

Directive to make BTMC profitable

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Textiles has directed the authorities concerned to take effective steps to make Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) a profitable concern, reports UNB.

The meeting, presided over by Committee chairman Shamsur Rahman at Sangsab Bhaban yesterday, also discussed various aspects of the formation of the corporation.

Members of the committee State Minister for Textiles AKM Jahangir Hossain, Ali Reza Raju, Moslehuddin Advocate and Fazlul Azim attended the meeting.

8 extortionists arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Eight extortionists were arrested from a business house at East Rampura after they stormed into the office on Monday morning.

Acting on a tip-off, DB police rushed to the Sakil and Risan Business Centre and arrested the eight who were demanding money from Aminul Islam, owner of the business centre, at gunpoint.

The arrested were identified as Swapan, 20, Shohag, 20, Jewel, 21, Monir, 21, Omar Sharif, 19, Siraj, 20, Noor Alam, 20, and Rasel, 17. Police also recovered one toy pistol from their possession.



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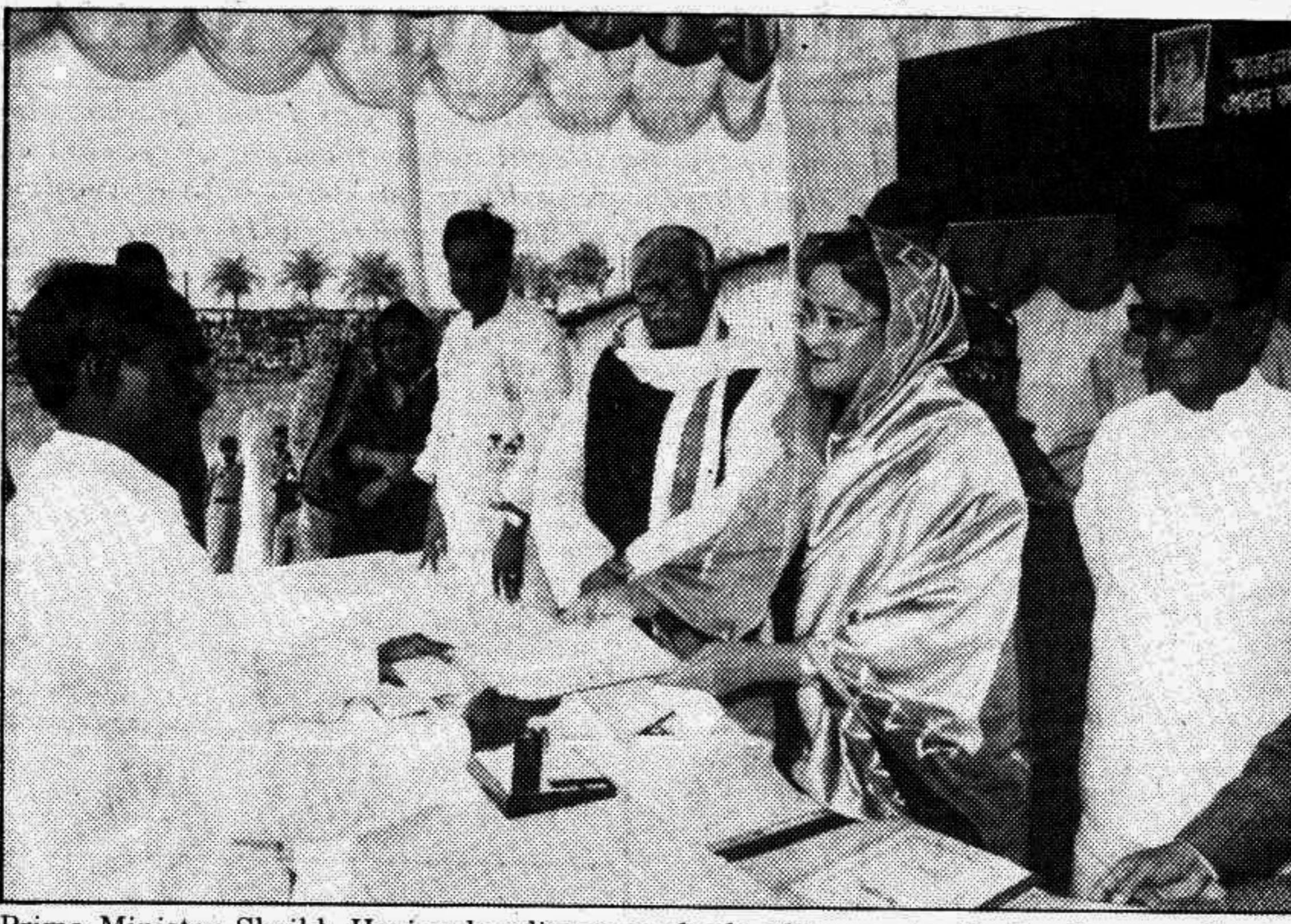
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Engr. A.N.H. Akhtar Hossain
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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handing over deeds of houses to the landless people at a village under Singra thana in Natore district yesterday.

—PID photo

Govt planning to provide home for all homeless: PM

SINGRA (Natore), Jan 12: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her government is planning to provide home for all homeless people and to arrange income-generating activi-

ties to make them self-reliant, reports UNB.

"We don't want that a single person remain homeless, we want to give shelter to everyone of this country," she said handing over deeds of houses built under the Ashrayan project at a Natore village today.

The Prime Minister handed the documents to 20 families of Kajalbari Ashrayan project and assured them of employment through various cooperative schemes.

The Kajalbari cluster-housing complex has been built on 3.35 acres of land, along with 1.6-acre pond. Two barracks-type houses were constructed for the 20 families, with sanitation, drinking water and small farming facilities.

In Singra thana, four Ashrayan projects are being implemented at Arjanpara, Chhatiangacha, Mohesa and Kajalbari and four more being planned.

The Prime Minister said in last one year the government had provided more than 3,000 families with home across the country and works were going on to give shelter to more 1000 families within a very short time.

She said micro-credits, education and medicare facilities would also be ensured for the poorest of the poor being rehabilitated under these projects.

"We want to ensure a better living for those who have neither any shelter nor any home to survive," she said, adding her government is the government

of the people and always stands beside the people.

The Prime Minister also mentioned government's super-annuation allowance for the aged poor and credit scheme for the unemployed youth.

Referring to the devastating floods that engulfed the country last monsoon, she said this government for the first time was giving agricultural loans to the sharecroppers and marginal farmers who were not entitled to get credits earlier.

"We have allocated Tk 3270 crore for providing agricultural loans and decided to open branches of Krishi Bank in every union for the convenience of the poor farmers."

Hasina said the present government was also trying to build a communications network from union to thana, and thana to district headquarters and working for economic uplift of the masses.

LRGD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman and local leader Mohammad Shahajahan also spoke on the occasion. Awami League presidium member Abdul Jalil, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Prof Jitunnesha Talukder, Awami League Publicity Secretary Abdul Mannan, local MPs Prof Abdul Quddus and Shaheen Monwar Huq were present on the dais.

Earlier, the Prime Minister went round the project area talking to the men and women who got shelter in the Kajalbari habitat.

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Tk 40 cr project to remove water-logging undertaken

KHULNA, Jan 12: In a bid to remove water-logging from five thanas of Khulna and Jessor districts, a Taka 40 crore project has been undertaken by the government during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The project was taken up under Khuilna-Jessore Drainage and Rehabilitation Programme (KJDRP), officials said.

Water Development Board (WDB) will implement the project with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), they said.

The project is part of a Tk 230 crore ADB programmes being implemented by WDB.

Vast areas of Fultala and Dumuria thanas in Khulna district and Keshabpur, Monirampur and Avonagar thanas of Jessor district have been facing water-logging problem for the last 15 years.

The five-year project includes construction of 8 km drains, five bridges, 10 km embankment and re-excavation of 80 km river and canal, the sources said.

Some 11-km of marginal and 10-km embankment will be constructed along the tidal level, they added.

After implementation of the project, over one lakh hectares of land in these districts would be freed from water-logging ushering in new hope for the farmers of the locality.

Fund for setting up 25 units of BIRDEM hospital released

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salauddin Yusuf said yesterday that the government had released funds for setting up 25 units of the BIRDEM Hospital in seven branch areas of Diabetic Association. Setting up of similar BIRDEM units on the remaining 15 branches of the Diabetic Association are active consideration of the government, he added.

The health minister was speaking as the chief guest at a reception accorded by Bangladesh Endocrine Society and Rhone Poulenec Bangladesh Limited in honour of Prof AK Azad Khan general secretary of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh for receiving honorary doctor of medicine from the University of Basel, Switzerland.

Dwelling on the history of BIRDEM, the health minister said that the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman inspired late National Professor Ibrahim and extended all support for establishing the BIRDEM project.

Prof AK Azad Khan delivered a lecture on Ibrahim Model of Healthcare Delivery in developing countries.

Vice-chancellor of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Prof MA Quaderi, president of Bangladesh Endocrine Society, Maj. General (retd) Dr AR Khan and managing director of Rhone Poulenec Bangladesh Ltd, AKM Shamsuddin also spoke on the occasion.

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