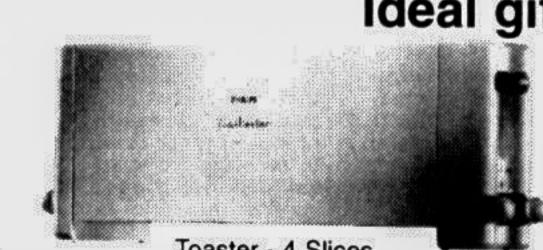
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Govt firm to ensure equality, rights of women: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government wants to turn the womenfolk into educated and skilled human resources and ensure their overall development, reports UNB.

"We've fixed a specific target in the Women Development Policy for the overall development of women by ensuring their equality and rights," she

The Prime Minister was addressing the grand conference of Bangladesh Women Officers' Association at the Osmany Memorial Hall in the morning.

Women executive working in government and semi-government organisations, and autonomous bodies across the country joined the conference.

In the development policy, Hasina said, the government has given emphasis on ensuring equality of women at all levels - state, social, economic and political.

She added that emphasis has also been given on ensuring security and empowerment of women, establishing the human rights of the women community.

The government is introducing related laws and policies for

establishing women rights, she said, but it is the duty of all to

ensure proper implementation of the policies. She called upon the women to develop themselves as competent citizens.

For the first time, she said, the government has taken the steps to elect women representatives at the union parishad

election through direct voting. She said the government will give more attention to increase facility for the women in their professional areas, promotion, transportation, and leave, particularly the mater-

nity leave. Responding to various professional problems of the women, she said the government is already working to solve these problems as it is very much aware of those.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Mozammel Hossain, Women and Children Affairs Secretary Abdullah Harun Pasha, and Association leaders Anisa Hamid, Prof Tahmina Hossain and Begum Firoza Khanam also addressed the conference. Association president Gul Afroz Mahbub presided.

development works during the BNP regime. Chowdhury suggested an inquiry on it. The allegation was made by Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed.

Explaining, he said Awami League MPs did not get the money from the Prime Minister's fund to carry out development works in their respective constituencies as they resigned from parliament.

On another allegation of corruption over telephone and Alkatel, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said the Bureau of Anti-Corruption has already filed a case implicating BNP leader and former minister Tarigul Islam.

He suggested that no parliamentary committee be formed as the matter is subjudice.

Contradicting Prof Chowdhury, Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed said the constituencies, which were represented by the then opposition Awami League members, were not given any allocation during the BNP regime.

He said Awami League resigned from Parliament in state-owned enterprise, has 1994, but their resignation was accepted on December 26, 1995. He urged all not make any untrue statement in the House.

Earlier Tofael Ahmed told the House yesterday that the Bureau of Anti-Corruption has found evidences of corruption against former BNP ministers and MPs and cases against many have been filed.

Replying to Haji Mohammad Selim (AL-Dhaka), he said that during the previous regime, Tk 25 lakh were sanctioned from the Prime Minister's relief fund

against each BNP MPs, but the money were not spent properly.

Tofael said the opposition MPs in nine districts of Gaibandha, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Narail. Barguna, Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban did not get that

The BNP MPs used the fund mainly for distribution among the partymen, buying television and for clubs in their respective constituencies, he said

Referring to Prof Chowdhury's Wednesday's statement that Abdul Hye MP of Munshiganj was kidnapped, Tofael said the concerned MP himself said that he was not kidnapped, but physically assaulted.

The minister, however, demanded punishment of those responsible for assaulting the

Bangladesh Cycle Industry handed over to buyer

Bangladesh Cycle Industry, a been formally handed over to its new buyer 'Meghna Group'. reports BSS.

Chairman of the Privatization Board Kazi Zafarullah handed over the documents of the industry to the Managing Director of Meghna Group, Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan at a function in the city.

Mohsin Ali Khan of World Bank, advisor of IMF MS Jaslin Landell Mills. FBCCI president Yusuf Abdullah Harun and navy chief Rear Admiral Nurul Islam were present.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

তৃতীয় কিন্তির অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদান প্রসঙ্গে

প্রদেয় আয়কর যথাসময়ে পরিশোধ করুন এবং

অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকান্তে আপনার অবদান রাখুন।

চলতি আর্থিক বছরের তৃতীয় কোয়ার্টারের জন্য অগ্রিম আয়কর

প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ১৫ই মার্চ, ১৯৯৮ইং। সংশ্লিষ্ট করদাতা

কর্তৃক দেয় অগ্রিম আয়কর ফরম নং আইটি-৩১(বি)(সংশোধিত)

চালান ফরমের মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ করতে হবে। এই ফরমের যে যে

স্থানে '৭৪(১)' সংখ্যাটি উল্লেখিত আছে তার স্থলে '৬৪' সংখ্যাটি 🖡

প্রতিস্থাপনপূর্বক চালান ফরমটি যথারীতি পূরণ করে করদাতাগণ

অগ্রিম কর পরিশোধ করবেন। উল্লেখ্য, সকল শ্রেণীর করদাতার জন্য 🖺

১,০০,০০০/ – (এক লক্ষ) টাকা। সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল করদাতাকে ১৯৯৮– 📓

অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদানের ক্ষেত্রে মোট আয়ের আর্থিক সীমা বর্তমানে

১৯৯৯ কর বছরের জন্য চলতি আর্থিক বছরের তৃতীয় কোয়ার্টারের

অগ্রিম আয়কর ১৫ই মার্চ, ১৯৯৮ইং তারিখের মধ্যে এই পদ্ধতিতে

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ডিএফপি-৫৬০১-১১/৩

Hasina to visit Barguna from tomorrow

From Our Correspondent BARGUNA, Mar 12: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to arrive here Saturday morning on a two-day visit to the southern region.

She is likely to address public meetings at the district stadium here at 10 am and in Kalapara at Noon.

Hasina will later inaugurate the Holiday Home of Parjatan Corporation at the Kuakata sea

She will stay at the Holiday

Home at night. On Sunday, the PM will address a public meeting at Galachipa in Patuakhali in the morning. She will later inaugurate the

newly built TV relay centre at Patuakhali. In the evening, Hasina will address a public meeting at Pat-

uakhali town before returning to Dhaka.

Bangla-Nepal JEC meet in Kathmandu from Mar 15

The tenth meeting of Bangladesh-Nepal Joint Economic Commission (JEC) will begin on March 15 in the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu, an official press release said here yesterday, reports BSS.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria will lead the ninemember Bangladesh delegation to the three-day meeting. Kibria is expected to leave

Dhaka for Kathmandu on March 15.

ERL may resume production Saturday

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Mar 12: Eastern Refinery Ltd., country's lone refinery here is likely to resume its production on Saturday, refinery sources said.

ERL's production remained suspended from February 10 due to some 'technical faults and shortage of crude oil. Officials of ERL informed that the faults identified by the foreign experts have been repaired. Meanwhile, a ship with

crude has reached Chittagong port and unloading was continuing, they added.

JS tidbits

From Page 1

Amidst laughter, the state minister then requested the ruling party member for the withdrawal.

Similarly, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria's untimely request to raise an objection to the placing of a private member's bill in the House was also turned down by the Chair, amid applause by the BNP members.

Kibria remained silent while BNP lawmaker Amir Khashru Mahmud Choudhury sought permission for placing his bill titled "Central Depository Act, 1997." The finance minister rose when the bill was already placed

As per law, the minister concerned is to rise for objection to such bills at the time of seeking

Failing to catch the train, a visibly-frustrated Kibria then told the House the BNP MP's bill was not needed as the government itself was working on a similar bill.

Several AL legislators asked for the permission to raise their party colleague Dr. SM Akbar's starred question as Akbar was absent from the House when the Speaker announced his name. Among the aspirants, the Speaker choose Mir Shakhawat Ali Daru.

Getting the opportunity, a happy Daru said: Dr. Akbar of Magura is my 'beain' (in-law). "So, my instinct has rightly worked," quipped a smiling Speaker.

Jayalalitha backs out From Page 1 The BJP will have to deal

ask the party to form a government and then prove itself in a vote of confidence.

occasion of its third conference.

The last vote in 1996 resulted in a similarly deadlocked parliament. New elections were called three years ahead of schedule after politicians failed to form a stable minority or coalition government.

The President, who must determine which party is strong enough to lead the government, had demanded the BJP present formal letters of commitment from all the parties in its proposed coalition. His request was seen as a way to ensure India avoided the turmoil it has experienced over the last two years.

The BJP turned to allies ranging from diehard socialists to free-market centrists.

BJP officials had said on condition of anonymity that Jayalalitha was insisting that a politician she favours be named finance minister, a move opposed by the BJP. Sources close to Jayalalitha in the Tamil Nadu state capital of Madras, also speaking on condition of anonymity, added she wanted political rivals who now control the Tamil Nadu government dismissed.

CDS

From Page 1

government is formulating a similar law.

According to the proposed bill, the central depository will be a limited company with a paid-up capital of Tk 50 crore with board of directors comprising senior representatives from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Finance Ministry, the Bangladesh Bank, and a government-nominated experienced company lawyer and a char-

tered accountant. "The Central Depository System (CDS) will pave the way of for scripless trading on floor by providing clearing and settlement services to the stock exchanges," said Amir Khosru Chowdhury, MP, explaining the purpose of the bill.

According to the proposed law, the central depository will eliminate the necessity of maintaining a full-fledged share division of the listed companies by facilitating share registration services. It would also ensure safe keeping of valuable share certificates on behalf of the local and foreign investors. The CDS will operate basically in the form of book keeping entry.

"It will reduce expenses and risks as there will not be any physical transfer of shares. So there will not be any fake shares," Chowdhury said.

The bourses will send all transactions to CDS, which will record the transfer, and the shares will automatically change accounts. And the shareholders will not have to go to the companies to transfer their shares. There will be a fee which will be charged after every transaction.

with such demands not just to form a government, but to stay in power and in control of any coalition it manages to cobble together.

The BJP has sent its allies a draft of the policies by which it plans to govern, the Pioneer newspaper reported today. In the proposed 'common agenda," the BJP pledged to continue the economic reforms started seven years ago, but with emphasis on swadeshi or self-reliance. the Pioneer reported.

Dock workers at Ctg Port postpone strike programme

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Mar 12: Dock workers unions today postponed their strike programmes scheduled to begin on March 15. port and union sources said.

The decision was taken after a three-hour long meeting between the leaders of dock workers and port authority today. they said.

In the meeting, the port authority assured the leaders of considering their demands in the board meeting of the port scheduled to be held on March 25 and urged the union leaders to postpone the strike programmes.

Nasim Biswas

From Page 1

rest may occur any time, so we decided to send him to IPGMR on our ambulance," he said

When contacted, a doctor at the IPGMR intensive care unit said, "Biswas was unconscious when he arrived at the hospital at about noon. Immediately we treated him with artificial respiratory procedure."

He further added, "the exact cause of his death is not yet known but we suspect he died from cardio-respiratory fail-

Dr Nasim Biswas was elected to the Jatiya Sangsad from the Barisal-5 constituency during the 1996 elections.

Family sources informed that there will be four namajejanazas of late Dr Nasim

The first namaj-e-janaza will be held today at 10 am in front of the BNP Central office at Naya Paltan. The second one will be held at 11 am at the South Plaza of Sangsad Bhaban. His body will be flown to Barisal by helicopter for a namaj-e-janaza there. Later his body will be flown back and buried at the Banani graveyard

after Asr prayers today.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia, in separate messages, condoled the death of Nasim Biswas, MP. They also conveyed their sympathy to the bereaved family members and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed

Abducted female garments worker rescued By Staff Correspondent

Police rescued a teenaged female garments worker, who was abducted three days ago, from city's Kamrangir Char area yesterday. A gang of three abductors al-

legedly led by one Jharna called the girl out of her shanty in a slum at Paribagh at about 8 pm Monday, police said. The gang forcibly took her to

city's Kamrangir Char area and

confined her in a house.

Following the FIR lodged by the father of the girl, police rescued her during an operation from the house at Kamrangir Char under Lalbagh thana at about 11 am.

Police also arrested Jharna for her alleged involvement in the abduction. However, the actual reason behind the abduction could not be known immediately.

Khaleda From Page 1

government has utterly failed to check repression on women and prevent trafficking of women and children," the BNP chairperson said. She wished early recovery of

Tania and demanded stern action against the culprit. Meanwhile, two Supreme

Court lawyers joined BNP at a function at the official residence of Begum Khaleda Zia. Speaking on the occasion, the BNP Chairperson said her

party shouldered the responsibility of voicing the grievances of the people and to fight for realising their rights. Welcoming the newcomers — Advocate Golam Kabir and Ad-

vocate Shahidur Rahman - she said, "All patriotic people are rallying round BNP which is the only force to protect them from the grave situation prevailing in the country."

Use of CNG From Page 1

run motors were comparably much cleaner and need little maintenance.

Moreover, they said, all sorts of vessels could also be converted to use CNG fuel which could save crores of taka. 'The ferries cost a lot to run and the government could also totally arrest thefts of fuel because CNG could not be stolen," the DOE official said.

The quantity of fuel stolen every year from government and non-government vehicles could amount to hundreds of crores of taka, officials said.

About the risk of carrying a compressed gas cylinder in the car, engineers said that there has never been any report of any mishap arising from the presence of gas cylinders in the cars. "We follow the international code of practice and every cylinder is mounted with three safety valves," said an RP Gas engineer, adding that only three companies in the world manufacture cylinders and they maintain very high standards.

"In America, Europe and other continents CNG is becoming a reliable source of alternative energy in the transport sector, but we have never heard of any accident," he said.

Country now has 20,000 registered NGOs Commerce and Industries mechanism to monite mechanism to monitor the ac-

Minister Tofael Ahmed yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the number of non-gov-ernment organisations (NGOs) registered with different government departments is about 20,000, reports BSS.

Replying to a question by Jamaat-e-Islami MP Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, Tofael, also in-charge of the Prime Minis-ter's Office, said the NGOs which run foreign aided development projects require to register them with the NGO Affairs Bureau. The number of these NGOs is 1,237.

He said other government departments which issue registration for NGOs are Social Service Department, Joint Stock Company, Women Affairs Department, Youth Development Department, Family Planning Department and Nonformal Education Department The minister said there is a

district and thana administra-The district development coordination meetings review the NGO activities every month at district level along with the government's development pro-grammes. Tofael said NGOs which accept foreign assistance are accountable to the govern-

ment and they cannot receive or

spend any foreign aid without

prior permission of the gov-

tivities of the NGOs through the

NGO Affairs Bureau, a high

level government NGO consul-

tative committee, the depart-

ments which give registration

to the organisations and the

ernment. They need permission of the NGO Affairs Bureau for all their activities. Besides, these NGOs have to submit their activity report and

audit report to the Bureau after a specific period. BNP's victory in

next election

inevitable:

Mannan Bhuiyan

Mannan Bhuiyan has asked the

party workers and leaders to

prepare for the next general

the next general election is in-

evitable as the people got frus-

trated with the misrule of the

Awami League government," he

said addressing a number of

party workers meetings in

Khulna and Satkhira during

his four-day organisational

said BNP will participate in the

next election after the fall of

this government whenever it

takes place. But he did not de-

that the Awami League govern-

ment has totally failed to run

Rape: Culprit

From Page 1

with the rape, also questioned a

number of people in and around

the court building yesterday.

The case was filed under the

Women and Children Repres-

the country on all accounts.

Mannan Bhuiyan alleged

mand any snap election.

The BNP secretary general

election, reports UNB.

BNP secretary general Abdul

"Inshallah, BNP's victory in

to India

BENAPOLE, Mar 12: BDR personnel rescued 86 people. including children, from Benapole area in Jessore district today while they were being trafficked to India, reports

Of the rescued, 30 are women, 20 children and 36 men who hail from Barisal, Faridpur and Noakhali districts. They were produced before

BDR patrol party challenged a Benapole-bound night coach at Kagajpukur in Sharsha thana at about 9 am and rescued them. But sensing the presence of BDR, traffickers fled the scene immediately.

From Page 1

shouted at the members concerned. Backed by others in the two parties, the members then rose on their feet and started blasting the AL MP and asked him to apologise.

down. Several JP members remained standing even after the Speaker stood up. At this, the Speaker reminded them of the rule that "All the members should sit

stands up in the House." As the agitated JP lawmakers rose on their feet again and reiterated their demand for apology from Sharif, even after the Speaker expunged the un-

of the Opposition Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury demanded that Sharif himself withdraw

the person who raped Maria.

A police official said they were waiting for the complete recovery of the victim.

Meanwhile, the departmental enquiry committee headed by an additional DIG of police stopped work as the magisterial body started probing incident,

Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge

Bangabandhu Bridge

in the minds of some people about the strength and durability of the bridge. To clarify the situation and to bring about transparency in the matter of cracks in the bridge an "Open Dialogue" is being arranged in Dhaka by JMBA at 9.30 AM on 25th March,

National and international experts of JMBA and Hyundai will attend to answer questions and explain various issues. Any engineer, journalist or interested citizen of Bangladesh

can participate at own expense by prior registration only. Please contact Director (Administration), JMBA by letter, Fax (No. 813496) or e-mail (jmba@citechco.net) giving your name, profession and contact address latest by 1300 hrs on 19-3-98.

PM: Pvt power generation

From Page 1 cant lands of those units so that new industries are set up there. Besides, some mills and factories would be given to workers willing to operate those under cooperative entrepreneurship. In this regard, she also men-

tioned the retrenchment of

10,000 workers who, she

claimed, were duly compensated. The Prime Minister, however, made it clear that mills and factories will not be handed over to such people who want to use the lands for housing projects. "If this is done, industries would not flourish in the coun-

Referring to the 'one-stop' service by the Board of Investment, Sheikh Hasina said that the national economy would be given a sound footing, keeping in view the recent debacle in South East Asian economics. The Prime Minister was

and Minister of State for Information Prof Abu Sayeed.

Responding to queries from newsmen, Tofail Ahmed said, a detailed report depicting the current state of sunset industries was forwarded to the Finance Ministry a few days back and necessary steps would be taken soon. He said that foreign invest-

ment in the country was en-Referring to the recent price hike of some essential items, the minister said, import duty on onion and soybean had been reduced. Replying to a question on au-

tonomy for the electronic me-

dia - state-run Betar and BTV -

Hasina said. "It would take some more time. If we give autonomy right at the moment, employees of these media may call strike". At this stage, Abu Sayeed said four committees were working on various aspects of

the issue. He noted that it took

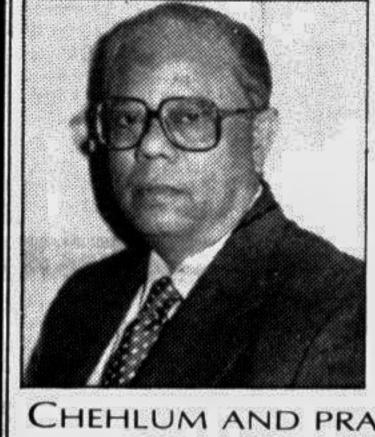
12 years for India to opt for autonomy for its electronic me-

Trust newspaper, he said Tk 29 crore was allocated for meeting dues of all journalists and employees of those papers. Regarding Ganges Barrage, the Prime Minister said the government had received

Turning to the now-defunct

enormous response from the donors for a feasibility study. Referring to the return of BNP to the Jatiya Sangsad, Hasina said the House had been turned into the centre for all activities and non-minister lawmakers were made chairmen of various parliamentary committees for the sake of

transparency. Recalling her party's 'des-perate bid' to speak on various issues in the Sangsad when it was in the opposition, Sheikh Hasina said, "Unlike that time, we now allow them (the opposition) to discuss in the House whatever issues they like to".



CHEHLUM

CHEHLUM OF LATE M AKHTAR ALI, FORMER SECRETARY, WILL BE HELD TODAY (FRIDAY) AT HIS RESIDENCE -HOUSE 14-A, ROAD 95, GULSHAN - AFTER ASR PRAYERS.

ALL FRIENDS, RELATIVES AND WELL-WISHERS OF LATE M AKHTAR ALI ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND HIS

CHEHLUM AND PRAY FOR HIS DEPARTED SOUL.

MEMBERS OF THE BEREAVED FAMILY

866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com flanked by Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed







Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, N'Ganj, Tel: 9714336

Toaster - 4 Slices

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front brought out a procession in the city yesterday on the

83 rescued while being trafficked

the Sharsha thana. A case was filed with police.

bers, sitting on his right side. An angry Sharif suddenly

Failing to silence the snouting members, the Speaker then stood up and ordered them to sit

down as soon as the Speaker

parliamentary word by the ruling party MP.

Joining them, Deputy Leader Given the floor, Sharif ad-

sion Act. 1995. An Assistant Commissioner of Kotwali crime zone has taken up the case with the Officer-in-Charge of the thana assisting him in the investigation, police

Besides, the investigators took a minor boy to different places in the city, including the court area, to help them identify

The boy who was now under police custody, used to play with Maria on the court verandah.

mitted he lost control of himself and uttered the word 'stop'. He regretted his behaviour and withdrew the word. police sources said.

> Authority (JMBA) Allenbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215 **Open Dialogue About**

Newspaper reports in the past have created apprehension

Intending participants will be informed about the venue after

DFP-5584-11/3

registration.

C-218