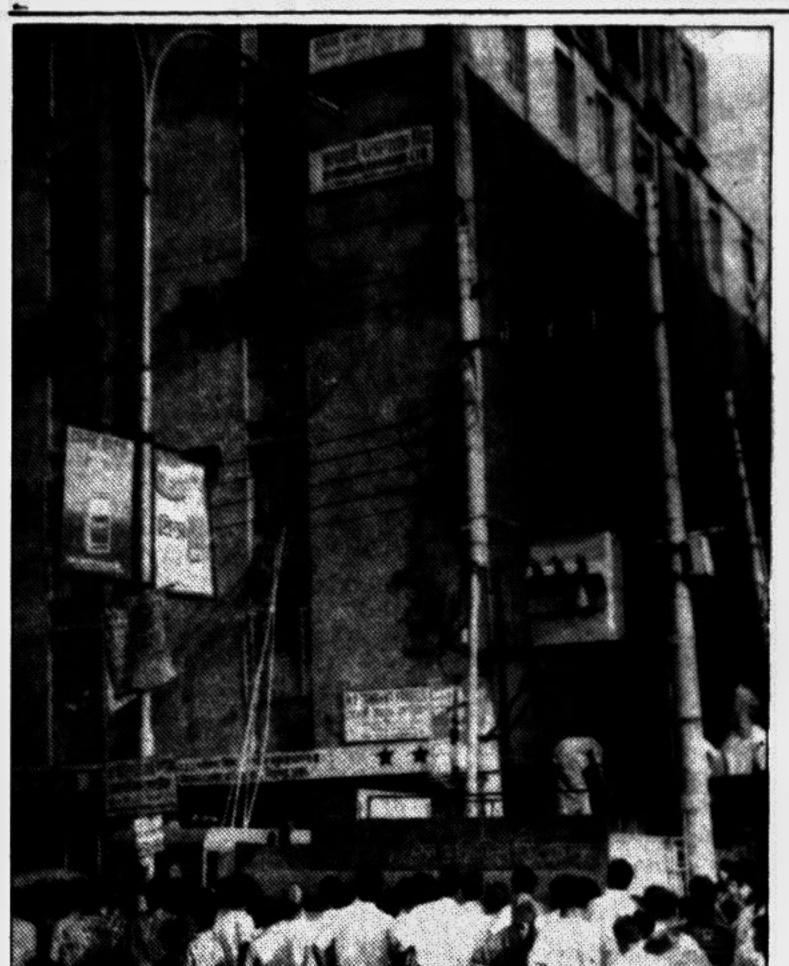




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A fire broke out in a garments factory in this multi-storied building in the city's Mirpur area yesterday. — Star photo

Bangabandhu murder

went inside the house where, at

the stairs, we found the blood

soaked body of Bangabandhu

house, we saw five bodies, three

of women, one of a man and the

other of a child. We got scared

and came down from the first

Khandaker Abdur Rashid asked

what kind of weapons we were

carrying. When we showed our

weapons he ordered us to collect

ammunition and said we had a

special assignment to carry out.

nition from a truck parked ad-

jacent to the parade area, the

Battery Havilder Major dis-

tributed us in few groups and

ordered each group to board a

separate truck. The PW-21 also

accompanied us in the same

At the end of his deposition,

Cross-examination of PW-22

the witness also identified Lt

Col (LPR) Mohiuddin in the

by the defence lawyers was in

progress when the proceedings

were adjourned till today. Of the

14 lawyers of the state defence

for 14 absconding accused, two

cross-examined the PW-22.

not possible to raise their pay

beyond what had been an-

nounced now. If the govern-

ment's allocated fund of Tk 700

crore spins any surplus, the

question could be considered.

demands for raising the tiffin

allowance of Tk 100 per month

to Tk 200 or revert to the old of-

ployees' leaders expressed their

disapproval of the governmen-

t's claim that the new pay scale

had more than compensated the

inflation by 27 per cent. They

mentioned the cost of living

since 1991 had increased by 30

per cent not 18 per cent as

claimed by the government.

However, the official promised

to meet them again, the sources

was held at the Secretariat yes-

terday. "We briefed our mem-

bers on the talks we had with an

official at the PMO and the pos-

sible next course of action.

President of Sachibalaya Kar-

machari Samity Zafar Ahmed

ers would hold consultations

with members in all the 46

ministries to decide their next

tion Council of Bangladesh

Government Employees, repre-

senting class three and four

employees have announced sit-

in programme at the premises

of the offices of divisional

commissioners, deputy com-

missioners and thana nirbahi

taken up for a revision of the

pay scale. They will also stage

protests on October 25 and an-

nounce the next course of ac-

tion, president of the organisa-

tion Salehuddin Selim told

newsmen on Saturday. He said

the pay scale ignored thousands

The programme has been

offices on October 20.

of low paid employees.

He said the employees' lead-

Meanwhile, the Coordina-

told The Daily Star.

course of action.

A meeting of the employees

He also brushed aside their

The sources said that em-

the sources said.

fice hours.

said.

while the rest declined.

Govt employees

"When we collected ammu-

After the night parade, Maj

"In the first floor of the

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

From rage

near Rd No 32 of Dhanmondi

area either during the azan for

Fazr prayers or immediately af-

ter that. We were posted on duty

at the entry point of the road

and ordered not to allow entry

heard the noise of heavy gun

fire from a place on the eastern

side. The gun fire was followed

ing the soldiers deployed there

took laying position in the

nearby lake, the PW-22 said

during cross-examination by

· Replying to another ques-

tion. Aziz said that following

the night parade on August 14.

1975, he along with others, un-

der instructions from com-

manding officer of the Second

Field Artillery Maj Khandaker

Abdur Rashid, moved out of the

new airport area in a convoy of

seeing the forces of Artillery

and Lancer getting into the

house, we also entered inside

Nazrul our Guard Commander,

along with two or three others

"Myself, Khaleque (PW-21),

He along with two other offi-

cials at the PMO tried to cool

down the employees last week

when they staged demonstra-

tions at the Secretariat protest-

with him last week. But the

meeting was deferred until

Sunday. Insiders said that the

employees expressed their

grievances about the new pay

scale, saying it failed to benefit

them as most are in their mid

or late stages of service because

there had been no fresh re-

told by the official that it was

Knit Palli

Bangladesh two-stage deroga-

tion of GSP rules for knitwear.

which will come into effect on

growth was being maintained

with enhanced rate. The growth

quested the minister to expedite

diplomatic lobbying specially

in Canada and USA to persuade

withdrawal of quota restric-

tions on export of few categories

Final report on

draft FFYP

submitted

A 13-member panel of

of garments to those countries.

The association leaders re-

is now 20.83 per cent.

It was noted that export

October 15.

On October 9, EC allowed

From Page 1

The employees leaders were

cruitments in recent times.

They were invited for talks

ing the new pay scale.

In his deposition, Aziz said,

three or four trucks.

the residence.

the lawyer of the state defence.

Hearing the noise of gun fir-

by artillery shelling.

yigh the read.

we took position we

### Garments factory

From Page 1 women, were killed in a stampede following an electric spark in another garments factory in the same building.

Police and fire brigade personnel said yesterday's fire originated from a boiler burst in the second-floor factory at about 2:15 pm.

Witnesses and fellow workers told police that Rina suffered fatal head injuries as she jumped down from the building when the fire broke out.

As the fire engulfed part of the factory, panic stricken workers tried to jump out using bamboo poles. Some simply jumped through the windows and others scrambled down the crowded stairs.

Police said a small number of workers were in the building at the time of the fire as most of them went out during the lunch

Firefighters from the fire brigade headquarters and Mirpur, Mohammadpur and Kurmitola stations put out the flame in about an hour.

tory, the building houses four other garments factories. There was no emergency exit in the affected factory while the only staircase was about four and a half feet wide.

Police were deployed around the building. No case was, how-

oughfares in Dhanmondi area, a DCC Estate Department official said. By Staff Correspondent

"We have brought down a structure belonging to BNP at Noorjahan Road and two in front of the Municipality bazaar at Rayer Bazaar of which one belonged to BNP and the other to AL," he said.

Teachers' Federation and Assis-

tant Teachers' Association

attended the meeting under the

banner of Teachers' Unity

ister for placing the non-gov-

ernment teachers in the 5th

National Pay Scale and taking

into consideration various problems of the teachers. The

association leaders also apprised her of some problems

them despite constraint of re-

sources, the government was

taking all possible steps for the

welfare of the teachers. "We are

trying our best to solve the teachers' problems."

governments had created an

anarchic situation in educa-

tional institutions through

massive manipulation and

misappropriation of wealth

The present government is trying to restore discipline and

peace on the campus for proper

grooming of the students, she

said, asking the teachers to dis-

charge their duties with sincer-

and if we can utilise those prop-

erly, then poverty will not be

here," she said, calling upon

them to work unitedly to build a

happy and prosperous Bangla-

3 more illegal

structures

dismantled in city

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka City Corporation's de-

molition drive in the city yes-

terday three illegal structures

belonging to different political

parties were dismantled in Mo-

hammadpur and Rayer Bazar

about thirty policemen, also

removed some construction

materials from the public thor-

The DCC team, assisted by

areas. DCC sources said.

On the fourth day of the

"We have natural resources,

Sheikh Hasina said past

The Prime Minister told

facing the teachers.

during last 21 years.

They hailed the Prime Min-

Council.

DCC officials said they could not dismantle many such illegal structures because the land belonged to PWD or Railway. A top official said there was no effort from the DCC authorities to bring to coordinate the drive with these departments prior to launching the operation.

The operation was also slowing down due to lack of cooperation from the mechanical department of the DCC itself. he said. The pay-loader which was scheduled to arrive at DCC before 10 am, turned up more than two hours late without any valid reason. On Sunday the officials started the operation at 1:30 pm instead of 10 am as

vener Principal Gamruzzaman, Bangladesh College University Teachers' Association president M Akhtaruzzaman, Government Secondary Teachers' Association secretary general Shamsul Huq, Primary Teachers' Association secretary Sufia Khatun, Bangladesh Teachers Federation secretary general Azizul Huq Shah, Assistant Teachers' Association president Habibur Rahman and Bangladesh Teachers' Association secretary Chowdhury Khurshid

#### President, PM visit Ijtema ground, injured devotees at Tongi hospital

Alam also spoke on the occa-

President Shahabuddin Ahmed visited the storm-battered Biswa Ijtema ground at Tongi yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

The President saw the ravages of the storm that lashed the area on Sunday evening. killing 15 devotees and injuring many others.

He also visited the injured people at Tongi hospital and talked with the attending doctors about the progress of treatment. He expressed sympathy to the injured and wished their early recovery.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also visited the litema ground yesterday.

Later, she went to Tongi Hospital where 51 injured are undergoing treatment.

#### Fall in water level

#### Pakshi-Bheramara ferry services suspended

PABNA, Oct 13: Road link between the country's northern and southern regions has been snapped due to disruption in ferry services following sharp fall in water level of the Padma. reports UNB.

Local Water Development Board authorities suspended the ferry services in Pakshi-Bheramara route on Sunday night amidst abnormal fall in water level at Pakshi.

On the same day, blades of two ferries were broken when they hit emerging shoals in the

The water level of the river at Pakshi point came down to 3.5-4 feet from 6-7 feet which is essential for movement of fer-

Meanwhile, several shoals have emerged in different points of the route, disrupting ferry services.

Earlier on October 1: the WDB authorities sent a dredger but it went out of order on the same day.

The WDB shifted the Pakshi ghat 3-km away last week. It now takes two hours to reach Bheramara instead of 20-25 minutes through the route.



President James D Wolfensohn at the Zia International Airport on his arrival yesterday. - PID photo

was up because, as the Bank said, there was a strong growth in agricultural GDP, increases in nominal interest rates and lower rate of inflation in 1996-

optimistic picture about medium-term prospects of foreign direct investment. If reforms continued. Bangladesh could easily bring in between 400 million and 600 million US dollars in foreign direct investment (FDI) annually, it

Referring to recent deals in energy sector, the Update estimated the FDI flow could reach half-a-billion dollars in the

Prospects for portfolio investment were not discussed in the Update, which, however, reviewed the impact of the stock market boom last year and said there were bad days ahead for the capital market.

"The prospects for developing a healthy capital market in Bangladesh have been badly set back for the near and medium term. There could be a longterm benefit from the whole experience since the retail investors learnt first hand the nature and extent of the risks involved and have presumably understood the importance of taking calculative risks in

It said the foreign direct investment was safer for Bangladesh in terms of "prospects of abrupt outflows". The same would not be the case with portfolio capital, the Up-

with long-term commitments of funds with more predictable repatriation of profits", it added.

# PM urges teachers L'ORÉAL P A R I S



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Britain's Queen Elizabeth II chats with Indian President KR Narayanan (right) as Indian Prime Minister IK Gujral (left) looks away during the Queen's official welcome ceremony at the presidential palace in New Delhi yesterday. The arrival of the Queen on a week-long visit was marred by an alleged remark by Gujral describing Britain as "a third-rate power." - AP/UNB photo

#### Some changes in admin

Some transfers were made at the top level of administration

yesterday, according to a PID handout. Secretary, Cultural Affairs Ministry, Syed Yousuf Hussain

was transferred to Defence Ministry while Chairman. Land Appeal Board, Azad Ruhul Amin was transferred as Secretary, Disaster Management and Relief Ministry. Mahfuzul Islam, Additional

Secretary, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, was made acting Secretary of Jute Ministry while Dr Shamsuzzman Majumder, Additional Secretary, Industries Ministry, was transferred to Cultural Affairs Ministry as acting Secretary.

The transfer order of Abdul Hamid Chowdhury from the Food Ministry to Defence Ministry as Secretary was cancelled.

Abdul Mannan Howlader Principal, Planning and Develferred to BIWTA as its Chairman on deputation. Azizul Haq an officer on special duty at the Establishment Ministry, was made Principal of Planning

gladesh Shilpa Bank, Shamshuzzman Chowdhury, was transferred on deputation to Tariff Commission as its Chairman.

Bangladesh Bank, Mahbubur Rahman, was appointed, on contract, as Managing Director of Sonali Bank for two years.

#### D-8 Executive Director in city

Development-8 Executive Director Ayhen Kamel arrived in the city yesterday on a threeday visit to Bangladesh to discuss implementation of the forum's action plans, reports

members of the D-8, an economic bloc, born in a summit of eight OIC countries in Istanbul

Shortly after his arrival in the afternoon. Kamel held an official talk with Secretary (Economic Affairs) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs M Aminul Islam on implementation of programmes of the newly launched intercontinen-

commissioners of the D-8 forum from Bangladesh side. Kamel is scheduled to call on

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today. During the visit, he will also

meet State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury

#### confce begins in city today A five-day Indo-Bangladesh

border conference begins today at the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters in Dhaka, reports

day to attend the conference. officials said.

#### Bosnia

called on Prime Minister Shetkh Hasina at her office yes-

The 6-member army delegation of Bosnia-Herzegovina apthe reconstruction of the war

committee of secretaries -Committee for Decentralisation of Administration — of misinterpreting the LGC report as well as Constitution of the country in its report placed for consideration of the cabinet yesterday, the sources added. The administration decen-

tralisation committee, headed by the Cabinet Secretary, was

examine the possible implications of implementing the LGC proposals relating to setting up of local bodies and placing of various government departments and offices, including the offices of the DCs and SPs, under the local bodies.

The committee recommended that around 40 offices of 26 different government departments, directorates and autonomous establishments. presently under 14 ministries be put under union parishads and the proposed upazila and zila parishads.

The committee kept mum on the LGC recommendations for placing the DCs and SPs under the proposed zila parishads, to be run by elected representatives of the people.

The offices proposed to be placed under the local bodies are presently under the ministries that include the ministries of Youth and Sports, Cultural Affairs, Establishments. Fisheries and Live Stock. Health and Family Welfare, Education, Industries, Women and

## Escapes accident

From Page 1 Of them, subedar Abdur Rahim and sepoy Amjad Hossain were rushed to Pabna Police Hospital.

Police seized the truck and arrested its driver. Shahjahan. A case was also filed with Santhia thana. Begum Zia, the former prime

minister, however, left for Bogra by her jeep after local people pulled it up onto the road.

#### Khaleda at Bogra

From Page 1 tion pledges to the people.

She asked the people to ask the government what it had done for them and the country in its 15 months in power. Begum Zia blamed the gov-

ernment for ruining the economy by allowing people's money to be plundered through the share market and be funnelled out of the country.

"This government had committed to the farmers to ensure fair price of agri-produces and reduce prices of agri-inputs. Now the farmers are not even getting back their production

Begum Zia said the ruling party pledged that if voted to power they would ensure minimum jute price at Tk 500 per maund, but have totally forgotten this commitment.

The BNP chairperson accused the government of trying to turn the country subservient to 'their foreign masters' and opening the borders to allow en-

try of all types of Indian goods. Indian goods have flooded the local markets and almost driven out the domestic products, she said

After the meeting, Begum Zia visited the residence of Anwar Hossain, who was killed in recent violence at Bogra, and consoled his parents. She assured them to provide all possible as-

sistance.

The BNP chairperson also addressed a workers' meeting at the Bogra circuit house.

ernment, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Agriculture, Disaster Management and Relief, Social Welfare, Housing and Public Works and Informa-

The committee however observed that the said offices and establishments, along with their manpower and budgets, could be placed under the local bodies at the first phase of decentralisation as there was no legal bar to do it.

The second phase of decentralisation would need amendments to certain laws, the committee observed. "Other departments and offices could be handed over when necessity would be felt," the recommendations said.

However, following discussions over the committee recommendations and objections raised by the minister, the Prime Minister felt that a committee of ministers should further review the issue.

Other members of the ministerial committee, headed by LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman are Commerce and industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru and Social Welfare Minister Moza-

The cabinet also approved a draft bill seeking measures to expedite disposal of some 20,000 cases pending with vari-

in the Jatiya Sangsad scheduled

#### Storm death toll

prayers Sunday. Not knowing where their

relatives were, hundreds of people crowded the two-storied terday.

visitors would disrupt treatment. Relatives were seen waiting patiently near the main gate. The hospital authorities pasted a list of the hospitalised patients on a tree trunk. The list contained ninety-three

One hundred people were ers were still under treatment.

Pangu Hospital sources said ten people were admitted to the

At the litema ground, a large ing up scattered corrugated tins, bamboos, iron roads and mattresses.

forcements to fix the defective

check whether broad gauge rail tracks can be laid over the bridge, originally designed to have only metre gauge tracks.

the possibility of having such rail tracks on the bridge," one engineer said referring to the authorities' decision to lay broad gauge tracks along with

raised whether the bridge will really sustain when it will be open for normal traffic.

economists formed to review different aspects of the draft of the Fifth Five-Year Plan (FFYP) yesterday handed over the final report to State Minister for Planning and Civil Aviation and Tourism Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, reports BSS.

The panel headed by economist and former adviser of the caretaker government Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud finalised the report.

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam** 

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## Other than the affected fac-

ever, lodged in this regard till the filing of this report last

LDF demonstration

October 26

The Left Democratic Front

yesterday said that the government had no right to prohibit people from holding public meetings and demonstrations on the streets. It also urged the government to refrain from using police to

suppress people's democratic Addressing a press conference in the city, LDF coordinator Morshed Ali said that the Awami League government had failed to re-direct the nation in the light of progressive politics

and economics. Announcing an 11-point charter of demand and a series of agitational programmes, Morshed Ali said that the Left Front will stage demonstrations across the country on October 26.

Businessman From Page 1 of three unidentified young men on a motorbike intercepted Hossain who was also on a mo-

torbike. Accompanied by his

employee Kamal, he was going

to Motijheel after withdrawing

Tk five lakh from Gendaria branch of Janata Bank. The snatchers, at gun point, demanded all the money. As Hossain refused, they were locked in a scuffle with him. At one stage, the muggers

bag in which Tk three lakh was Police recovered the rest Tk two lakh from a tool box of Hossain's motorbike. The body was handed over to his family after autopsy at the Mitford

Hospital morgue.

shot him and drove off with a

None was arrested in this connection till the filing of this report last night. Hossain's brother Monir filed a murder case with Sutrapur thana.

WB disputes From Page 1 The domestic savings rate

The Bank, however, gave an

current fiscal.

playing the capital market." date said.

"FDI is usually associated

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria receiving World Bank

### Wolfensohn in city From Page 1

on his arrival. Wolfensohn said he was looking forward to the visit and expected to have a firsthand experience about the progress made in the country in recent years. The World Bank chief

termed the visit 'overdue' and

said he expected to have 'sub-

stantial discussion' with gov-

ernment leaders during his stay here in Dhaka. A visibly tired Wolfensohn, who travelled 23 hours to reach Dhaka, said he would be in a better position after seeing a number of projects and com-

ment during a planned press conference on October 17. Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria told newsmen the government was very happy to welcome the World Bank chief and hoped that the relations between the Bank and Bangladesh would be strengthened by the

He described the World Bank as 'friend in need' and said the donor agency had extended its support to the country's struggle against poverty for many many

He hoped that the partner-

ship between the World Bank

and the country would grow fur-

ther in the years to come. World Bank officials in Dhaka said Wolfensohn's visit to Bangladesh is the third by a WB president after Robert Mc-Namara and Louis Preston.

Government officials rate the visit as very important in framing policies for the Bank's future lending activities and related matters in Bangladesh which requires support from the donor.

The World Bank is one of the largest multilateral donors to the country and Wolfensohn's visit is expected to result in a more active role of the agency in the future development endeavours of Bangladesh. Bangladesh borrows mostly

from the International Devel opment Association (IDA), the Bank's soft-loan window which provides interest-free credit to the poor countries. Bangladesh has been a

member of the World Bank

since 1972 and received cumu-

lative commitments to-date of

7.5 billion US dollars for 161 projects. In fiscal 1997, which ended in June, credits to Bangladesh totalled 321.1 million US dollars for three projects. Today, the Bank's active bankrolling portfolio for Bangladesh includes 24 projects, totalling

more than 1.82 billion dollars.

One sentenced to

death for raping minor girl CHITTAGONG, Oct 13: A special tribunal on repression on women and children here in a

judgement yesterday convicted

one person and sentenced him

to death on charge of raping a

minor girl, reports BSS.

The judge Sayed Enaetullah in the verdict said the convict be hanged to death, court sources said today. The case history in brief is that one Mohammad Mia raped

Ripa, 5, alluring her will be given an icecream at Panwalapara under Doublemooring thana in the evening of September 23, 1995.

## By Staff Correspondent

opment Academy, was trans-

and Development Academy. Managing Director of Ban-

Former Deputy Governor of

Bangladesh is one of the

last June.

tal cooperation. Aminul Islam is one of the

### and other officials. Indo-Bangla border

An eight-member delegation led by the Director General of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) will arrive in Dhaka to-

### From Page 1

terday.

prised the Prime Minister of current peaceful situation in the region and asked for help of the Bangladesh government in torn country.

#### Ministerial committee From Page 1 Children's Affairs, Local Gov-

The minister accused the

constituted on June 2. Other members of the committee are Secretary of the Local Government Division, Secretary of the Finance Division, Establishment Secretary and Secretary of Law. Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry. The committee was asked to

mmel Hossain.

ous courts. The bill is likely to be placed

## to meet on November 2.

From Page 1 shed pandal at the litema ground, just before the Maghreb

Tongi hospital where more than one hundred injured people were under treatment yes-Gates of the hospital were locked and guarded by police yesterday, fearing that rush of

admitted to the DMCH Sunday night. More than 50 of them were released by yesterday Our Salimullah Medical College Hospital correspondent said about three hundred injured people were taken to the hospital by three buses and two trucks Sunday night. Most of them were released after first aid. Twenty people were released yesterday while 22 oth-

hospital. number of 'volunteers' were pil-

> **JMB** From Page 1

pier head units were not adequate as was called for by the design requirements. The designers will also

"The designers' comment is crucial so far as the viability or

metre gauge Now questions are being