction, promoting feverish speculation that the three-month United Front coalition was on the brink of collapse.

The loss of the DMK — it also boasted 17 of the front's original 180 members of parliament - will not necessarily mean the end of the coalition, which already relies on outside support from the Congress (I) party of

D Raja, secretary of the CPI,

said: "It is bound to have serious political implications. Now we have a situation where there is a shortfall of ministers to run the government." He said the CPI has convened

to discuss the political fallout of the development. The Congress Party, mean-

The United Front coalition, launched in April, cannot survive without Congress' support in the 545-member parliament. Congress brought down the previous front coalition but then failed to put together its own coalition. It preferred to

after forcing it to change its leadership rather than face new

Bidding

contract for this purpose. This model PSC will be the basis for negotiation with the companies which will bid.

After the government's anprospects in Bangladesh. The sources further said that

big oil companies have requested that after their submission of bid documents, the papers should be evaluated by a neutral international body, preferably by the World Bank, in addition to the government's

FBCCI President Yussuf Ab-

dullah Harun will lead a dele-

gation of Bangladesh busi-

nessmen to that meeting. Con-

labour intensive industries

particularly in the textiles and

electronics sectors are likely to

of decisions on joint ventures

in certain sectors like sea food,

textiles and medium and small

scale industries during the up-

coming meeting, the FBCCI

from leading Japanese indus-

trial houses who participated in

the Bangladesh Investment

Conference in Tokyo on July 2

made serious enquiries about

the potential and prospects of

investment or joint ventures in

Bangladesh. While asking about

the enabling investment atmo-

sphere, many Japanese in-

vestors insisted upon removing

further bureaucratic impedi-

ments. They also pointed that

more speed and action were

needed to remove problems at

airports and sea ports and sim-

plify measures for quick clear-

ance of incoming cargo and out-

Japanese businessmen pointed

out that timely shipment to

Among other factors, the

going finished goods.

Some of the 120 executives

There is also the possibility

be adopted at the meeting.

chief said.

crete proposals for relocation of

HC judgment on

removal of AB

Bank MD stayed

By Staff Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has stayed op-

eration of a judgment by the

High Court rejecting a writ peti-

tion filed by the Managing Di-

rector of AB Bank, challenging

an order by the Governor of the

Bangladesh Bank removing him

Rauf of the Appellate Division

stayed the operation of the

judgment for three weeks fol-

Justice Mohammad Abdur

from his office.

Grill/Baking Oven

Transcom Electronics Limited Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets

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

A cross-section of people in

their personal interests.

lowing a provisional writ peti-tion by Abdur Rahim Choudhury, the MD of AB Bank, pending obtaining of certified copy of the order passed by the High Court division on July 10 Bangladesh Bank ordered removal of Abdur Rahim Choudhury as chief executive of the private sector bank in December last year accusing him

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud moved the appeal on behalf of Abdur Rahim Choud

of irregularities in sanctioning a

loan taken by Martial Ltd.

Acquittal of 4

Das and Natasha Ahmad were present at the press conference. Narigrantha Probartana has also blamed the government for not providing sufficient evidences in the Shima Chowdhury murder case in Chit-

At a meeting yesterday, they said Shima was raped by police during police custody. The government, while filing a case in this regard, did not provide sufficient documents and evi dences against the accused, they alleged.

UNB adds: Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh has expressed surprise and alleged a long-drawn chargesheet was issued against the accused so that the allegation is not proved.

In a joint statement yester-

day. ADAB executives said: although the criminals were released for lack of proper investigation, they will be considered accused in the eye of conscious people of society: Bangladesh Nari Progati

Sangha alleged that the police administration showed negligence and irresponsibility in duty, filing a partial and faulty case to protect the accused.

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights expressed concern over the court judgement in the Shima Chowdhury rape case and decided to appeal to the higher court.

Ain O Shalish Kendra urged the government to take necessary steps against the verdict of the court without further delay.

PSC stalemate From page 1

(Bangladesh Civil Service) Examinations are being delayed due to the crisis.

The PSC Chairman, who, after a three-week leave returned home from a visit to USA three days back, faced a protest when he went to his office on Sunday last, the sources said. Agitating employees demanded his immediate resignation, charging him of doing nothing about the allegations they had earlier brought to his notice against the Secretary.

PSC member Dr Jerin Zaman, who had discharged the responsibilities of the Chairman during the leave of Fayez, when asked about the outcome of yesterday's meeting said "The employees remained adamant on their demand for resignation of the Chairman.

When contacted, SMA Fayez said "I will take decision within a week's time whether or not to quit". He was not present at yesterday's meeting.

Attracting Japanese investment

maintain supply schedule of lo-

cal entrepreneurs and strict in-

spection procedure to prevent

supply of low quality products

were very vital for gaining and

maintaining the Japanese market. They stressed improvement of infrastructural facilities and utility services with special emphasis on uninterrupted supply of electricity as the

minimum prerequisites for

creating an enabling investment atmosphere. To do business with Japan, the use of the Japanese language would act as a very convenient vehicle and tool for exchange, understanding and easy communication, some sources

pointed out. The FBCCI chief said, "It is worthwhile to interact with Japanese in a language they know. Therefore, in all subsequent interactions, businessmen from Bangladesh should preferably carry their proposals, request papers and visiting cards in Japanese."

The leading business houses in Japan have economic intelligence and research wings. When potential investment is sought, all proposals must bear the practical data since in most cases they are better informed about the actual situation, it was gathered.

Cross-section of people protest hartal call

Star Report

Dhaka city believe that the recent Zionist attempt to be little the Holy Quran and Prophet Mohammad (SM) is definitely a heinous act, but protesting the incident by calling a countrywide hartal is counterproduc-

Many of the persons inter-viewed observed that today's hartal would not only hit the country's 'already shattered' economy, it would also affect

Dr Omar Haider Chowdhury, an economist, said that the unanimous parliamentary resolution demanding punishment to those responsible for the offence effectively conveyed the sentiment of the people of

Flood

From page 1 significant rainfalls were experienced during the last 24 hours included Moulvibazar, Patuakhali, Chandpur, Durgapur, Bhairab Bazar and Barisal.

During the last 24 hours the Brahmaputra and the Ganges continued to rise at all points, while the rivers in the Meghna basin recorded both rise and fall. Most rivers in the southeastern hill basin registered fall, the press release said.

It said in the Brahmaputra basin, except the Dharla at Kurigram and the Brahmaputra at Bahadurabad, all other rivers are flowing below their respective danger levels. Although the Ganges, the

Kumar and the Gorai recorded

rise at several points during the period all the rivers in the basin were flowing below the danger levels. Kibria From page 1

Deficit financing will lead to rapid increase in prices, resulting in sharp loss of purchasing power, he said, noting that inflation feeds people's fear and sends the shopkeepers to hoard and build up stocks.

out of revenue, not by deficit fi-

nancing.

The minister said the government officials and employees make up a large segment of the population and the general increase in their salaries would have an impact on price indices.

"But the impact can be kept within limit if the expenditure is made out of revenue of the government," he said. Kibria acknowledged that government officials and em-

ployees needed their salaries increased, but it should be kept in mind that the nation is poor. Asked about the suggestion of the Pay Commission for trimming the government, the minister said he wholeheartedly endorsed the goal of down-

sizing the government and it should seriously be pursued. At least, he said, the size of government should be held at the current level so that the number could be reduced by at-

trition. On a question whether an austerity measure should be pursued, the minister said the government should pursue austerity in every sphere of life. We are not rich enough to spend lavishly," he said.

CHT talks

From page 1

up at the talks yesterday as the tribal returnees came up with new demands, including repatriation under the aegis of the UNHCR and ICRC. The current stalemate over the three hill district councils also came up for discussion. Besides, Shantu Larma faced challenges from the extremists in his camp. He used the new issues to drum up his case for more concessions on the five-point charter of demand he had placed earlier.

Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah, who heads the NCCHT, led the government side and Jyotindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma, Chairman of the PCJSS led his five-member delegation in the talks held at the state guest house Meghna. The PCJSS delegation was

flown to the capital by a military helicopter from their temporary headquarters at Dudukchhara, a tiny frontier hamlet in Khagrachhari. NC-CHT members Mosharraf Hossain. MP and Ataur Rahman Kaiser, an Awami League leader, accompanied the PCJSS delegation from Dudukchhara. where they boarded the helicopter at 10:55 am.

After arriving at the Air Force Base Bashar at Tejgaon an hour later, they were driven to the guest house under heavy security. Talks began after lunch at 3 pm.

Earlier on Sunday, the PCJSS delegation arrived at Dudukchhara from their headquarter at Bishnupur in the Indian state of Tripura. On Saturday, a group of Shantibahini insurgents reached Dudukchhara after security forces vacated or neutralised 13 camps and border posts as per previous practice before the peace negotiations. The talks yesterday were the fifth in the current series and 25th since 1985

Bangladesh. "But it is meaningless to call a hartal in Bangladesh to protest against the foreign offenders."

Shahed Ali, a rickshawpuller, said: "The Zionists have done a very bad thing by 'insulting our Prophet and disregarding the Quran, but the hartal would not help punish the crim-

Abdus Salam, a doctor working in a city hospital, observed that the Zionists concerned had committed a big crime by hurting the sentiments of Muslims. "But politicking with the incident by calling a shut-down in a poor country like ours is another crime." he said.

Shafiul Alam, an official of a semi-government organisation, was also very critical about the 'Zionist misdeed' "However, the hartal would not only affect the national economy, it would also affect my private practice," Shafful Alam, who is also a physiotherapist,

Fatin Fayaz Khan, a housewife living in the Lalmatia, also believes that the Zionist attempt to dishonour the Prophet of Islam deserves strong condemnation and some sort of punishment. "But the hartal would not help ensure the punishment.

PM at Hamburg

tion programmes both by the respective governments as well as aid agencies. Sheikh Hasina told the meet

that her government is commit-

ted to structural reforms in the

field of literacy that must accompany its drive for eradicating poverty through education and empowerment of the peo-"We consider education at all levels as one of the major factors of poverty alleviation," she

said, reaffirming her commitment to eradicate illiteracy from Bangladesh within next 10 The Prime Minister said nearly 900 million people pre-

dominantly belonging to developing nations are illiterate. Gap between literate and illiterate in a developing society is likely to grow wider in future. she said, adding a Human Development Centre has recently termed South Asia the poorest, most illiterate, most malnourished, least gender-sensitive

the world. This region has a very low female literacy rate. A recent study found that farmers with only four years of education are 9 per cent more productive than farmers with no education. Literacy gains of 20 to 30 per cent can boost a nation's GDP by 6 to 8 per cent. improve nutritional status sig-

and the most deprived region in

nificantly. Hasina said recognizing the fact that the formal education system alone cannot eradicate illiteracy from society, it was thought necessary to embark upon a comprehensive Non-Formal Education Programme

(NFE). The Prime Minister said that Bangladesh had adopted forward-looking strategies to keep phase with the very fast-changing global order.

develop the nation's human re-

sources, equip it with the nec-

essary technical and profes-

Our government's aim is to

sional skills needed to support a process of sustainable devel-

Law ministry From page 1 highlight the 'circumstantial evidences of 'rape' for proper ju-

dicial consideration" Shima Chowdhury, a garments worker, was arrested by Raozan thana police on October 8 last year while she went to the village along with her lover Abdul Hafiz. Police then took her to Raozan thana where she was allegedly raped by the policeman in the OC's room, the tem porary custody, at midnight on

hartal

From page 1 out separate torch processions yesterday in support of the

hartal. Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal Dhaka city unit led by Giasuddin Khokon also brought out a procession in the city for the hartal

UNB adds: Leaders of Jatiya Party (Zafar-Moazzem) yesterday called on the people to observe today's hartal to express solidarity with the Muslim Ummah.

The call came from a protest

rally of the party held at Muk-

taongon in the city afternoon.

Presided over by JP (Z-M) presidium member Ismail Hossain Bengal, the rally was addressed, among others, by secretary general Shamim-Al-Mamun, presidium member Prof

Nurul Islam Milon, vice-

chairman ASM Zakaria and MA Latif. Later, a torch procession was

brought out in the city in support of the hartal.

government won't manipulate the programme to demean the Opposition leader and her Asked if Begum Zia has given her consent to accept the BTV invitation, Mannan

We're still in the process of consultation and are yet to reach any conclusion." Replying to another question, the BNP secretary general said his party would reply to the BTV invitation in a day or two and the content of the reply would largely depend on infor-

> BTV authorities about the programme. "We'll try to know about the person who will moderate the programme, the members of the panel who will ask questions and the character of the audience who will be present at the BTV auditorium before our reply", Mannan Bhuiyan said. He denied having made any contact with anybody in the BTV but admitted that "others in his

> Another top leader in the BNP, preferring anonymity, said BNP's reply to the BTV invitation might contain some preconditions. These may include BNP's freedom to select the presenter.

party might have done so."

to be involved with the programme, guarantee for absence of influence of any kind by the Ministry of Information or anybody in the government and the BTV authorities' unbiased conduct, he said. Bangabandhu Murder Case

tul Islam told him: "No brother,

the whole episode of the tragedy

of President Mujib and his

family members, further said.

Rama, who said he witnessed

they will not kill you.

the panel members and others

As the weeping Russel wanted to go to his mother, one army person got hold of him (Russel) and said: "Come on. I will take you to your mother." "But, soon after the army

person had taken Russel inside

the house, I heard the sound of

firing and groaning," said

In his deposition, he said some army persons wearing in black were seen looting valuables from Bangabandhu's

standing near the gate: "All fin-

around 12 noon and asked to go "Out of fear of life I straight went to my village home at Gopalganj," said Bangaband-

However, after submission

Most of the State Defence counsels for the fugitives declined to cross-examine Rama. The court was adjourned till 10:30 am Wednesday

he added. Referring to the hartal called for Tuesday, the minister said it would create dissension among the people who witnessed a national unity of all parties in parliament in con-

> investing. Asked about the low indus-

> > He admitted that the credit to the private sector was lower in 1996-97 fiscal than that of a

remain in power. But the Communist Party of India (CPI), a member of the coalition comprising more than a dozen parties, conceded the walk-out was bound to affect the government.

an urgent meeting of the party

while, was also planning to meet today to discuss the crisis.

renew its backing to the front

From page 1 model production sharing

nouncement of the bidding schedule, a delegation of high level officials led by the Energy Minister visited UK and USA and held two international seminars on hydrocarbon