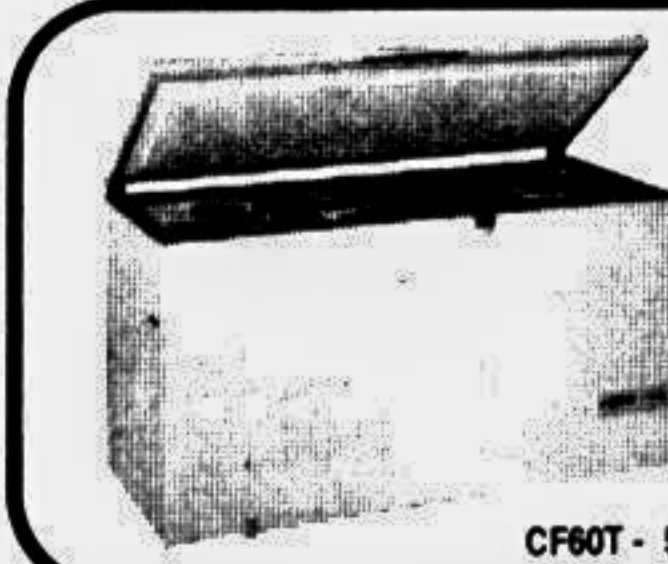
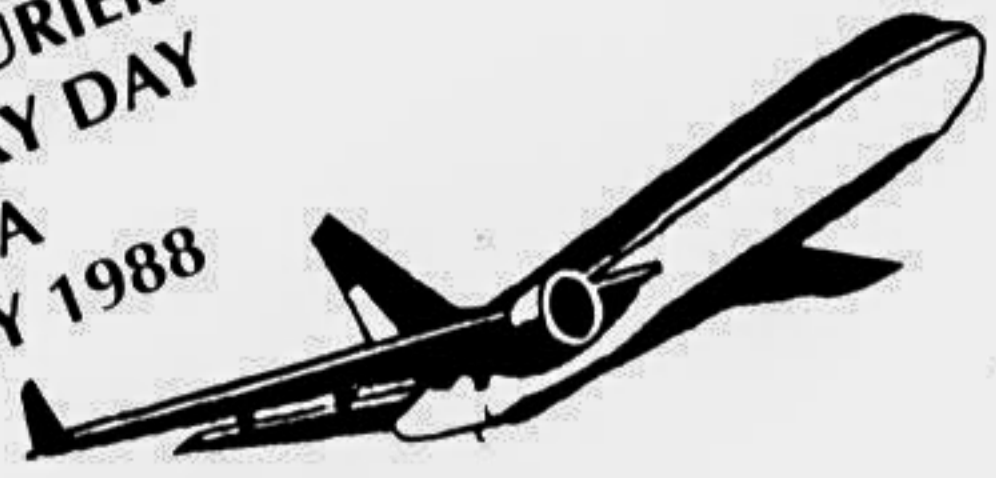


BLUE DART EXPRESS LIMITED

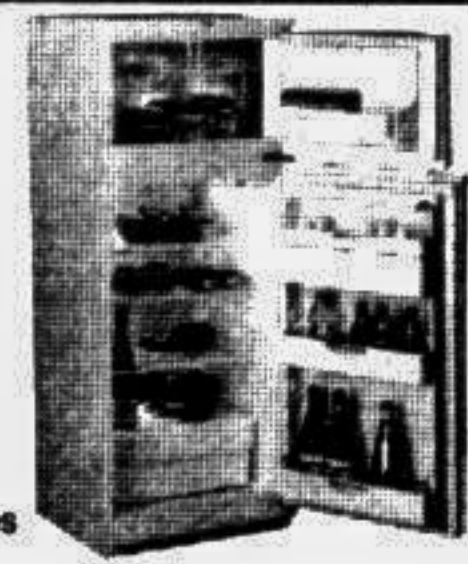
PLEASE CONTACT Bangladesh Air Express Int'l Ltd. For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9565114, 9883927, 9130647, 894213.

ON BOARD COURIER EACH DAY EVERY DAY TO INDIA SINCE EARLY 1988



Refrigerator & Freezer

Transcom Electronics Limited Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA



Hartal: BGMEA move

From Page 1 The BGMEA delegation called on Begum Zia, also Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad, at her Mint Road official residence in the city yesterday evening to request her to withdraw the April 15 dawn-to-dusk hartal across the country.

The BNP chief, however, turned down the BGMEA request, saying they were compelled to go for such a programme, meeting sources said.

As the opposition leader claimed that her party was opposed to negative political programmes like hartal, the BGMEA proposed a 'political consensus on abandoning such programmes for the sake of national economy.'

The BNP chief was quoted as saying in response that her party would 'consider' such a move provided the Awami

25 drown in Bihar

NEW DELHI, Apr 6: At least 25 people drowned and 125 others were missing today after a boat capsized in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, the United News of India reported, says AFP.

Officials said the boat, carrying about 150 people sank in the northern district of Samastipur some 100 kilometers (62 miles) north east of the state capital Patna.

Police official Ramesh Nath said 23 bodies had been recovered adding that rescues were scouring the river for survivors.

The victims were returning from a religious ceremony.

Pre-budget discussion

From Page 1 sources should be withdrawn in respect of exports. In order to promote exports, all export earnings should be made tax free. Cash incentives should be provided to agro-based industries, he added.

According to an FBCCI press release, NBR chairman Dr A K M Mashur Rahman, in his concluding remarks, appreciated the FBCCI recommendations on budget and said they would consider those proposals which are conducive for trade and investment.

He said increased tariff will not facilitate industrial development, rather tariff should be imposed at reasonable levels.

FBCCI executive committee members Shafiqul Chowdhury, Obaidur Rahman, M Rezaul Malik, Dewan Sultan Ahmed, Mir Nasir Hossain, Nazibar Rahman, Abdul Haque and A K M Shamsuddoha took part in the discussion.

NBR members S L Khan, Khawaja Ghulam Sarwar and A Saitter were present.

PM opens GMG airlines

From Page 1 ternational cargo services," she added.

Hasina said the government has undertaken plans to operate air services in all the important parts of the country. "We have laid the foundation of MA Hannan International Airport at Chittagong, which we think will be opened for the air traffic by March of the year 2000."

The government has taken steps for modernisation and expansion of Dhaka International Airport to accelerate the economic activities, she said.

"Steps have been taken to upgrade the Sylhet Airport to an international level," she said adding that projects are also there to build up new airports at Bagerhat and Bogra.

The Prime Minister asked the private airlines to extend their services to the people following the rules and regulations of the Civil Aviation Authority. "You will have to main-

tain service in line with the demand of the people and their capacity."

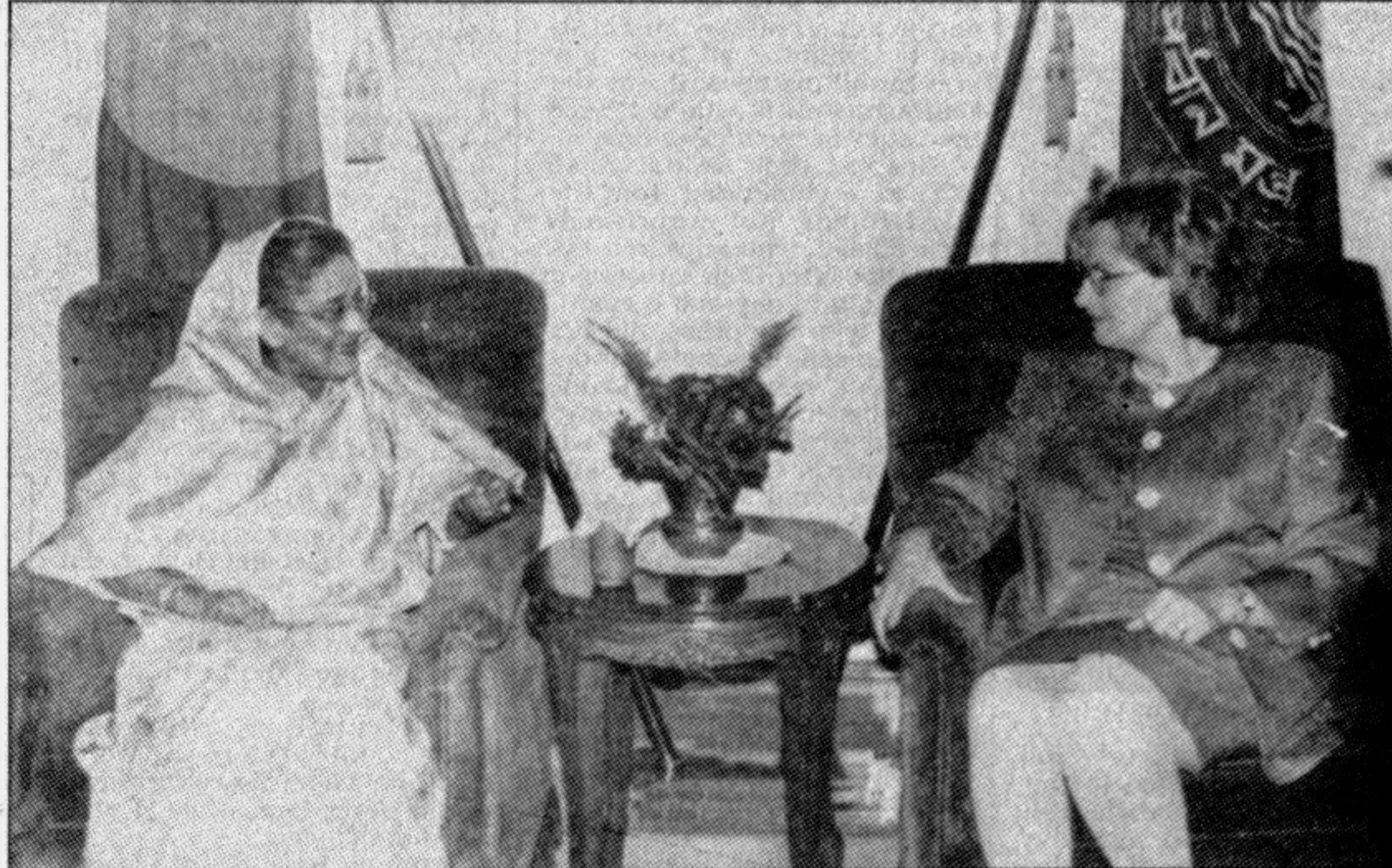
She also called for ensuring flight securities in accordance with the "Standard and Recommendation Practice" of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

"Neither the government nor the private sector should compromise on ensuring the flight securities," she said adding, "We want the passengers getting security and legal protection."

Referring to the tourism sector, Hasina said the government has plans to develop all potential spots of the country as tourism centres.

"The domestic airlines have a lot to contribute to flourishing the tourism ensuring additional facilities for the passengers," she said.

Visiting Canadian Minister for International Cooperation Diane Marleau, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Engr Mousharraf Hossain, Sonali Bank Chairman Asafuddin, GMG Chairman Abdus Sattar and GMG Managing Director Shahab Sattar also addressed the function.



Visiting Canadian Minister for International Cooperation Diane Marleau called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday. — PID photo

Students beaten up for refusing to pay extra bus fare

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 6: Six youths, including five students of the Jagannath University, were beaten up by bus drivers and helpers at Bhuapur Ghat today as they refused to pay extra fare, reports UNB.

The transport workers at the ghat also snatched the belongings of the students, the victims alleged.

Witnesses said the youths came under attack when they got off the bus in the afternoon and refused to pay Tk 100 per person as fare, which is nearly three times higher than the actual fare.

City AL extended meet today

An extended meeting of Dhaka City Awami League will be held at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city at 6:30 pm today, reports BSS.

Tunnel at Barapukuria coal mine submerged

The development work of Barapukuria coal mine project was hampered temporarily as the underground tunnel got submerged on Sunday, reports BSS.

A Petrobangla press release yesterday said the people working underground in the mine have been rescued safely while the Chinese experts have taken steps to control the flow of water.

The British consultants of Petrobangla have been supervising the work and providing necessary advice.

India to increase

From Page 1 "Modernising is important ... to achieve efficiency and excellence."

India increased defence spending by 21 per cent to 10.2 billion dollars during the last budget for the fiscal year to March. The next budget is due by June.

The minister, however, did not refer to a controversial plan by his predecessor to cut back

20,000 jobs in the million-plus strong army and plough back the money into the modernisation schemes.

An army source in New Delhi said the proposal would not work.

"A few people were laid off but the reduction plan will not be accepted because nobody wants to lose men," he told AFP in New Delhi.

"Besides the heads in the budget are different for salaries and equipment and you can't really play around with the two."

The Indian armed forces have recently launched a publicity blitzkrieg to attract recruits following a slump in applications with most young people applying for jobs in the lucrative private sector.

Many middler and senior-level defence personnel have also been quitting their jobs for a corporate career.

Fernandes, who today ended a five-day tour of the troubled northeast where some 50,000 people have died since 1947 in separatist and ethnic violence, said militancy was linked to poverty.

"I think economic underdevelopment is the root cause for the growth of insurgency and the feeling of alienation... only through negotiations will all these problems be solved."

At least 35 people were injured when the roof of an under-construction building at Sonargaon collapsed yesterday noon.

The three-storey building is near Sonargaon Panam Museum.

Students beaten up for refusing to pay extra bus fare

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 6: Six youths, including five students of the Jagannath University, were beaten up by bus drivers and helpers at Bhuapur Ghat today as they refused to pay extra fare, reports UNB.

The transport workers at the ghat also snatched the belongings of the students, the victims alleged.

Witnesses said the youths came under attack when they got off the bus in the afternoon and refused to pay Tk 100 per person as fare, which is nearly three times higher than the actual fare.

City AL extended meet today

An extended meeting of Dhaka City Awami League will be held at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city at 6:30 pm today, reports BSS.

Tunnel at Barapukuria coal mine submerged

The development work of Barapukuria coal mine project was hampered temporarily as the underground tunnel got submerged on Sunday, reports BSS.

A Petrobangla press release yesterday said the people working underground in the mine have been rescued safely while the Chinese experts have taken steps to control the flow of water.

The British consultants of Petrobangla have been supervising the work and providing necessary advice.

India to increase

From Page 1 "Modernising is important ... to achieve efficiency and excellence."

India increased defence spending by 21 per cent to 10.2 billion dollars during the last budget for the fiscal year to March. The next budget is due by June.

The minister, however, did not refer to a controversial plan by his predecessor to cut back

20,000 jobs in the million-plus strong army and plough back the money into the modernisation schemes.

An army source in New Delhi said the proposal would not work.

"A few people were laid off but the reduction plan will not be accepted because nobody wants to lose men," he told AFP in New Delhi.

"Besides the heads in the budget are different for salaries and equipment and you can't really play around with the two."

The Indian armed forces have recently launched a publicity blitzkrieg to attract recruits following a slump in applications with most young people applying for jobs in the lucrative private sector.

Many middler and senior-level defence personnel have also been quitting their jobs for a corporate career.

Fernandes, who today ended a five-day tour of the troubled northeast where some 50,000 people have died since 1947 in separatist and ethnic violence, said militancy was linked to poverty.

"I think economic underdevelopment is the root cause for the growth of insurgency and the feeling of alienation... only through negotiations will all these problems be solved."

At least 35 people were injured when the roof of an under-construction building at Sonargaon collapsed yesterday noon.

The three-storey building is near Sonargaon Panam Museum.

Deportation from Malaysia: Most are 'victims of circumstances'

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 6: Some 1,000 Bangladeshis in Malaysia today anxiously awaited news of their fate amid reports they were to be deported as part of a campaign to rid the country of illegal immigrants.

Mousharraf Hossain, counsellor at the Bangladesh High Commission here, told AFP the deportation was in line with Malaysia's regular practice to send home illegal.

"It may, however, take longer than a week because we have to interview these illegals to ascertain their nationalities before we issue travel permits for them," he said.

An official at the commission said some 700 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants were repatriated in batches in December, with priority for those who could afford to pay their own fares home.

Immigration Director-General Asch Che Mat said over the weekend 1,029 Bangladeshis detained at the country's eight detention camps would be flown to Dhaka by national carrier Malaysian Airline.

The government is to bear the expenses of 730 ringgit (192 dollar) per person, a rate which is 44 per cent lower than the normal price.

Bangladeshis are the third largest group of immigrants being detained, after those from Indonesia totalling 2,765 and from Myanmar 1,034.

Mousharraf said "it is good" that his people were being deported as most were 'victims of circumstances' who were cheated by their agents and employers.

Fire at chemical factory in Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Apr 6: A devastating fire broke out at a chemical factory in Sreepur thana today, reports UNB.

The fire started at about 8 am at the godown of ATN Chemical Factory in Rajabari area and soon engulfed the nearby dye chamber, damaging the factory building.

It took about five hours to bring the blaze under control.

Pak missile

From Page 1 The test apparently was conducted at the Kahuta nuclear research laboratory, 40 kilometers (24 miles) northeast of the federal capital of Islamabad.

The missile is named after a 12th century Afghan emperor Ghauri who attacked India and defeated the Hindu prince, named Prithvi, which is the name India has given to its medium-range missile.

35 workers injured in roof collapse

By DMCH Correspondent At least 35 people were injured when the roof of an under-construction building at Sonargaon collapsed yesterday noon.

The three-storey building is near Sonargaon Panam Museum.

All the injured are construction workers. Five of them were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Cabinet

From Page 1 were amended to update those.

Meanwhile, a four member committee headed by a Joint Secretary of the Law Ministry, Abul Basher Bhuiyan, reviewed a total of 94 laws enacted between 1948 and 1957 and suggested that 40 of those should be repealed, 50 amended and 14 Acts should be changed in conformity with the current terms and expressions. The Cabinet approved the idea.

The Cabinet also discussed ways for resolving some problems relating to the country's ocean going fishing trawlers. According to sources in the Cabinet, no concrete decision was made in this regard.

Block Bidding

From Page 1 moderated discussions between Mobil-Petronas and Tullow for partnership in both these blocks failed to make any progress and later the government shifted its decision and invited Chevron-Texaco to negotiate with Tullow for a partnership in Block 9.

While Tullow insisted on a 50 per cent equity share in Block 9, leaving 40 per cent to Chevron-Texaco and 10 per cent to BAPEX, Chevron-Texaco proposed an equity sharing formula of 30:30:30 for the three foreign companies and 10 per cent for BAPEX.

In this situation, the government proposed Chevron-Texaco to split 45 per cent of the equity among themselves and suggested Tullow should get 45 per cent and BAPEX 10 per cent.

Chevron-Texaco rejected this proposal in early March saying that it would not be economically viable for them to agree on such an equity sharing formula. At the same time, Tullow said it could go on without Chevron-Texaco in the block.

Late last month, the government considered putting up Block 9 for a fresh bid or delaying award of the block. At that time, Tullow in a letter said that the government had issued it a Letter of Intent by making the equity split formula, implying that it had a legal right over the block. This claim was, however, brushed aside by the government.

The Energy Secretary finalised the report on the basis of some recommendations by the Petrobangla.

Girl fighting for life

From Page 1 in pain with her eyes shut as doctors administered sedatives. Her dumb-struck mother was sitting like a stone statue.

Her father, a carpenter living at North Bishil of Mirpur Section one, said the child had been playing inside the house. But since around 1.30 pm, she was missing.

"We were panicked and started looking for her around the area," recounted the girl's father. "I went to Shah Ali Dargah Government Primary School thinking that she might have gone there to play with other children. But I did not find her there. I came back home little realising that my little child was bleeding to death in the toilet of the school."

A little later, some people came and informed that a girl has been found unconscious inside the toilet of the school. My wife and others rushed there and found her. They carried her home. She had blood all over. I just fainted at her sight. Later, my child was given a bath to remove the blood. I wrapped her up and took her in my lap. I took an auto-rickshaw and rushed for the hospital."

But more ordeal awaited the carpenter and the child. He first took her to a local hospital, Taslima Clinic. But the authorities refused to treat her as they said they had no doctors to attend the bleeding girl. Then he rushed to Trust Adhunik Hospital near the Dhaka Zoo. But again he was refused treatment of his daughter. The bewildered father then took the girl to a hospital near the Eidgah Maidan in Mirpur but was

turned back again. "Only then I was advised by people to take her to DMCH. The taxi was delayed by the horrible pre-Eid traffic jam. When I reached the hospital, it was 4 pm. All this time, my child was unconscious, and bleeding. Sometimes she was groaning in pain. But she never opened her eyes."

"How could anybody rape my child?" the father looked blank after the girl's trauma. "She wanted a new frock for this Eid. I promised her to buy it. I can not think she is now lying here instead of playing in my home yard."

The father of the minor girl said that her daughter was two years ten months. However the doctor at DMCH said she was three and a half years old.

Meanwhile, a case has been filed with the Mirpur thana and women police have been deployed in front of the intensive care unit. None was arrested till writing this report.

3 killed in N'ganj road accident

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Apr 6: Three persons including a 60-year-old woman were killed and 10 injured when a bus collided head-on with a tempo at Dhakeshwari area on the Narayanganj-Demra road here today.

The dead could not be identified. The two others were 18 and 30 years old.

The three bodies were sent to the Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy.

Eid-ul-Azha tomorrow

From Page 1 Bangladesh Television will broadcast special programmes highlighting the significance of the day while newspapers will bring out special supplements.

Special diet will be served in the hospitals, jails, government orphanages, baby homes, va-grant and distressed welfare centres.

BSS adds: In the city the main Eid congregation organised by Dhaka City Corporation will be held at the National Eidgah Maidan at 8 am in case of inclement weather the same congregation will be held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at 8 am.

Arrangements have also been made for women to say their prayers at the National Eidgah Maidan.

Besides, Eid congregations organised by DCC will also be held in different wards of the city.

The Eid Jamaat of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology will be held at its central mosque at 7 am.

In Chittagong the main Eid Jamaat organised by Central Eid Jamaat Committee will be held at Chittagong Stadium at 8 am.

In case of inclement weather the main Jamaat will be held at Shahi Jame Mosque at 8 am. The Jamaat at Aandarkilla Jame Mosque will be held at 7:45 am.

Trafficking of children

From Page 1 ther trafficked or wish to migrate from Myanmar to India and Pakistan," the study said.

"There are as many as 18 transit points along the India-Bangladesh border through which the children and women are smuggled out of the country. The districts of Kurigram, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi in the northern part of the country and Jessore and Satkhira in the southern region are most susceptible to trafficking."

"The most advantageous route used by traffickers is the land route, followed by air and waterways. Those using the air routes usually have work permit or false family visa to travel to the countries of the Middle East."

"The traffickers are well informed about vulnerable areas and communities and households who are severely impoverished, have suffered from natural disasters or the death of bread winners."

Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage

48, Azimpur Road, Dhaka-1205 Phone: 509516, 501513 "Faamml Yatima Fala Takhar, O'Ammas Salla Fala Tanhar, Amma Binimati Rabbika Fahaddis" Please contribute your donation, Zakat, Sadka and all other grants to the 500 (five hundred) boys' and girls' inmates of The Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage, greatest of its kind in the Sub-continent.

Shamsunnahar Ahsanullah Nowab Begum President D-154 Alhaj G A Khan Advocate, Supreme Court Honorary Secretary

Editor: Mahfuz Anam Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaword Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi E/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

PHILIPS The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98

WIN FAB PRIZES! SEE SPORTS PAGE NOW