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Bhuiyan on dialogue offer

Gimmick to divert people's attention

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan scoffed at government's "loose talk about dialogue" with the opposition as a gimmick to deflect people's attention from the current agita-

"The party in power was never honest in settling political crisis in the past, nor they are at present. It's a flashy gimmick," he said while talking to UNB at the BNP office yester-

About the proposals of the Prime Minister and her cabinet colleagues for holding talks with BNP, Bhuiyan said although the government had launched a media hype, proposing discussions. "We have not yet received any concrete pro-

The BNP secretary general said if there came any specific proposal from the government and if an atmosphere for dia-

Speaker

From Page 1 deputy minister shouted at the

Speaker, jumping on his feet. With Shambhu, two other Treasury bench members -whip Mostafa Rashidi Suja and Akhtaruzzaman -- were also seen behaving the same way.

Speaker Choudhury, who tried to contain Mashiur Rahman for his irrelevant speech. did switch his microphone off, but turn to Shambhu to rebuke

"Did you see that his (Mashiur's) microphone was not stopped?... You must not cast aspersion on the Chair."

As the BNP lawmakers burst into anger, some of them rising on their feet, the Speaker told the opposition members, "Many (of you) shouted at the Speaker. Keep silent, please...'

In his bid to salvage his colleague, Tofail Ahmed told the Chair, "Shambhu has deep respects for you. Had he hurt you, on behalf of the Awami League, regret the event." Referring to BNP's role, Tofail said, "They are trying to cash in on the incident.

The Speaker ignored Shambhu's repeated plea to allow him to clarify his position and advised the deputy minister to see him later. The Chair however listened to him after Tofail and senior BNP lawmakers Oli Ahmed and Khandakar Delwar Hossain had debated on another issue.

"I did not say anything wrong. I just protested the BNP lawmaker's speech on irrelevant issues. In fact, I tried to bring to your notice that the microphone is not switched off even after you had ordered it.] don't think that I committed any mistake," pleaded Shambhu.

At this stage, the Speaker said he would examine the records of the proceedings and that he would talk to the deputy minister, if necessary.

PM: Identify

From Page 1 party candidate for Dhaka City Corporation's mayoral poll, Hanif waved hands towards Paltan crowd and dozens of colourful balloons were released from audience in applause. Soon afterwards, eight ward-level leaders, two belong-

League. The AL newcomers are Shafiulla and Abdul Alim from BNP, and Mir Samir, Jobaer Md Adel, M R Tulu, Palash Anwar. Sheikh Sekandar and Moshtag

ing to BNP and the rest to Jativa

Party, formally joined Awami

Ahmed from JP. Almost the entire top brass of Aw..mi League sat together on the podium yesterday along with Hasina to recall, with due honour, the significance of Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech in 1971 at the then

Racecourse Maidan in the city. Senior party leaders and cabinet members including Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and AL general secretary Zillur Rahman, Water Resources Minister Abdu Razzak, Industries and Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Post and

Telecommunications Minister ammad Nasim, presidium me...bers Amir Hussain Amu. Suranjit Sengupta and Abdul Jalil, AL joint general secretaries Azizur Rahman, M H Paltu, and S R Khan Shahjahan, Dhaka Mayor Mohammad Hanif, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, State Minister for Information Abu Sayeed and State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury

Besides, scores of other party leaders, lawmakers and representatives of leading organisations also addressed the rally conducted by AL publicity secretary Abdul Mannan.

Maya were present at the meet-

logue prevailed, that would be discussed in the party and also with alliance partners. "If all agree, we may sit."

Awami League general secre-

party been sincere to opposition participation in the municipal elections, it would have discussed it with the opposition and settled the problem by accepting the 4-point demand. which includes a fresh municipal election schedule.

the US State Department and

ernment knew it well that i won't win people's mandate if there be any free and fair elections. Because, in last three years, the Awami League could not fulfil its election pledges.

From Page 1

that left at least seven people dead and scores injured.

Parliament said such bomb atone-party Baksal era was over.

But, acts of killing and injury from bomb and gun attacks on opposition processions and meetings have become rampant following the takeover by present Awami League govern-

She demanded a high-level the killers.

Gono Forum acting president Adv Zahirul Islam and general secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik yesterday condemned the incident.

From Page 1

after the brutal killing. the cases police accused seven persons -- domestic help Shahid, contractor Hasan, supervisor Badal, carpenter Shani Ram, guard Humayun Kabir, maids -- Parveen and Minu. Of them, guard Humayun died of a cardiac arrest on Jan-

During yesterday's proceed ings, the lawyers of the informant protested a petition of a lawyer of accused Hasan and told the court that during the last occasion Hasan's elder brother threatened the complainant's side.

Following is a brief account of the answers given by Latifur Rahman during the cross-examination by defence lawyer

husband of my elder daughter took Tk seven lakh from Hasan. Rather I had paid Hasan several lakh taka as advance.

- It is not true that Badal and Hasan did not have a free access to my residence. It is not true that Badal did

not appoint any employee at my residence. It is absolutely untrue that Badal was simply working as a rod mistree at my residence. He

for about two and a half years. I did not hand over any alamat to police.

Shazneen. All the seven accused were involved in the killing.

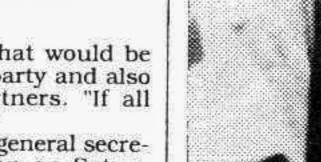
ing, the defence lawyer, quoting a number of reports from national dailies regarding the killing of Shazneen, asked the informant several other ques-

lam represented the government, and senior advocate Ramzan Ali Khan, advocate Saima Khanam, advocate Mahbub Hossain and advocate Istiaq Ahmed Khan were present on behalf of the informant at the court yesterday.

Judge AK Roy fixed today for further cross-examination of Latifur Rahman. The lawyer for Badal is likely to complete questioning the informant to-

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tary Zillur Rahman on Saturday made a fresh offer for "open dialogue" with the opposition BNP "at any place, at any time" to resolve the current political problem. Bhuiyan said, had the ruling

Asked about statements of

the European Union, calling for resolving the problem through discussion, he said: "Whatever the government is saying, it is saying so under pressure. As a matter of fact, the government's real intention is not to seek solution, but to confuse the peo-

The BNP leader said the gov-

PM orders

ating unrest in the country," she said condemning yesterday's bomb attack on Udichi function

The BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in tacks didn't happen after the

investigation into the killing and exemplary punishment to

Shazneen

In the charge sheets of both

uary 11.

yesterday. - I do not know whether

- I did not tell police anything about their work. Police did their professional duty on that fateful night. I just showed them the body of my bloodstained child.

was working there continuously

- It is not correct that there was no incident that led the accused, except Shahid, to mastermind the killing of

During yesterday's proceed-

Public Prosecutor Kamrul Is-

There was a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), finalised in October 1996 between KAFCO



Students aid a hapless JCD worker in front of the VC office on Dhaka University campus. The student activist was severely injured when rivals attacked a JCD procession held in protest of the prime ministerial visit of DU. - Star photo

Cultural complex to be set up in city

By DU Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina vesterday said a cultural complex will be set up in the city for development of the country's cultural activities and preservation of the history of struggle.

"We have decided to set up the cultural complex with a view to upholding the real history before the countrymen and prevent it from distortion, " she said while addressing the unveiling ceremony of the sculpture, "Swadhinatar Sangram", at Fuller Road on Dhaka Uni-

> versity campus. Hasina said the cultural complex will be set up surrounding Dhaka University. Shilpakala Academy, Shishu Academy and Bangla Academy. She said all the previous governments over the last 21 years distorted the history in a

> planned way so that the

younger generation remained

unaware of the 'real history' of the nation. "A vicious circle of communal, reactionary and anti-liberation forces always raise a hue and cry in the country to

block the progress of the na-

tion," the prime minister al-

Hasina paid rich tribute to the greatest sons of the soil who died for upholding the dignity of their mother tongue. DU Vice-chancellor Prof AK

Azad Chowdhury and sculptor Shamim Shikder also spoke on the occasion. The premier thanked sculptor Shamim Shikder for lively representation of various re-

markable events of the coun-

try's liberation struggle from 1952 to 1975 through the 55ton, 60-foot tall sculpture. The sculpture depicts the history of Language Movement of 1952, movement for autonomy in 1966, mass uprising of 1969, historic speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rah-

man on March 7, and the

proclamation of Independence

on March 26 and final victory

on December 16 in 1971. It also narrates the night of August 15, when Bangabandhu along with almost all of his family members, including nine-year old son Sheikh Russel, was brutally killed.

Govt to ban import of 2-stroke motor vehicles

The government has decided to ban the import of vehicles of two-stroke engines in a bid to check environmental pollution by toxic black smoke, reports

A high-level meeting yesterday took the decision in principle after elaborate discussion on the hazards being created by two-stroke motor vehicles on the environment, officials said. Presided over by Finance

Minister Shah AMS Kibria, the

meeting also decided to slap a ban on spareparts imports for the two-stroke automobiles, like tempos and autorickshaws. Movement of such vehicles driven by two-stroke engines will be prohibited in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna cities in phases in next

five years. Communications Minister

Anwar Hossain, National Board of Revenue Chairman Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, Forest and Environment Secretary Syed Margub Morshed, Chairmen of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority and Petrobangla, and senior officials of other organisations concerned attended the meet-

"The measures are being taken to discourage the use of two-stroke vehicles that are very dangerous for the environment," said a government announcement.

Taking more steps to that end, the government offered a number of financial incentives for converting the four-stroke petrol and diesel-propelled autos to compressed natural gas (CNG)-driven ones.

hurt at DU

BY DU Correspondent Three activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of opposition BNP. were injured at Dhaka University yesterday when a JCD procession protesting the Prime Minister's visit to the campus came under attack allegedly by activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled a massive sculpture, 'Swadhinatar Sangram', on the campus.

JCD activists, with their faces tied with black clothes. brought out the procession from in front of the Modhu's canteen protesting her visit because activists of BCL, student front of her ruling Awami League, had allegedly ousted them from the campus earlier.

teen, allegedly by BCL activists The injured -- Rasheda Begum, Sadia Arefin Apu and Tarikul Islam -- Bani were given first aid. JCD activists later held a

on the campus condemning the attack and demanding arrest of those responsible. In a statement later, BCL refused the allegation and said it

party rivalry. Meanwhile, at a press conference at the BNP's central office in the evening, JCD announced a three-day pro-

demonstration in front of DU VC's office tomorrow, submission a memorandum to the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) on March 11 and countrywide demonstrations on March 13.

CID officer to probe Jessore killing

AYBI Śiddiqui last night said a senior officer of CID was asked to investigate the killing in Jes-

sore bomb explosion. telephone.

3 JCD protesters

The procession came under attack near the Modhu's can-

rally at the Aparajeya Bangla

was the result of JCD's intragramme to protest the attack.

The programme includes

Inspector General of Police

"Hasan Farid, SS of CID. Khulna Zone, was given the charge of investigation into the explosion," the IGP told UNB by

173 held in Ctg during combing operations From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 7: Police arrested 173 people during combing operations in different parts of the city in the last three

Of them, 60 people were arrested from Barisal colony, a slum area under Doublemooring thana, police said. Deterioration of law and or-

der in the port city and incidents of attack on police per-sonnel by armed terrorists, prompted police to start combing operations, police

Police raid on terrorists' hide-outs and slums will continue, said a senior police offi-

He suspected that most of the criminals take shelter in different slums to avoid arrest.

Khaleda

From Page 1

are trying to destabilise the situation in the country to make evil political gain. The Jessore incident is not an isolated one. she went on. At the meeting, the Ulema

Dal leaders alleged that Ulema Islamic scholars and thinkers. madrassah teachers and imams of mosque throughout the country are being subjected to harassment by the rulers. They also alleged that the government is 'politicising' the

ing committees and creating pressure on imams to conduct publicity in the name of the "father of the nation" on various religious occasion. Moulana Nazrul Islam, principal of Mohammadpur Gausia Islamia Madrassah, was

mosque and madrassah manag-

sacked as he refused to say 'father of the nation,' they added. The leader said the government through gazette notification in 1978 had designated the chiefs of fazil, kamil and alem madrassahs as Principal. But in recent days the government is issuing letters addressing them as Superintendent and asked them not to write princi-

They further said the previous BNP government upgraded the Ebtedia madrassahs into primary schools and distributed board books free of cost. But the government stopped distribution of books from this year. Besides, they alleged that students of Kaumi madrassahs are being harassed in the name of "Taleban".

Earlier, just released city unit BNP and Ulema Dal leaders and activists separately met Khaleda Zia and presented flower bouquets to her.

BNP leaders present on the occasion included Mirza Abbas, Haris Chowdhury, Nazrul Islam Khan, Abdus Salam Pintu and Ulema Dal leaders Moulana Rafigul Islam Armani, Hafez Abdul Malek, Nazrul Islam, Selim Reza and Abdul Qader.

Bangladesh mourns death of Bahrain's Emir today

Bangladesh will mourn the death of Bahrain Emir Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa today, said an official handout

yesterday, reports UNB. National flag will fly at halfmast atop all office buildings of government, semi-government and autonomous organisations, the handout said.

yesterday condoled the death of Sheikh Isa. The House unanimously adopted the condolence motion. moved by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury.

Meanwhile, Parliament

plane crash

NEW DELHI, Mar 7: An Indian air force transport plane crashed near a huge township and exploded in a ball of fire in a cluster of bricklayers' huts killing 23 people today, officials said, reports AP.
The Russian-built AN-32

aircraft suddenly veered off its landing path, clipped a brick boundary wall and vaulted into a massive drinking water reservoir, flattening dozens of brick huts of construction workers building the water storage tanks, eyewitnesses

The tanks are being built to supply drinking water to Papankalan, an upcoming town-ship at the southern end of New Delhi with hundreds of thousands of houses built to ease the housing crunch in India's capital. Few people have moved into the township because civic amenities are not yet in place.

Six others were injured in the accident, which left the front half of the plane embedded in the water tank and its truncated tail end lying in a heap of blackened, twisted

metal on the ground. The 50-meter (150 feet) stretch over which the plane slithered at a massive speed after hitting the ground was lit-tered with broken shards of metal and debris of the poor labourers' huts.

The air force launched an inquiry into the accident and civil and military officials were unwilling to make immediate comment on the likely cause. Retired Air Marshall Denzil Keeler told Star Television the airport was suddenly enveloped in thick fog that reduced visibility to nearly zero, and the aircraft apparently undershot the runway.

Int'l Women's Day

government initiatives for rapid expansion of women's education in the country.

She said direct election to women's reserved seats in Union Parishads is a milestone in women's empowerment, which can be accelerated by expanding education and providing them with loan and training for income-generating ac-

ing upon all to "enter the new millennium with the prospect of gender equality in sight for women everywhere". Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar will air spe-

cial programmes and national

Annan also gave a message call-

UN Secretary General Kofi

dailies will bring out supplements on the occasion. IWDOC will hold programmes in the city and at Dinajpur, Khulna, Noakhali, Sariakandi, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Netrakona and Narayanganj, a press release

The Ministry for Women and Children Affairs will hold a discussion meeting at the Shishu Academy in the city today. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury will attend the programme as chief guest while

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Prof. Zinnatunnessa Talukder will pre-

Nari Moitree, CDS, NUS, Ma O Shishu Hitoishi Sangha, Ideal Girls' School, Dhaka City Corporation Zone 4, Raka Garment, Ratul Garment and Shital Garment will bring out a procession from in front of the T & T office, Bishwa Road at 8 a.m. They will also organise a cultural programme.

British Coulcil will organise a photo exhibition at the WVA auditorium at 11 a.m. to be followed by a discussion meeting. United Nations Association of Bangladesh(UNAB) will ar-

range a symposium at a local

hotel in the afternoon. UNDP

Resident Representative and Resident Coordinator of UN System David E Lockwood will attend the programme as chief An open discussion on the Beijing Platform of Action will

ADAB will hold a discussion meeting at its office, to be participated by NGO representatives including Gano Sahajjo Sangstha, FIVDB, BRAC, UCEP and Nijera Shikhi, said a press

be held at the Central Shaheed

8 killed, 100 hurt

sation later drifted away from the communist party mooring. becoming an independent cultural group that stood for secular ideas, strongly promoting progressive culture with a powerful message against reactionary ideas.

Udichi central leaders including Hasan Imam, who is also the chief of a faction of the Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee that spearheaded anti-fundamentalist campaign, and Tagore song maestro Kalim Sharafi escaped the explosions as they had left the venue about three hours before.

Home Minister Rafigul Islam flew to Jessore. Prominent cultural activists Asaduzzaman Nur. Ramendu Majumder and Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu and Hasan Imam also flew to the town to assess the situation.

accused the 'fundamentalists' of the explosion at Town Hall Maidan. "This group of fundamentalists, opposed to the spirit of liberation war, are linked with an international terrorist gang,"

he told a press conference in

UNB adds: Syed Hasan Imam

have taken inroad to silence the pro-liberation forces," he said. Udichi central leaders Asaduzzaman Noor, Ramendu Majumdar, Nasiruddin Yusuf and Mamunur Rashid were pre-

Earlier Udichi leaders met with the Home Minister Rafigul Islam at the Circuit House. They complained that the police failed to deploy security men at the conference despite assurance by the police chief, and demanded action against the police super of Jessore, AMB Bazlur Rahman. They brought out a proces-

compensation for the bomb victims. They also announced a 7-day mourning programme and half-day hartal in Jessore town on Thursday. Jessore and adjacent districts are infested with divided groups of outlawed Purba

sion and demanded adequate

Banglar Communist and Sharbahara parties. Factional fighting is a regular phenomenon in the region leading to killing. Five JSD men, including its prominent leader Kazi Aref, were gunned down in a public

meeting in a remote village of

Jessore last night. Kushtia district last month. Govt to take over Kafco, if needed, says Tofail

From Page 1 the minister in the wake of the company's financial crisis and pressures from the foreign shareholders' lobby to accept the plant. Held at the conference room of the ministry, it lasted nearly two hours from

The government side in-

cluded the industries secretary

and Kafco chairman Ejazul

Huq, the energy secretary and

former Kafco chairman Taw-

11:30am

fiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, agriculture secretary and former Kafco chairman Dr AMM Shawkat Ali, and the BCIC Chairman and a member of the Katoo Board Anwarul Hoque. The minister pointed out that there were major conflicts of interests among the foreign shareholders. For example, he said, Marubeni was part of the general contractor (along with Chiyoda which built the Kafco

a shareholder (through Kafco Japan). The Kafco plant had been built with defective machinery, and had shut down 37 times (since December 1994), he said, and added that the company had lost US\$120 million in losses for various reasons because of the way the plant had been built.

and its general contractor,

which obliges Chiyoda to rectify

the plant before plant ac-

ceptance is given and provides a

framework for settlement of

plant), a lender, an offtaker

(exclusive sales agent), and also

disputes between the parties. But now, the minister regretted, the general contractor wanted a commercial settle-

Except for Dutch company Stamicarbon (with just 1.6 per cent of Kafco's shares), all the foreign shareholders were represented. Kafco Japan (a consortium of Marubeni, Chiyoda and OECF) - with 31.3 per cent equity -- was represented by its three directors on the Kafce

Board.

Haldor Topsoe of Denmark with 14.9 per cent stake -- was represented by its two directors on the Kafco Board. Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) -- 4.4 per cent -- was represented by its Country Manager in Dhaka, Shabbir Hashmi, who is its representative on the Kafco Board, and by Regional Director Stephen Industrialisation Fund for

Underdeveloped Countries (IFU)

-- with 4.4 per cent -- a Danish

Foreign Ministry arm, sent a

mid-level official from Copenhagen, Henrik Scheinemann. The company was represented by its managing director, John Wilson. OECF sent its local Chief Representative Takeo Matsuzawa and a mid-level official from Tokyo, Masahiko Saito. Japan's Export Import Bank (JEXIM) refused to send any representative to the meeting.

Managing Director Wilson

contended that the losses di-

rectly due to mechanical break-

downs were in the region of

US\$80 million. He also sought

to argue that the Kafco Board had decided last September to

go for a commercial settlement. The settlement, as proposed by the general contractor, calls for plant acceptance with all its faults which have forced the Chittagong-based factory to shut down so many times since it went into production more than four years ago. The settlement will also give immunity to the contractors from Kafco's compensation demands in return for only US\$ 16 million, a

figure well below the US\$ 25

million performance bond.

A director for Danish share-

holder Haldor Topsoe, said that

press statements made so far had not been congenial or favourable for new foreign investment. "Someone has to speak the truth. I am the people's representative, and am answerable to the Prime Minister, Parliament and the people. I prefer to speak the truth, even if the truth is not liked. You are all here because things have not been going well. If everything

cessions indicates that something is very wrong," Tofail Ahmed was quoted to have told the Bangladeshi representative of Haldor Topsoe A/S. Tofail Ahmed said that as IFC (International Finance Corporation) had been appointed adviser to Kafco for its financial restructuring, with a mandate to consider all aspects

of the long-term viability of

Kafco, including a review of all

Kafco's agreements and a full

had gone well, you would not be

making any concessions. The

fact that you are making con-

technical audit of the Kafco plant, "let all parties wait for IFC's report", due by the end of March. This would be followed by the technical audit, expected to be completed by the end of May, he said.

Then, Energy Secretary Taw-

fig-e-Elahi Chowdhury told the

meeting, in the first week of

June, a government committee

headed by the finance minister

would sit to consider all aspects of Kafco, and decisions would be finalised. Tofail Ahmed emphasised that Kafco's exclusive offtake agreements (for ammonia with Marubeni and urea with Transammonia), a technical services agreement with Haldor Topsoe, and the formula for Kafco's gas price must be considered by IFC, and a full tech-

nical audit of the plant must be

made to assess the long term sustainability of the plant. "There must be positive recommendations made about the technical condition of the plant and Kafco's finances, so as to enable Kafco to run on its own footing. It was necessary that there should be positive recommendations, not a statement that Kafco would never be viable," Tofail Ahmed was quoted as saying.

In the meantime, he would

invite Japan's Eximbank rep-

resentatives to come to Dhaka

to meet him. ERD would be writ-

ing to the bank and all the

lenders to Kafco, in line with

IFC's existing recommendation,

to tell them that the status quo

should be maintained, and that

the lenders should wait for

IFC's recommendations to come

out and be considered. The Japanese present protested the minister saying that this was not right, and that Eximbank would never agree to

this, the sources said.

Eximbank.

Eximbank, a Japanese government agency which leads a syndicate of Japanese banks with US\$ 150 million in outstanding loans to Kafco, has been writing to the ministry of finance to demand that the Bangladesh government make good on its guarantee on the Eximbank loan. Kafco has failed to pay principal amounts which were due to its various lenders on February 1, including over US\$ 9 million due to

The company has also defaulted its payments against gas bills, amounting to US\$ 13 million in principal amount till February 27, due to state-owned Bakhrabad Gas Systems Ltd but paid through Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC).

"Officially", says an industries ministry official, "Kafco's failure to pay the gas bills makes BCIC the defaulter". The minister told vester-

day's meeting that the govern-ment was well able to pay the \$9 million or so due to Eximbank. "But Japan is a good friend. The Japanese has commercial interests in many projects, and has greatly helped Bangladesh's economic development - for example, over the Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge. In this context, \$9 million was a small amount," he was quoted as

The Japanese made no further protest during the meeting.

Ahmed's position. It is not right that Eximbank should make threats on their government guarantee, he said. The CDC representative said other shareholders had a firm belief in IFC, and everyone

The CDC representative

strongly supported Tofail

be a full technical audit of the plant, he added. Dr AMM Shawkat Ali, the agriculture secretary and a former Kafco chairman, reacted sharply to comments from Poul Erik Lorentzen, a director for Haldor Topsoe on the Kafco

should wait for its report. It is

also very necessary that there

Board who criticised the MOA. Dr Ali reminded Lorentzen that he had been chairman of KAFCO and that the Kafco Board had unanimously approved the MOA. Now, the former industries secretary said, it was not right for Lorentzen or any other Kafco Board member to criticise it.

The energy secretary said he was worried about the cash situation in the energy sector, to which Kafco owed principal amounts of \$13 million on unpaid gas bills. He emphasised that the gas price formula in Kafco's gas supply agreements must be changed

However, he and the industries minister said that for the present gas supply would be continued to Kafco and would not be reduced, but that deferred gas bills should be paid as part of financial restructuring.