From left: Chairman of Apex Group Syed Manzoor Elahi, BOI Executive Chairman Farooq Sobhan and BEA President Rokia Rahman speaking at The Daily Star seminar on 'Investment

PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS & FREIGHT WORLDWIDE



5000 more policemen

to be recruited

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina vesterday directed the

police to strictly maintain law

and order for the country's

rapid economic development,

being considered as the most

important and attractive place

for foreign investment in the

Southeast Asia," she said while

addressing the annual police

parade at the Rajarbagh Police

security of public life are pre-

requisites for continued eco-

nomic progress of the country.

MPs - Hasibur Rahman Swa-

pan and Dr Mohammad Alaud-

din - and joining to the gov-

tution has barred floor crossing

by any MP. "But Hasibur and

Alauddin have doubly violated

the Constitution — by deserting

the party on the ticket of which

they were elected and by getting

into the council of ministers of

provision concerned, the BNP

MP said that the Speaker had

nothing to do with examining

the issue. "In such cases, the

Speaker is obliged to refer the

issue to the Election Commis-

sion and the EC is the final au-

thority to give the verdict." In

this regard, Hafizuddin ex-

pressed surprise that the

Speaker has not yet referred the

Rahman of BNP said induction

of the BNP legislators into the

government was not only un-

constitutional but also an im-

government of national con-

sensus, he said that his party

Referring to the AL claim of

Speaking next, Obaidur

Referring to a constitutional

another party."

cases to the EC.

moral act.

Hafizuddin said the Consti-

She said law and order and

The Prime Minister said her

"Bangladesh is presently

reports UNB.

Lines in the city.

5000 have already been re

In near future, trained police

persons will be appointed in the

industrial, banking, educa-

tional and export promotion

Developing a computer net-

work and high frequency wire-

less system, setting up of close

circuit TV camera in strategic

points, formation of dog

squads, increasing motor and

river vehicles are some of the

government's projects proposed

for modernising the police, she

Bangladesh Police Medals 1997

and President Police Medals

1997 among 62 police men for

their outstanding performances

this case, the Prime Minister

makers to make them minis-

ters, ignoring many members of

would affect the growth of a

sound democratic system.

Obaid said the seats of the two

BNP MPs concerned should

At this stage AL member Fa-

zlul Karim Selim raised a point

of order to counter the BNP's

contention. "According to the

Constitution, the seat of an MP

gets vacated only when the

member votes against the party

immediately be declared va-

Observing that such practice

has been looking for BNP law-

She also distributed

zones, she added.

in the service.

her own party.

BNP returns to JS

Federal Express

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# **PHILIPS**

# of culprits

CALCUTTA, Mar 8: Maitree, a forum for 30 women's organisations in the state, has demanded expeditious trial of the accused in the recent gangrape of a Bangladeshi woman at the Yatri Niwas, adjacent to

ties to give exemplary punishment to the accused within a specific timeframe, Gana Unnayan Parishad secretary

months to complete but should be over within days, she said, regretting that the government is tightlipped about the victim's present condition and barring us from meeting her.

Sanglap, Sachetana, Swayam, Nari Nirjatan Pratirodh Manch, Rural Development Consortium, National Council for Women in India and Gana Unnayan Parishad, is trying to establish contacts with women's organisations and NGOs in Bangladesh for concerted moves to rehabilitate the Bangladeshi woman.

#### BJP inches From Page 1

Desam Party, a regional party from the southern state of Andhra Pradesh controlling a emy. The party is now weighing government.

It is up to India's nonpartisan president, K R Narayanan to decide on the party to be given the first chance to put together a government, since no party won an outright majority to govern alone. Newspapers said the decision is likely by Thursday.

On Sunday, vote counting began in two constituencies in the troubled state of Jammu-

tions of vote rigging. Counting of votes in two other constituencies in Kash-

More voting for the final four snowbound seats will be held on March 18 and June 21. after the new parliament already has convened.

#### Bank guarantee

Petrobangla does not encash it by then as per the provision of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) between the government and the Occidental. The PSC itself expired on January 11 and now the government is considering its exten-

now being considered, Petrobangla has allowed Occidental to extend the bank guarantee for two months. The deadline for this expires today, but Occidental did not submit a fresh guarantee till yesterday.

chalking out different amendments to the PSC of Occidental for blocks 13 and 14. These amendments aim at protecting the interest of Bangladesh sources said adding, these would be raised at the Petrobangla board for ap-

proval.

#### Enclaves From Page 1

a question in the House, said Bangladesh maintains diplomatic contacts with India to resolve the disputes over the ownership of Talpatty, sharing of waters of the common rivers and land demarcation between the two countries.

Azad said, "The present government is continuing its efforts through diplomatic channel to resolve these problems on the basis of bilateral understanding."

#### IU gunfight

From Page 1 men was eployed on the campus and in the surrounding ar-

The two critically injured students, Shahid of Shibir and Morshed of Chhatra League, were taken to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital and Kushtia General Hospital respectively.

The two other injured students Nasir and Nazir, both belonging to Shibir and the IU employee were treated in local

clinics, the sources said. The first clash took place at about 8 am when processions of Shibir and Chhatra League came face to face near the main gate. They exchanged five shots and exploded 20 bombs.

They clashed again at about pm, exchanging about 100 shots and exploding about 200 bombs, the sources said.

#### **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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The World on Time



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# Let's make things better

# Rape at Howrah Indian women's bodies for trial

Howrah station.

We have asked the authori-Ruma Sarkar told PTI here.

The process should not take

Maitree, which comprises

crucial 12 seats, declared Congress its number one enwhether to support a BJP-led

government has taken up steps for building an efficient and disciplined police force, and decided to recruit 10,000 more police, including women. Of them,

Kashmir that voted Saturday but it was delayed by four hours because of a flurry of accusa-

mir will be done Monday.

From Page 1 sion, official sources said.

Since extension of the PSC is

had never even agreed to such a concept. "Even if the BNP was Meanwhile, Petrobangla is part of the so-called consensus government, Begum Khaleda Zia would have been the person to decide who would represent the BNP in it," Obaid said. "In

#### War of words in JS From Page 1

lim, whose starred question

sparked the debate when the House assembled for business after Asr prayers.

Haji Selim asked the Home Minister to provide the statistics on rape of women, including minor girls, between March 1991 and March 1996 and between March 1996 and December 1997.

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, BU, in his written reply said that 3,409 women were raped between March 1991 and March 1996 and another 1743 between March 1996 and December 1997. Of them, 525 were underaged girls, he added.

Rustam Ali Farazi of JP also joined the fray and asked the minister what measures the government had taken to contain the increasing crimes against women. He claimed that as per ligures, crimes against women in one year were more than that in five years.

The minister faced a volley of questions from the opposition, ranging from Yasmin and Seema murder cases to an alleged rape of a student of Bangabandhu College at Tungipara by the VP of the college students union, rape of a job seeker at the residence of the state minister for land and the scandal involving an MP from

the city's Mirpur constituency. BNP MP Mashiur Rahman stoked the debate by asking a supplementary to Haji Selim's question. He wanted the home

on the ticket of which he/she

has been elected to parliament. But neither Hasibur nor Dr Alauddin has voted against the BNP, he argued. In defence of the Prime Minister, Selim claimed "The Constitution has given her the au-

thority to induct any member of parliament, irrespective of his/her party affiliation, into the council of ministers."

Humayun Rashid Chowdhury informed the House that he had been examining the case of two BNP MPs and that he would give his decision on the issue 'in due course of time.'

Meanwhile, some other Al legislators sought the floor to speak on the issue, but the Chair abruptly adjourned the session at 7:20 pm for resumption at 10:00 this morning.

minister to tell what measures

he had taken on the alleged rape

of the student of Bangabandhu

any student of Bangabandhu

college was raped. But he said,

necessary steps have been taken

on the incident of rape at the

residence of the state minister

guided the home minister in

Hasina lent a hand to the min-

ister taking on the opposition

Selim also took the floor to

counter the Opposition, denied

that any student of Banga-

Choudhury demanded of the

Speaker to expunge Sheikh Se-

lim's comments, saying that the

House should proceed under the

Rules of Business. The Treasury

Bench MP had no right to con-

on a supplementary question,

tradict a statement made earlier

The Speaker agreed with his

Sheikh Selim then wanted

suggestion, expunging Sheikh

to know the progress in the case

of alleged rape of a street walker

in the MP's hostel by a BNP

lawmaker. The home minister

said that the case was progress-

ing and that he would make a

statement on it if he was given

lawmakers that none would be

spared irrespective of party af-

filiation. I have told senior po-

lice officials today to enforce

from BNP to enforce laws to

prevent crimes against women

and declared that his doors are

open to all to lodge complaint if

anyone is unable to file a com-

He also sought cooperation

law in letter and spirit.

plaint with police.

Home Minister assured the

bandhu College was raped.

replying the questions.

An ebullient Tofael Ahmed

Even Prime Minister Sheikh

Treasury Bench MP Sheikh

But Professor Badruddoza

The minister denied that

College.

for land.

flak.

he argued.

Selim's remarks.

From Page 1 and South East Asia on the other," he said, speaking of BOI plans to organise a series of seminars in collaboration with different chambers to rope in loreign investors.

Entrepreneurs

Prospects for Young Entrepreneurs' held at the British Council auditorium in the city yesterday. (Right) Young entrepreneurs who participated in the seminar.

Elahi urged the government to encourage and support the young entrepreneurs. Quality and competition will call the shots in the forthcoming quotafree regime, he said. "Tariff barriers will no longer guarantee protection for the local products. We must maintain the quality and face competition.

Determination is key to success, he told the young enthusiasts. "If you cannot beat the system, then join it, but do not give

Rokia Rahman identified potential sectors for young entrepreneurs and said much depended on sincerity and understanding of the subject.

Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam moderated the conference, coordinated by Osama Taseer

Those who helped The Daily Star organise the conference included Quazi Mahmud Ahmed, Raquib M Fakhrul, Faisal Samad, Sadaf Saaz Siddiqi and M Rafikul Islam.

#### Body to probe gas leakage

The government has constituted a three-member committee to probe the incident that caused damage to Titas Gas pipeline near the BTV Bhaban in Rampura, reports BSS.

Headed by additional secretary of Energy Ministry Syed Tanvir Hossain, the committee comprises a representative of Petrobangla and the Chief Engineer of Bangladesh Television. The investigation committee could co-opt any expert i necessary, said an official handout yesterday.

The committee will find out the causes and identify those

responsible for the damage. It will also make specific recommendations whether it will be advisable to construct the multi-storied building

The committee will submit its report to the information secretary by March 22.

#### 2 killed in separate incidents in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Mar 8: A young man, Abul Kalam (20), was killed when a cocktail he was carrying exploded at a place behind the Chittagong Polytechnic College in the city today, police said.

But police could not say whether he was a student of the

In another incident, a minor boy Zakir (12), was killed and two others were injured. Zakir died when the roof of an old building collapsed while being dismantled at Aman Ali Road in the city today, police said.

#### 14 Myanmar nationals held

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Mar 8: Fourteen Myanmar nationals were arrested in the town today on charges of theft and dacoities. Cox's Bazar police launched

a special drive to nab them. Myanmar nationals were arrested from Gunarpara, Pahartali, Larpara and Kalatali areas of the town, police said.

#### Transport strike in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Mar 8: All modes of transport remained off the streets in Sylhet district today during a day long strike called by the Sylhet District Transport Workers Association to protest damaging of 21 microbus and private cars, (Renta-car) at the Shahjalal Bridge stand in Sylhet on March 3.

Association leaders alleged that, a group of about 30 armed people under the leadership of a ward commissioner and leader of ruling Awami League attacked the microbus stand as the transport association leader earlier declined to pay them an illegal toll of Tk 50 thousand.

Three minibuses carrying newspapers from Dhaka were attacked by some transport workers during the strike today at the Chandipul and Bus Terminal areas.

### WB: Foodgrains

From Page 1 some pick-up in gross fixed

capital formation. However, retail and wholesale trade, which depends heavily on import pick-ups, might be suffering because of import slowdown and decline in foodgrains production, the WB observed.

This correborates the claims of a section of businessmen that sales this year have been considerably less than that of last year. Shortfall in foodgrains production is bound to have affected rural trade negatively'. the update said. It noted that fiscal balances

are under pressure because shortfall in revenue collection and ADP spending through November 1997 amounted to only Tk 2802 crore, showing 11 per cent decline from the level in the corresponding period of previous fiscal year. The WB also appreciated the

export performance during this fiscal year, saying merchandise export growth through November 1997 was still over 20 per cent and both export prices and volume grew by 10 per cent.

"Strong export performance during the rest of the current fiscal year appears to be lockedin as export orders are also reportedly showing healthy growth," it noted

The Bank also tried to solve the puzzle of decline in the level of import, particularly that of primary commodities and capital goods, in the face of industrial recovery, due to a shift away from official to unofficial imports.

NBR's import transactions data indicate import from India through October last declined by 20 per cent with its share in total imports falling from 15.7 per cent to 11.7 per cent.

#### BNP gheraoes DC offices tomorrow

Opposition BNP will gherao DCs' offices across the country tomorrow to protest against what it said the famine-like situation and price spiral, reports UNB. DC's office in Dhaka will be

gheraoed in the morning. BNP City unit has requested the leaders and workers of the party and the people to gather at the city office at Nawab Yusuf Market in Nayabazar at 10 am,

said a press release vesterday.

# Khaleda urges womenfolk

# Join BNP's movement to regain dignity

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the women to join the party's anti-government movement for upholding their dignity and protecting the country, reports UNB.

Inaugurating a rally at Ramna Batamul in the afternoon, she said the country is passing through a grave situation when "repression on women has increased, prices of essentials have marked abnormal rise and country's development stalled."

Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal organised the rally on the occasion of International Women's

Begum Zia sought cooperation from women at this "critical juncture" for strengthening the movement against the government and said "BNP will always stand beside you as it had done in the past. She said, "This government

has totally failed to launch a

programme for the country's overall development ... it did not undertake any steps for the welfare of women. The former prime minister alleged that repression on women, including child repression, has increased manifold

during the rule of the present

government. "This government

has failed to exercise the legal

provisions against the offend-

Rahman had placed the women in a position of respect by recognising their importance in nation-building activities. The late president could visualise that "without the devel-

She said late president Ziaur

- Star photo

opment of women who constitute nearly half of the country's population, a real progress of the nation is not possible," she To achieve the goal, he had

created job opportunities and launched development programmes for women, Begum Zia The former prime minister

said the BNP government had taken up various development programmes for women, including free secondary education and vocational education for self-employment. Presided over by Selima Rahman, the rally was also at-

sanullah, Farida Rahman Shirin Sultana, Firoza Talukder and Hosne Ara Ziad BNP leaders Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Mirza Abbas Gayeshwar Chandra Roy and Khairul Kabir Khokon were present.

tended by Begum Khwaja Ah-

The rally was followed by a colourful procession that paraded different parts of the city and ended in front of the party central office at Nava Paltan.

## PM: Water resources

ously examining needs and options, including the Ganges bar-

In July last year, the Water Resources ministries of India and Bangladesh held a meeting in Dhaka after seven years, where India had committed its full cooperation for the Ganges barrage, Hasina mentioned.

She said the fate of 35 million people of Bangladesh is de-pendent on the inflow of the Ganges water. On top of the periodic floods,

the Ganges-dependent area has been affected by serious droughts due to the reduction of dry season flows of the Ganges, she added. The impact of this reduction has been a substantial increase

in salinity in the south-western region, the Prime Minister said, adding that the creeping salinity is destroying the agricultural lands and the fisheries. and causing serious ecological damage. She said the salinity poses a

great threat to the world's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans, which is the home of famous Royal Bengal Tiger. Many believe that the recent arsenic problem had resulted

from extensive use of underground water for drinking as well as for dry season irrigation purpose, Hasina said. She emphasised the utmost

importance of reservoir and development of surface water for the control of arsenic contamination. The Prime Minister said the

government is determined to resolve any problem, be it national, regional or international, keeping the interests of the people above all.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq said the signing of the historic Ganges Water

Treaty has opened up opportunities for Bangladesh to achieve

its long cherished goal of con-

structing the Ganges barrage multipurpose project. Emphasising the importance of the proposed barrage, he said this should be built to reverse the process of deteriorating ecology and the environment of the Ganges dependent areas.

Speaking on the occasion, ADB representative Francis B Narayan said the Bank will play a role of catalyst and facilitator in the government efforts to improve the accountability in water resources management.

including the Sundarbans.

He pointed out that ADB has provided 970 million US dollars for water resource development and management in Bangladesh, and said regional consultation for water resources management will be useful for the region.

World Bank country director Pierre Landell-Mills described the Ganges water sharing treaty as a historic achievement which he said will help explore a better management of water resources in the region.

#### Teenage girl found dead

By Staff Correspondent

A teenage girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at her relative's house at East Razabazar in the city on Saturday afternoon.

daughter of Sahadat Hossain, the girl came to Dhaka from Tangail to visit her relatives. Police said she was found hanging in the bathroom of the

Identified as Jahanara, 18,

# house at about 2 pm.

# International Women's Day observed

From Page 1 brought out rallies in Rajshahi, Manikganj, Comilla, Chandpur, Bogra, Cox's Bazar, Tangail, Kushtia, Chittagong, Jessore, Mymensingh, Dinajpur

and Khulna. Amnesty International Bangladesh held a discussion meeting. Speakers at the meeting said that the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights concerning women had not been implemented even 50 years after adoption of the declaration.

They urged the government and all others concerned to respect the 15-point programme taken up by the Amnesty International regarding implementation of the human rights of women.

Meanwhile, the Amnesty

launched a worldwide campaign yesterday calling upon governments to mark the 50th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights by emphasising human rights practices which fully recognise women's rights. Sammilita Nari Samaj formed a human chain at

Shahbagh in the city at 2 pm yesterday in observance of the Women's Day. It was followed by a procession from Shahbagh area to the Central Shaheed Minar. A discussion meeting was then held at the Shaheed Minar which began with a message from poet Sufia Kamal. A 12-point declaration of the Nari Samaj was read out by Shima Das. A cultural function fol-

lowed the discussion meeting.

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal, women's wing of BNP organised a rally on the occasion at Ramna Batmul in the city at 2:30 pm. BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia attended it. International Textile, Gar-

ment and Leather Workers Federation Bangladesh Coordinating Council organised at 'footmarch' in the city, as part of the 'global march' against child labour and a rally of child workers at the Osmani Uddyan. Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik League held a rally and a dis-

cussion meeting. The Hill Women's Federation held a discussion meeting at the Shaheed Minar on the day. Presided over Bartika Chakma, the meeting was ad-

dressed, by among others,

Samari Chakma, Ilara Dewan, Minaki Chakma. Bangladesh Scouts also or-

ganised rally and a discussion meeting to mark the Day. Our JU correspondent adds:

At least 200 women including teachers, students, officers and employees of Jahangirnagar University (JU) brought out a procession from in front of the Social Science Faculty as part of the International Women's Day celebrations yesterday, says a press release.

The procession which was followed by a rally. A cultural programme, car-

toon show and painting show will be held in this connection in front of Nawab Faizunnesa Hall on the campus on Tuesday the press release said.

#### BCL factions in Ctg clash: 15 injured

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Mar 8: At least 15 people including two policemen were injured during a clash between activists of two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League at Anwara thana headquarters this afternoon, police and local sources said.

The injured were admitted to the local health complex. Police said the clash broke out when activists of Kalam group attacked a rally organpm. The attack was sequel to yesterday's clash between the

two factions. When police fired to disperse the clashing groups by opening fire, the BCL activists attacked Anwara thana office and ransacked it, police control room

said. Police fired ten rounds. The angry BCL activists attacked two on-duty police constable and damaged the furnitures of OC's room. The OC was outside at that time.

The angry activists also attacked the office of the Thana Nirbahi Officer. The agriculture officer and assistant agriculture officer was injured during the rampage that continued for about three hours from 1.30 pm. police said.

firearms, cocktails and threw brickbats during the clash, police said. Later, the situation was

Both the factions used

brought under control with deployment of additional police The situation remained tense till filing of the report at

#### night. No arrest was yet made. tidbits

From Page 1
Party that decided last night to return to the House today.

Given the floor to raise a question, ASM Feroz of ruling Awami League started felicitating the opposition BNP members on their return to the House after six months. Despite interruption from the Chair, Feroz continued to say, "MPs suit in parliament as animals do in jungles and children on mothers' laps. Now the BNP MPs are beautifying the House." His remarks raised laughter among the members in both the sides.

Treasury Bench member from Araihajar, Emdadul Haq Bhuiyan, demanded that the Home Minister sanction speedboats for police patrol in his

area surrounded by rivers. Emdad added that the police speed-boats could also be used for carrying goods from Sylhet. Home Minister Rafiqul Islam expressed his surprise as to why Emdad spoke about carrying goods from Sylhet only. "Goods can be carried from other areas too, why only Syl-

A man from Sylhet, Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury smiled and said, "I think I know

the reason." KM Obaidur Rahman of BNP took more time than usually allowed to speak on a point of order. At one stage, the Speaker humbly asked "Honourable member, how much more time would you like to take?

The House plunged into

laughter when Obaid replied: I

will take only five minutes As the BNP lawmaker continued, the Speaker repeated his question. Then a smiling Obaid tried to appease the Chair saying. "I

know, you will allow me time

because you yourself also desire

discussion on the issue (two

BNP MPs joining the govern-

Usually, a member is allowed a few minutes to speak on a point of order. The Speaker appeared very

much sympathetic to the BNP lawmakers yesterday. As he was giving floor to BNP members one after another, AL member Akhtaruzzaman shouted: I see, the Speaker has now tilted towards the Opposition.

#### Corruption case From Page 1

with Ramna thana.

Preliminary investigation by the Bureau said that the fraudulence was made sometime between November 10. 1993 and February 22, 1994. The forgery was linked with the installation of 1,30,000 digital telephone lines, police sources

#### Chetia From Page 1

Dildar also filed a petition seeking appeal to stay Anup Chetia's possible extradition to India which is currently pending before the Appellate Divi-

The petitioner alleged that

the detention order was illegal and a conspiracy to hand him over to the Indian authorities is in gross violation of all norms of human rights. Dr Kazi Aktar Hamid moved

the petition. He was assisted by Samarendra Nath Goswami, Shahiduddin Hossain, Rafiqul Islam Mehedi, Salma Rahman, Matiur Rahman and MA Hafiz.