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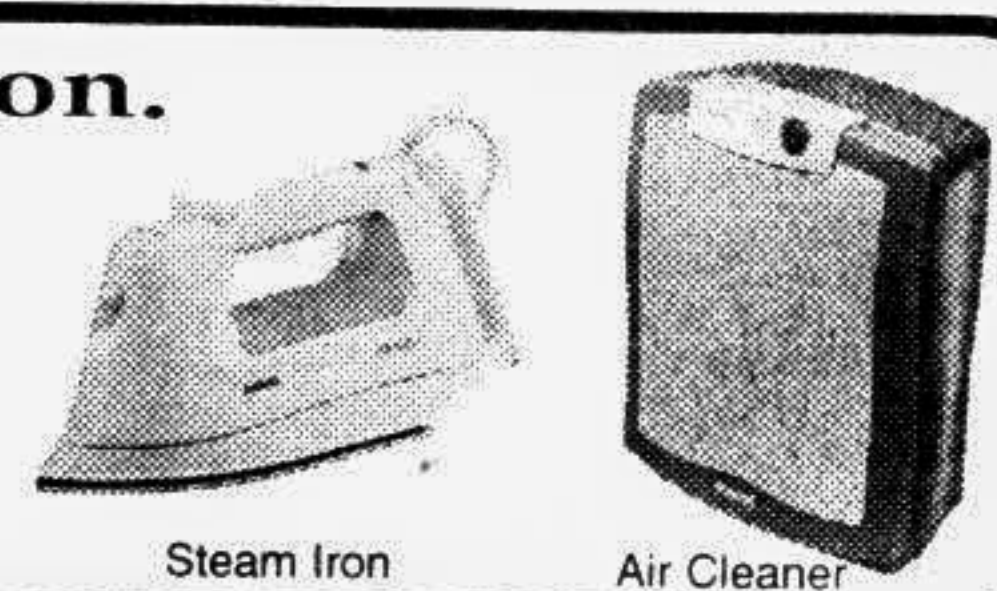
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10 killed as truck falls into roadside ditch in Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Apr 4: Ten people were killed and at least 23 injured when a truck fell into a roadside ditch near Digarkanda on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway early hours of today.

Police said the accident occurred at about 2:30 am when the driver of the Sherpur-bound salt-laden truck lost control over the steering. Eight died on the spot and two others succumbed to injuries at the MMCH.

Seven of the dead were identified as Amjad Ali, 30, and Mamuruddin, 25, of Baniapara in Dewanganj, Ashraf Hossain, 35, Beauty, 12, and Munsur Ali, 60, of Rajibpur, Kurigram and Barkat, 25, of Sherpur and Abdus Samad, 40.

Twenty-three others were undergoing treatment at MMCH.

Police said the truck was carrying 40 people. Most of them were day-labourers. Police seized the truck. The driver, however, managed to escape.

A case was filed with Kotwali thana in this regard.

UNB adds: A teenage boy was killed and 50 others were injured, 18 seriously, when an overloaded bus overturned on

Kishoreganj-Pargao road at Gadail in sadar thana today. Police and witnesses said the accident took place at about 7:30 am when the bus crashed into stone chips piled up for construction of the road.

The bus of PN Paribahan overturned with at least 140 passengers, leaving Hasen Ali, 18, son of Khorshed Ali of village Chiknir Char in Sadar thana, dead on the spot.

Eighteen of the injured, including three women, were rushed to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital where attending doctors stated their condition to be critical.

APB adds: A young motorcycle rider was killed when a truck hit his vehicle near Major Tila on the Sylhet-Tamabil road today.

Police said the Sylhet-bound truck hit the motorcycle coming from opposite direction near Major Tila Devpur Primary School, 3 km off Sylhet town. The accident occurred at 6:30 pm.

Shamsu Miah, 20, of Khadim Bahubol village, died on the spot.

Angry villagers protesting the accident put up barricade on the Sylhet-Tamabil road disrupting traffic for a few hours.

Milosevic must pay for crime against humanity: NATO

BRUSSELS, Apr 4: NATO on Sunday accused Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic for the first time of crimes against humanity, and vowed that he would not be made to pay, reports AFP.

"Milosevic and his regime will pay a high price for their crimes against humanity," NATO military spokesman British air commodore David Wilby said here.

The comment came against a growing feeling among NATO diplomats that the alliance would not be able to negotiate with Milosevic any peace deal involving Kosovo.

Milosevic "must be tried for war crimes" for his troops' actions in Kosovo, former US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said in an article published in Washington today.

We must do whatever is necessary to vindicate the authority of the international community and to stop the genocide in the province, Christopher wrote in the Washington Post.

NATO today pledged to step up its missile strikes on Yugoslavia as part of an intensified drive to cripple Belgrade's

military and end what Albania called a "biblical deluge" of fleeing refugees from Kosovo.

In London, British armed forces minister Doug Henderson said NATO was intensifying its air strikes to bring the full force of the alliance to bear on president Milosevic.

"I want to make it clear that President Milosevic must now expect the campaign to intensify and bad weather will not save him," Henderson said. "The full weight of NATO is coming to bear."

Henderson told reporters Yugoslav forces were already running low on fuel and ammunition.

In Brussels, NATO spokesman Jamie Shea told CNN this morning that a quarter of a million Kosovo Albanians were trapped in the southern Serbian province, "living in the woods and on mountains."

Aid workers and police in neighbouring Macedonia, where tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians survived another cold night in a sea of mud, said about a dozen refugees had died overnight.

BNP walks out of JS

From page 1
opposition members that he found it proper to reply to Kabir Hossain and advised them to speak later. The BNP lawmakers however continued shouting and staged a noisy walkout at 7:16 pm, while Nasim was still speaking.

Describing the Rajshahi incident, Nasim told the House that both Awami League and BNP had called public meetings at Durgapur and that the local administration imposed Section 144 to avoid a clash.

But defying the ban, he said, BNP organised its meeting and chase and counter-chase took place. The minister said police went into action to tackle the situation and Kabir Hossain was injured during the trouble.

Following the incident, a case was filed and the accused were arrested, he said, regretting the attack on the opposition MP. "The culprits will definitely be taken to task, no matter which party they belong to," the home minister said.

Then the minister said the attack on the public meeting was linked to the brutal killing of a freedom fighter in presence of the local MP of BNP at Kharampur village of Durgapur thana on October 1 last year.

It is equal in the eyes of law... the MP will not be spared if he is found guilty," he said and added that all those responsible for the killing of the freedom fighter would be punished.

The home minister also referred to the recent killings of three AL leaders at Atrai in Natore and criticised the BNP for trying to protect the accused in two cases filed in connection with the murders.

"BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan did not condemn the killings but issued a press statement for the accused when they were arrested. Rule of law can't be established if there are attempts to protect

the accused (of this nature)," Nasim said.

Before concluding, the minister requested the BNP MPs to return to the House but they did not come back immediately.

Outside the House, the BNP leaders told reporters that they had walked out as the Chair did not allow them to speak.

The BNP lawmakers returned to the House at 8:10 pm. Jamaat-e-Islami MP Delwar Hossain Saidee did not join the walkout despite request from BNP. But 13 minutes later, he followed suit, telling the Chair that he was walking out protesting the Chair's refusal to allow the BNP members to speak.

Another Jamaat lawmaker, Kazi Shamsur Rahman, however stayed back.

'Make accord on bus service public'

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Apr 4: Jessore transport owners and workers will resist Dhaka-Calcutta bus service unless the agreement in this regard is made public.

It was decided at a joint meeting of Jessore Paribahan Sangstha and transport workers' unions at Benapole today.

They also demanded discussion on the agreement in the Jatiya Sangsad and annulment of any of its clause if it is found detrimental to national interest.

Presided over by Haider Ali, President of the Jhikarajha Sarak Paribahan Samik Union, the meeting was attended by leaders of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Federation, Khulna Divisional Truck Samik Union, Magura Motor Samik Union, Faridpur Motor Workers Association, Jessore Motor Workers Association, Satkhira-Kaliganj Sarak Paribahan Samity and Kushtia Truck-Lorry Samity.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a dinner she hosted yesterday in honour of the ambassadors and representatives of donor countries and agencies at Ganobhaban. — PID photo

Tri-nation water confce adopts 5-pt recommendation

KATHMANDU, Apr 4: The two-day tri-nation conference on harnessing the eastern Himalayan rivers ended here this afternoon with a call for the peoples and politicians to "look beyond the past and join hands with trust and vision" for taking pragmatic initiatives and decisions, reports BSS.

The regional conference, a major initiative taken by three reputed non-governmental organisations of Bangladesh, India and Nepal, concluded with the participants adopting the "Kathmandu declaration."

The "Kathmandu declaration" in its five-point recommendations strongly suggested to the governments of India, Bangladesh and Nepal to promote and strengthen the relations of friendship and good neighbourliness in the Ganges-Brahmaputra and Meghna region.

It also recognised the need for creating congenial climate at political and official levels within the South Asian region.

The conference was the second phase and final initiative to promote meaningful cooperation, particularly in the water sector, by the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), Centre of Policy Research (CPR), New

Delhi, and Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), Kathmandu.

It strongly recommended establishing "a suitable institutional framework," either under the auspices of SAARC or some other forum, to further the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna regional cooperation for sustainable integrated development.

The Kathmandu "declaration," which was endorsed by more than a hundred participants — politicians, academicians, journalists and experts — of the three countries, recommended that institutional and management aspects be given due importance and the primacy and centrality of the people recognised, whose ultimate

Businessman

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He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctor declared him dead.

Relatives of the victim said Sarwar returned from Korea last December. He was killed as he refused to pay toll to the gang, they suspect.

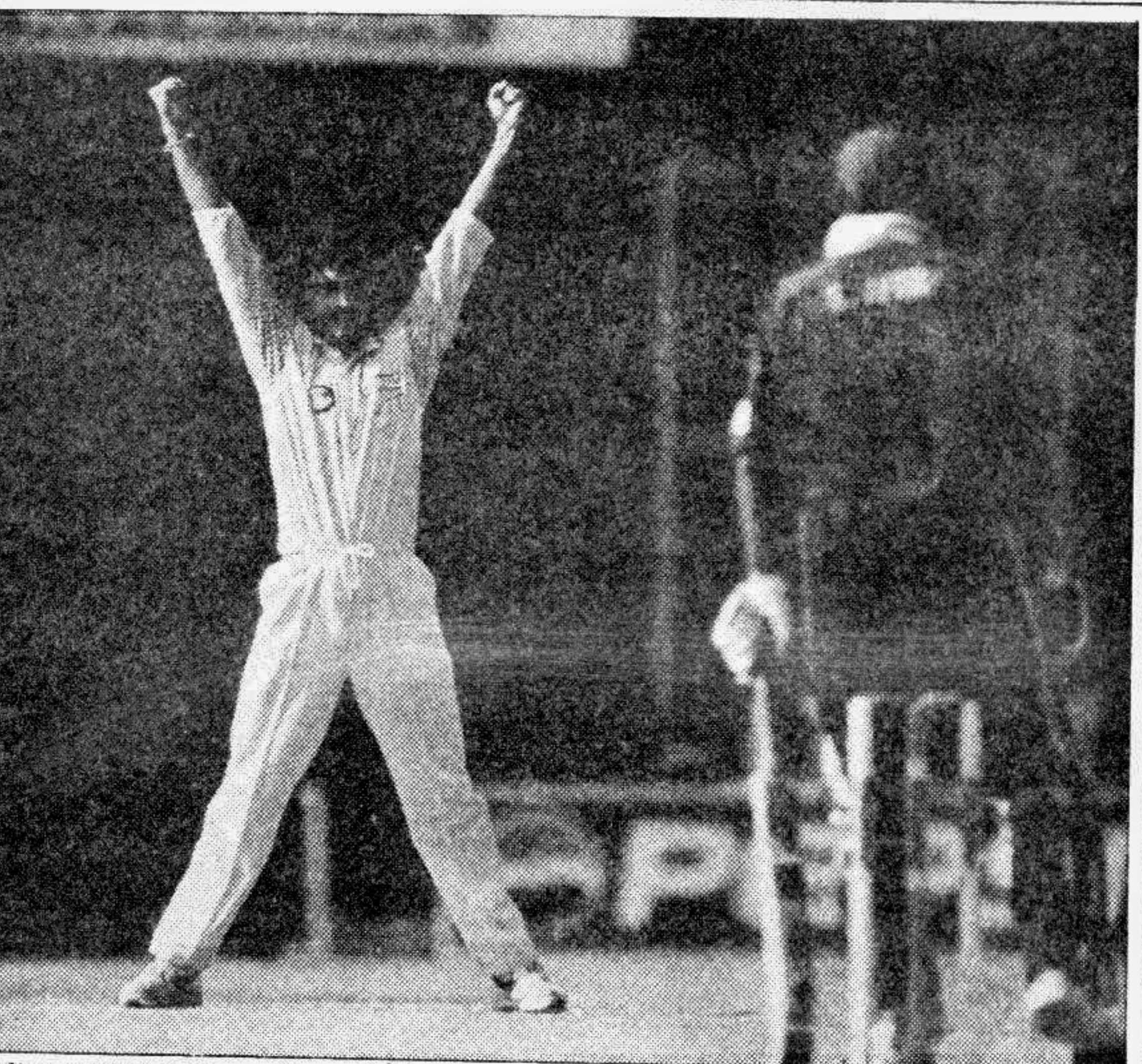
The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

objective must remain poverty alleviation and improvement in the quality of life.

The conference suggested giving due priority to the enhancement of knowledge related to the multifarious dimensions of water and its utilisation. It also suggested widening and deepening the process of consultations and participation by all concerned, emphasising the values of transparency, stakeholder participation and gender equity.

On the concluding day today, prominent political leaders, both from governments and opposition parties, scholars and senior journalists of the three countries took part in the deliberations, stressing the need for breaking the ice of historical mistrust to initiate a new beginning of friendship and cooperation.

While endorsing that the river resources of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna region can very well be harnessed for the welfare of the three peoples, who share almost the same history, same socio-economic problems, the participants wanted more such interactions among the regional countries to create a more conducive atmosphere for cross-border cooperation.



Indian cricketer Sourav Ganguly (L) reacts to getting Pakistani batsman Shahid Afridi out in the finals of the triangular series between India and Pakistan yesterday at Chinnaswamy Cricket Stadium in Bangalore. Sourav Ganguly was the joint highest wicket taker for India, along with Venkatesh Prasad. — AFP photo

BNP's reply to Television

From page 1

aimed at tarnishing its image. Besides, the party sought guarantee that "people's lost confidence in BTV" would be restored through Khaleda's participation in the programme and the regained confidence would not be used to harm the image of opposition leaders and the panel of questioners and the audience must appear neutral in the eyes of BNP men and the people, there would be no distortion of voice and visual picture and BTV would never be used as a tool for destroying the image and dignity of the Opposition.

BNP's nine-point allegations are: 1) BTV as state-run media has shifted from its expected role and started narrating the glory of the ruling party and its leaders blindly since the present government came to power. It has become a weapon for tarnishing the image of leaders of BNP and its front organisations by resorting to falsehood. As a result, a deep anguish is prevailing among the people.

2) For the same reason, BTV has become a weapon for mental torture of people by destroy-

ing their confidence in it and its acceptability to them, achieved over a long time. It is now a media for distorted and partial information.

3) This 'no-confidence situation' and playing of naked role by BTV were never seen in the past. As a government-controlled medium, it had given priority to the ruling party in the past but it was never used as a weapon for assassinating characters of opposition leaders.

4) Awami league Ministers and leaders are frequently making propaganda and preaching falsehood against BNP through the BTV but there is no scope for BNP to refute those.

5) Similarly, the business of Jatiya Sangsad is also being telecast partially. Though the government and the opposition signed an accord to maintain neutrality and authenticity in telecasting JS affairs, it was not honoured.

6) Even the President was not spared of BTV's distortion and partial telecast. The Bangabhaban also refrained from taking BTV coverage in protest against partial and distorted publicity.

7) During its rule, BNP didn't

consider party identity in matters of TV programmes. But the present government has stopped a good number of popular TV programmes. Even steps have been taken against many people who produced programmes and worked in the BTV during BNP rule. Despite their incompetence, blind supporters of the ruling party have been given important posts in BTV.

8) The programme, *Desh-bashir Mukhomukhi*, is not a new one as similar programme was telecast also during the BNP rule. But the incumbent Prime Minister is now replying to various questions most of which are being considered flattery. As a result, the real situation in the country is being concealed. BNP stresses giving scope to opposition leaders, journalists and intellectuals to question the ministers.

9) The BTV in the name of TV reporting and "question to the conscience of the nation" etc. continues false propaganda against BNP leaders and those of other opposition parties. It is also accusing BNP by showing those killed or injured during hartals in attacks by ruling party terrorists.

Depressions over Bay forecast

A couple of depressions may develop in the Bay during this month while there would also be storms blowing across the country from the northwestern plains, reports UNB.

Met office in a long-term forecast yesterday said 3-4 moderate or severe nor-westerly might sweep the country's northwestern, northeastern and middle parts in April while 1-2 light or moderate storms elsewhere over the country.

It predicted less-than-normal rainfall over the country in the current month.

About the prevailing dry spell, a senior meteorologist told APB that the hot and humid weather was likely to be over after 2-3 days when the southerly current carrying moisture from the Bay, would become active.

"There were less rain in the last two days as the southerly current, which brings rain, was weak," he said adding that the intensity of the prevailing hot spell would be lessened after the strong southerly current brings in rain.

The rain is likely to bring down the temperature to 36/34 degree Celsius, he pointed out.

25 shops gutted in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, Apr 4: At least 25 shops and property worth about Tk 50 lakh were gutted in a fire at Dokanghar market here in the early hours today, reports APB.

Fire service personnel fought for two and a half hours to bring the blaze under control.

Sources said that the fire was originated from an electrical short circuit and engulfed the shops at about 1:30 am.

At least 10 people were injured while putting out the fire.

PM at odds

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then checked the timing with the officials sitting in front of him.

"The Magreb prayer is due at 6:24 pm and the clock now reads 6:24 pm," Abdul Hamid said before adjourning the House.

A furious Sheikh Hasina challenged the Chair on the Magreb timing and claimed that it was at 6:35 pm.

Muttering while leaving the House with her party lawmakers, she repeated the claim.

It was Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed who contradicted the PM. "I think the Magreb prayer call comes between 6:20 pm and 6:25 pm."

And before the PM could make her way out of the House, the azaan for Magreb began.

Killers of Shafi

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gated," one source said. It is learnt that around 26 DB personnel ranging from constable to inspector were interrogated by CID investigators.

UNB adds: Meanwhile, children of the victim raised several allegations against the policemen of Detective Branch and filed a general diary with Ramna thana yesterday.

Babu, one of the sons of Shafi filed the diary stating that Sub-inspector Arzoo and Inspector Zia used to keep contact with his father.

They used the allegations when CID investigator ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman went to their Lalmatia residence and recorded the statements of Shafi's wife, Halima Khatun, and his children.

Halima spurned allegations that she had illicit affair with Kabir, driver of Shafi's car, which led to the homicide.

"DB police tried to malign me," the widow was quoted to have told the investigators.

Barricade

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accept their 6-point demand immediately. They also threatened to launch greater movement. Their demands include job for the local people, development of local educational institutions and roads.

Occidental has started preparatory works to develop a new gasfield in Kapna area, some 20 kilometres off the Sylhet town.

Kapna is about one km from Sylhet-Tamabil Road and close to Haripur Gasfield. Haripur field is under the Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, a concern of the state-owned Petrobranga.

An official close to Occidental said it will take at least 2 or 3 months to complete the preparatory works.

Australia allout for 303

Sports Reporter

Curtly Ambrose took four wickets as Australia were all out for 303 just before lunch on Day 2 of the crucial fourth Test at St John's Antigua yesterday.

The veteran fast bowler playing on his home ground, finished with five for 94.

Austrian skipper Steve Waugh was left undefeated on 72.

The tourists, resuming on 221-5, made little headway until an enterprising half-century stand for the ninth wicket between Waugh and Collin Miller gave respectability to the total.

Power crisis can't be solved overnight Daily loadshedding stands at 200 to 300 mw: JS told

As the opposition lawmakers in Parliament yesterday charged the government with failure to solve the power crisis, the government frankly admitted that it cannot be solved overnight, reports UNB.

"This is a problem that can't be solved instantly or by overnight.... it may take two to three years more," said State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Prof Rafiqul Islam while replying to a volley of questions on electricity.

Responding to Sarwar Jamal Nizam (BNP-Chittagong), he said the present government inherited the problem of power deficit as the previous regime could not set up any new power plant, nor did they overhaul any of the old ones.

Besides, the minister added, the demand for power has increased by 15 per cent annually from 10 per cent following increasing economic activities in the country.

Rafiq said the present government has been able to produce and supply electricity by maintaining the old power plants with proper load management.

He said the quantum of daily loadshedding varies from 200 to 300 mw.

Replying to Dabirul Islam (AL-Thakurgaon), the State Minister admitted that power production has come down because of low level of water at Kaptai and Ghorashal power plants.

He told the House that Raazan power plant, set up during BNP's rule, is defective. Despite 467 complaints, the plant was set up without any transmission line.

Diplomats

From page 1

floor of parliament should be the platform for debates and discussions between the government and the unhappy opposition.

It was also brought to the notice of the attending diplomats that the government's good intentions had never been reciprocated by the opposition parties who had gone to the extent of not attending the "non-political" state functions like the D-8 summit.

Sources said that the representatives of the countries and agencies, now called development partners, were also told that the government was putting in its best efforts to deal with law and order.

When attention was drawn to a press report that donors would be willing to discuss law and order in Paris meeting this year.

One minister present at last night's dinner dismissed press reports that the Paris meeting this year would discuss law and order among other things. "It's absolutely wrong. They are going to talk economy in Paris, not crime."

The Western diplomats congratulated the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her getting prestigious UNESCO peace award.

He said the meeting was appreciated of the immediate, short and long-term plans to develop the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Abdullah said the initiative of the Prime Minister, without mediation of a third party, brought about solution of the problem and restored peace in the region. The refugees have returned home, surrendered their arms and are now living normal life.

He said the meeting was appreciated of the immediate, short and long-term plans to develop the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Share scam: Charges

From page 1
more a seller than a buyer. His major buyers are a select few. There are indications of some selling and buying with prior understanding apparently to influence the market price."

He said that the charges made in the report were not based on facts but on assumptions and that charges should not be framed based on those assumptions.

The court after hearing arguments from both the sides framed charges against the accused.

"As DSE chairman and a leading dealer you were the leader in selling shares. You have transacted 58,83,876 shares worth Tk 143.78 crore through Delivery Versus Payment (DVP). But as per bank statements you DVP amounting to Tk 21,46 crore remained unsettled," Judge Mollah Mustafa Kamal said, reading out the charges.

"Besides, DSE records reveal that you have shown transaction of 29,26,785 shares of Beximco Pharmaceuticals whereas 30,15,510 shares of the company were traded through foreign DVP. In case of Olympic Industries, the total sale as per DSE records is 18,246 whereas bank statement shows sale of 29,257 shares.

"On account of Monno Fabrics, total sales as per DSE records are 7,82,500 though foreign DVP records show sale of 8,60,000. On account of Gg Ball Pen, the total sale as per DSE records is 5000 while foreign DVP record shows sale of 1,49,965 shares.

"Similarly in Bata Shoe shares, your total sale as per DSE record is 1,43,600 whereas foreign DVP alone shows 2,00,000.

"There is no record in the DSE of your transactions made through DVP. These unsettled DVPs are transactions through which you have deceived general people and manipulated the share market.

"During the period, you had resorted to fake transactions affecting series of transactions

On March 19, unit numbers 1 and 2 of Raazan power plant tripped, resulting in low production of power. Since the plant has auto starter like other plants, it takes five days to resume production if any unit is tripped.

Citing Gen Noor Uddin's removal from the Energy Ministry for his failure to improve the power situation, a number of BNP MPs including MK Anwar, Jainul Abedin Faruq and Abdul Wahab, asked whether the present Energy Minister and the State Minister for Energy will resign if they failed to solve the power crisis.

In reply to another question, the State Minister said that gas is likely to be supplied in Baghabari and Siraganj in May through the Bangabandhu Bridge and gradually to other northern districts.

ALPP meeting

From page 1

public life. Hasina said that the new home minister wanted three months to settle down before he would be able to deliver.

Almost all Cabinet ministers were also present but none spoke. However, a number of ruling party lawmakers took the opportunity to ventilate grievances against the police officials. They also spoke about public suffering caused by power failures.

The MPs who spoke included Kamal Majumdar, Abdus Sattar, Moslem Uddin, Fazul Haq, Abdur Rouf, Saidul Haq, Altaf Hossain Gollandaz and Shamim Osman.

Hasina, who is also the energy minister, once again said that her government had inherited the problems in power sector but was trying hard to increase the generation capacity.

The ALPP meeting resolved that the forthcoming elections to upazilas and city corporations should