

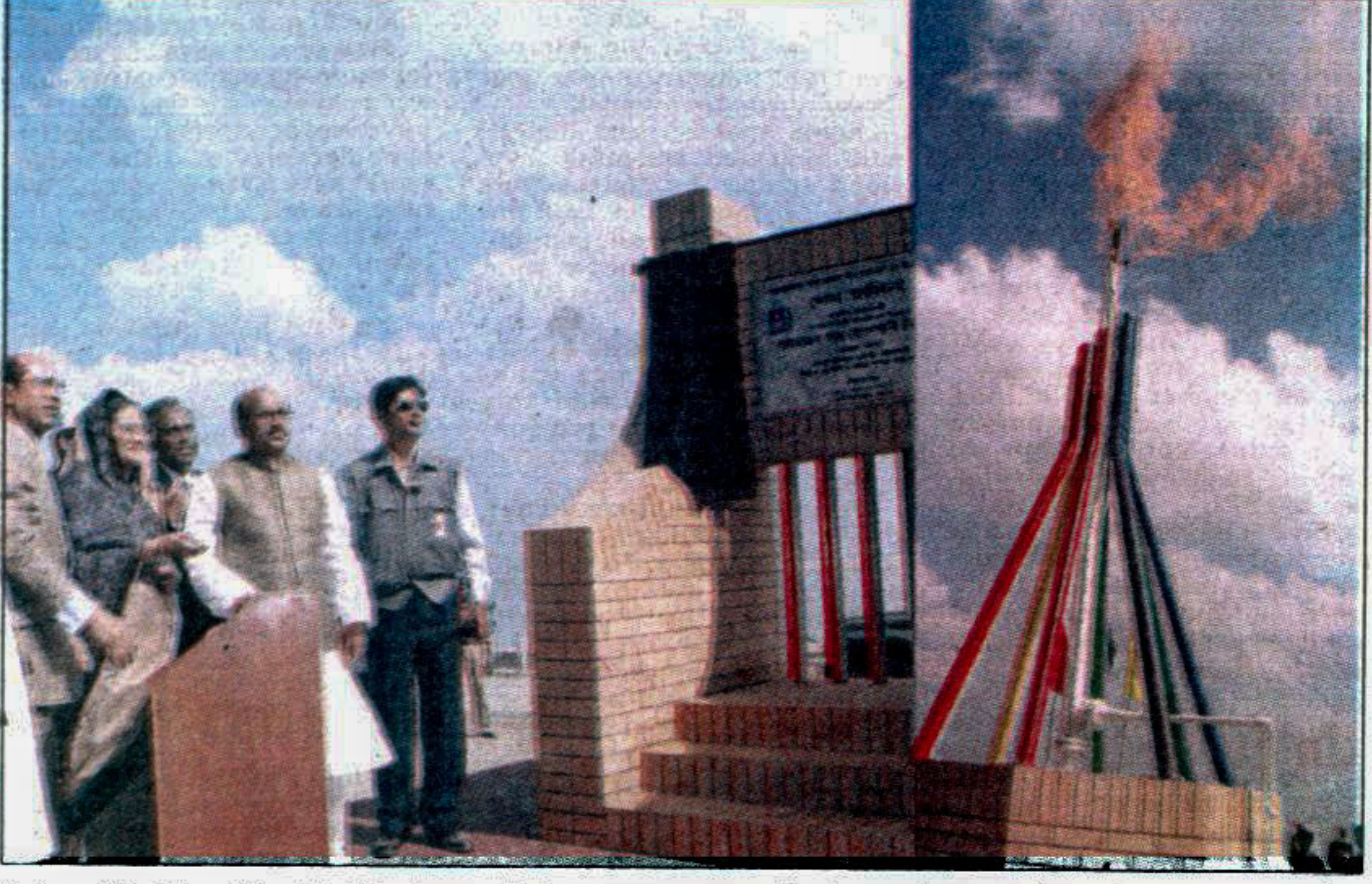
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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina switches on gas supply to western region at a ceremony in Sirajganj yesterday. — PID photo

'Gas supply to western region will ensure balanced growth'

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 30: Opening a new chapter in the country's economic arena, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ceremoniously switched on gas supply to the western region here today, reports UNB.

"Today, a new horizon has been opened up in the development of the country... I am happy that we have been able to supply gas to the western region by installing transmission line through the Bangabandhu Bridge on time," Hasina said at the inaugural ceremony.

The prime minister said with the supply of gas to the western region, a favourable climate has been ensured to bring about a balanced economic development and growth across the country.

"From now on, natural gas would be available for domestic use as well as for electricity, fertiliser and other industrial purposes in the gas starved northern and western districts," she said.

Hasina also laid the foundation stone of Sirajganj industrial park on the western side of the Bangabandhu Bridge this morning.

Local and foreign entrepreneurs are showing keen interest in setting up industrial units in this region, she said. The government has been encouraging foreign and local entrepreneurs to invest in the northwestern region, she said and hoped that there would be a radical change in the development of the region, unfolding a new era of industrialisation.

Gas connection Contractors demand high charge

By Monjur Mahmud, back from Sirajganj

Even the night before, they had their meals cooked with firewood, huffing and puffing in the eye-irritating smokes.

Yesterday, it was altogether a different case however. These nine families witnessed a radical change in their cooking habit as natural gas got into their kitchen with the inauguration of the gas supply.

There were the nine lucky families in Sirajganj district who have been given gas connection for domestic use till yesterday.

But things are not going to be that easy for them.

Officially, a subscriber has to pay as fee Tk 2,700 for getting gas connection. But the 110 contractors authorised by Petrobangla are asking as high

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Saudi deputy FM arrives today

By Staff Correspondent

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Ismail Shoura will arrive in Dhaka today on a four-day official visit to Bangladesh.

He will be accompanied by two top officials of the Saudi Foreign Ministry.

Shoura will lead his government delegation at the official talks with Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Shafi Sami.

Both sides will review the progress of various bilateral development projects and are expected to discuss fresh development projects. Sources in the foreign ministry said the entire gamut of bilateral relations, regional and international affairs will come up for discussion in the consultative meeting between the two countries.

PM's call to opposition Sit for talks to resolve all disputes

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 30: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today urged the opposition not to tread the path of anarchy in the name of movement and hartal, rather sit for talks to resolve all disputes, reports UNB.

"Don't create anarchy in the name of hartal, don't create sufferings for public imposing hartals and unleashing terrorism," she said of the Opposition leader requesting her to join parliament and also sit across the table.

The prime minister made the request at a huge public meeting here at a time when Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia sat with chief of her opposition allies in Dhaka to plan a decisive movement against the government.

Hasina said the opposition parties want to topple the government through movement because her administration is devotedly working only for the welfare of the people.

She said during their rule, BNP and Jatiya Party had plundered public money. Now they have become desperate and issuing threats that they will remove this government since they are not getting the opportunity anymore.

She blasted the Opposition leader for calling hartals during school examinations, saying examinations have no importance to her (Khaleda Zia). Removal of government is more important to her than the examinations.

The opposition leader wants to keep the people uneducated, illiterate. She is conducting movement and trying to let loose anarchy in the name of hartal to serve the purpose.

Terrorist 'BDR' Altaf arrested in Fatikchhari

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 30: The main accused in the sensational Tipu murder case Md Altaf Hossain alias BDR Altaf was arrested in Fatikchhari this morning.

Fatikchhari thana police arrested BDR Altaf from Suabill area under the thana in a raid at around 4 am.

Terrorist Altaf is also accused in six other criminal cases.

Rashedul Anwar alias Tipu, former general secretary of Fatikchhari thana unit of BCL and leader of Tipu group, was killed on September 15 this year in an internal clash with rival Taiyeb group.

Overseas missions JS body sees lack of coordination among officials

By Special Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad Standing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took note of the lack of coordination among officials of different cadre services posted in Bangladesh missions abroad, which, in turn, was hampering the country's diplomatic activities.

Presided over by the Chairman of the Committee, Dr Mohammad Selim, the meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday reviewed the overall activities of the overseas missions, with particular emphasis on those located in the Far Eastern countries.

The participants at the meeting felt that lack of proper working coordination among officials of missions, belonging to different cadre services like foreign, finance, commerce and home, as well as those on contractual appointment, was impeding the smooth functioning of the country's missions abroad.

They felt that steps should be taken to address the matter of coordination immediately to create cohesiveness in the services of missions abroad. A fresh, specific meeting for identifying the reasons for the lack of coordination and finding out ways and means to solve the problem was recommended.

The JS Standing Committee

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LDCs adopt 22-pt declaration Common stand to face challenges in global trading system

The trade ministers of the 48 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have adopted a 22-point declaration at a meeting at the Washington State convention and Trade Centre today, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed presided over the meeting of the LDCs trade ministers and delegates on the eve of the third WTO ministerial conference, according to a message received here yesterday.

The declaration stated the common position of the 48 LDCs to reverse their marginalization in international trade and enhance their effective participation in the Multilateral Trading System.

The declaration will be the general guideline for negotiations and dialogue on behalf of LDCs with the rest of the world in the next four days and subsequent round on further liberalisation of global trade.

The meeting which was delayed by one hour due to demonstrations by the activists of civil society, environmental groups and labour unions near the convention centre that continued for about four hours.

Director General of WTO Mike Moore, UNCTAD Secretary General Rubens Ricupero, Executive Secretary of Economic Commission of Africa KY Amoako addressed the meet-

ing.

Many LDC ministers also spoke on the urgency for a common stand to derive maximum benefit from globalization of trade.

All the speakers, including DG of WTO and UNCTAD Secretary General, highly appreciated Bangladesh for its relentless endeavour as the coordinator and spokesman of LDCs for establishing rights of about 600 million people of the group.

They also lauded campaign of Tofail Ahmed in G-77 ministers' meetings in Lebanon and Morocco recently and in other international forums to earn support to the causes of LDCs.

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Murder of alleged mugger: Two policemen sued in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 30: Case against Patrol Inspector Abdul Aziz and Naik Amir Hossain has been recorded with Khulna thana for killing Hemayet, an alleged mugger.

Hemayet's wife Mahmuda is the complainant of the case.

Hemayet was shot dead by Naik Amir Hossain, driver of a speed boat of River Traffic outpost of KMP at Altapole Lane on Thursday last.

Meanwhile, the accused in the murder case are yet to face any departmental or legal action. There are only three days left for submitting report of the enquiry committee headed by DC (South) Mazharul Huq.

শিশুস্বার্থে LEVER লিভার ব্রান্ডার্স বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড

শিশু শিশু প্রতি শিশু, খুঁজে ফের প্রতি শিশু

বাংলাদেশ এখনও পোলিও মুক্ত নয়!

- নবজাতক থেকে ৫ বছরের সকল শিশুকেই পোলিও টিকা খাওয়াতে হবে।
- দুই মাসের দুই দিনই দুই ফোঁটা করে পোলিও টিকা খাওয়াতে হবে।
- শিশুর বয়স ৫ বছরের কম হলে আগে পোলিও টিকা খেলেও টিকা দিবসে আবার পোলিও টিকা খাওয়াতে হবে।
- মনে রাখবেন পোলিও'র অতিরিক্ত ডোজ শিশুর শরীর-স্বাস্থ্যের কোন ক্ষতি করে না।
- কোন শিশু যদি শুধু এক রাউন্ডে টিকা খায় তবে তার 'ডোজ' অসম্পূর্ণ থেকে যাবে।
- ২রা ডিসেম্বর (১৮ই অগ্রহায়ণ) টিকা দেবার সময় ১ থেকে ৫ বছরের সকল শিশুকে ভিটামিন-এ ক্যাপসুলও খাওয়াতে হবে।

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৬ষ্ঠ জাতীয় টিকা দিবস

২০০০ সাল, চাই পোলিও মুক্ত বাংলাদেশ

সময় মত মাত্র দু'টি ফোঁটায় পোলিও থেকে শিশুর জীবন বাঁচায়

আর মাত্র দিন

২০০০ সাল, চাই পোলিও মুক্ত বাংলাদেশ

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