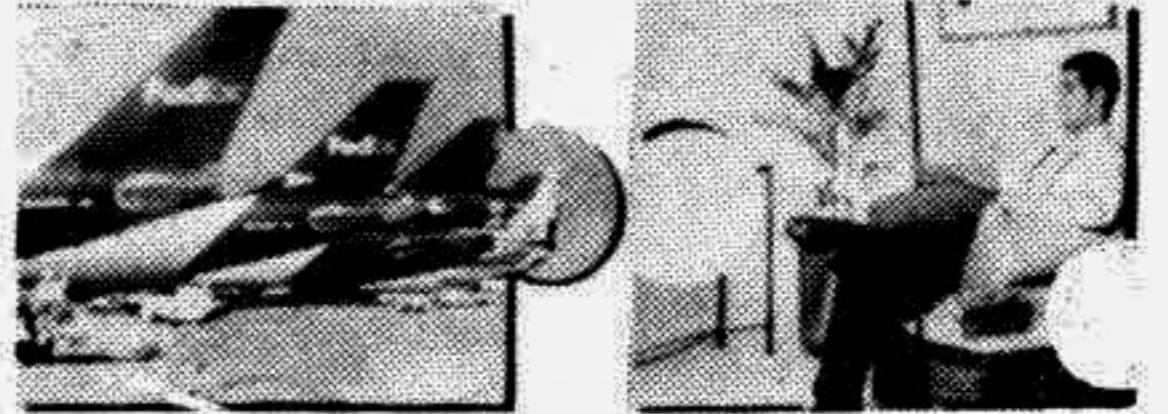
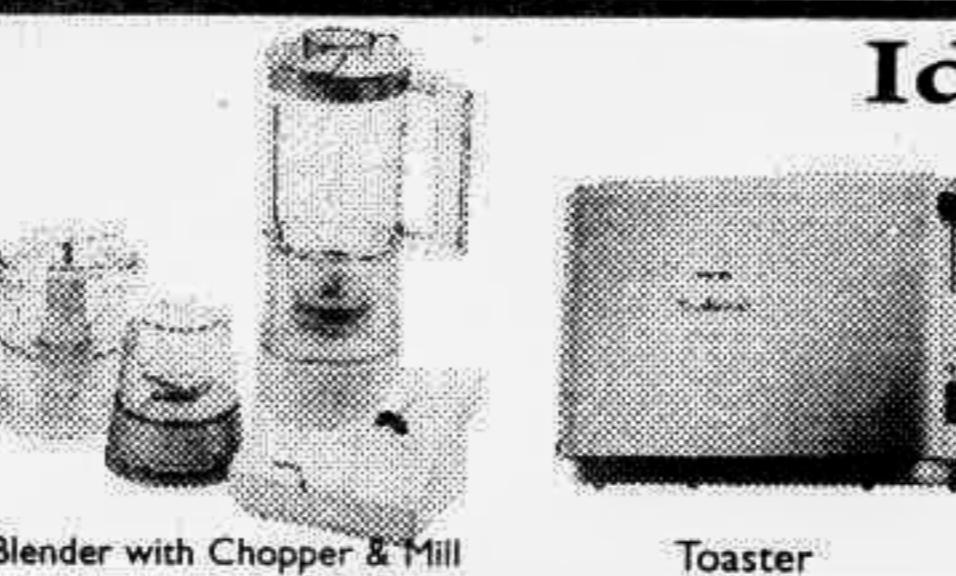


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## Dhaka-Ctg Highway PM lays foundation of five bridges

MUNSHIGANJ, Jan 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the opposition to help the government in continue its development activities instead of finding issues for unnecessary movement, report agencies.

"Don't look for creating issues, rather compete with us by creating movement on the issues of socio-economic development and giving programmes acceptable to the people," she said calling upon the opposition to assist the government in continuing its uplift activities.

Addressing a function of foundation laying of five bridges on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Baushia, Hasina said: "Don't create sufferings for the people in hunting issues, rather allow the government to complete its ongoing development activities."

The prime minister laid the foundation of five new and wide (four lane) bridges on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Baushia.

Later she addressed a meeting at the proposed Engineers Staff College premises at Baushia.

Hasina said the government is planning to construct "alternative roads" for local use adjacent to highways for smooth and safe communication.

"We are going to adopt a plan to that end to reduce pressure on the highways and ensure a smooth transportation in the long distances," she said.

She said under the new plan the communications, and LGRD and cooperatives ministries would jointly construct the alternative roads parallel or adjacent to highways for local communication.

"This will make the highways safe and smooth for movement of vehicles."

All between 26 and 40 kilometres northeast of Dhaka, the bridges are being reconstructed at a cost of Taka 123 crore with financial assistance from Japan and Asian Development Bank.

The bridges, which were originally two-lane ones, will have four lanes after the reconstruction under a project which is expected to be completed by 2000.

"This is an important project in our continued programmes for developing the communication infrastructure as it would ensure a speedy and safe road link between the capital and the port city of Chittagong," Hasina said.

The bridges to be reconstructed are: 90-metre long Marikhali bridge, 215-metre long Asharchar-1, 120-metre long Asharchar-2, 164-metre long Bhaterchar and 60-metre long Madhya Baushia bridge.

Sheikh Hasina said the government has already announced that the general election would be held in 2000, one year ahead of the expiry of its tenure.

"In one sense, we've already accepted your demand ... decided to hold election earlier. We work for the welfare of the people, we don't hanker after power," she said.

The government is toiling day and night to ensure the real development of the people, and the opposition should allow the government to complete its task, she said. "We want cooperation from the opposition, we want development of the nation."

She said it is not possible for the opposition to build up movement on artificial issues.

"The general election will be held under a caretaker government, and the party which will do good for the people will be elected by the people."

Two and a half years is very little for giving a shape to the development activities, the prime minister said.

She said the people have already started getting fruits of some of these development works, but they will get full benefits of the activities later.

## Police dismantle terrorist hideout in Karachi: 6 held

KARACHI, Jan 9: Pakistani police today dismantled a key terrorist hideout in central Karachi and arrested six people after a tense hostage drama and a gunbattle in which a police informant died, a senior official said, reports AFP.

A heavy police contingent in more than a dozen armoured personnel carriers launched an operation in the volatile Li-aquabat district where terrorists used to take shelter, the city police chief Farooq Amin Qureshi told reporters.

The suspects holed up in a three-storey building located deep in the congested area and took hostage several women

and children of a family living on the ground floor, he said.

They gunned down a civilian informant when he tried to enter the premises, Qureshi said.

After a day-long siege and an exchange of fire with police, the six agreed to surrender following assurances they would not be killed, he added.

He said police seized seven Kalashnikov assault rifles, three pistols and a light machine gun (LMG) with hundreds of rounds from the building.

The official said the seizure of the LMG was the "first in the history of Karachi." It was mounted on the roof of the building to ward off any security swoops, he added.

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The specific reference was to Soviet forces deployed during the war that year between India and Pakistan. But Kissinger offered a web of intelligence sharing in meetings with Chinese leaders including Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai in November 1973.

There are no secrets with (you about) the Soviet Union," Kissinger told Mao. "There is nothing we are doing with the Soviet Union that you do not know."

According to transcripts of top-secret talks Kissinger held

### 31-member body to conduct RUCSU polls

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Jan 9: A 31-member advisory committee has been formed for conducting the election of RUCSU and students representatives to the Senate, reports APB.

Ex-officio president of RUCSU and Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Abdul Rajshahi announced the committee recently with treasurer Prof Mohammad Nurullah as its convener.

US officials say they are bound by law to maintain the sanctions, which they see as a hindrance to trade.

## DSE slaps penalty

From Page 1  
away by unfair means," the councillor said.

The DSE surveillance officials unearthed the manipulation in mid-November last year after widespread allegations about excessive trading in certain stocks.

A preliminary investigation by the DSE surveillance officials found out the unfair deals and compiled it in a 600-page report which was submitted to the council.

The surveillance team found that SPM Ltd made share prices inflate, dealing as much as 72 per cent of the volume of total trade in the company's shares on November 3, 1998.

After the surveillance team report, DSE formed a six-member committee. The committee confirmed the findings that SPM Ltd traded huge volumes of Quasem Silk (QS) stocks for a particular client and inflated its prices to gain from it.

The firm traded double the number of available shares in the market. The abnormal po-

sition ultimately made another member to be a short seller. And that short seller had no alternative but to buy back the already sold shares at a dictated price of SPM. In this way the said firm has induced the market as a whole and thereafter, sold the shares by inducing the other persons by deceiving them to purchase the Quasem Silk stocks, which others would not have done if they had not been deceived," the report said.

The investigation also revealed that the firm made an outright profit of Tk 38 lakh from the deals. In addition to this, it also retained 1.20 lakh shares, worth Tk 30 lakh.

The firm raised the price of the shares from Tk 21.50 to Tk 26.00 by gradual purchase," the report said.

The Council then referred the matter to another committee for further inquiry and its suggestion for action.

Earlier, SEC had asked DSE to look into the matter following press reports on the abnormal transactions involving Quasem Silk stocks.

**Editor : Mahfuz Anam**

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