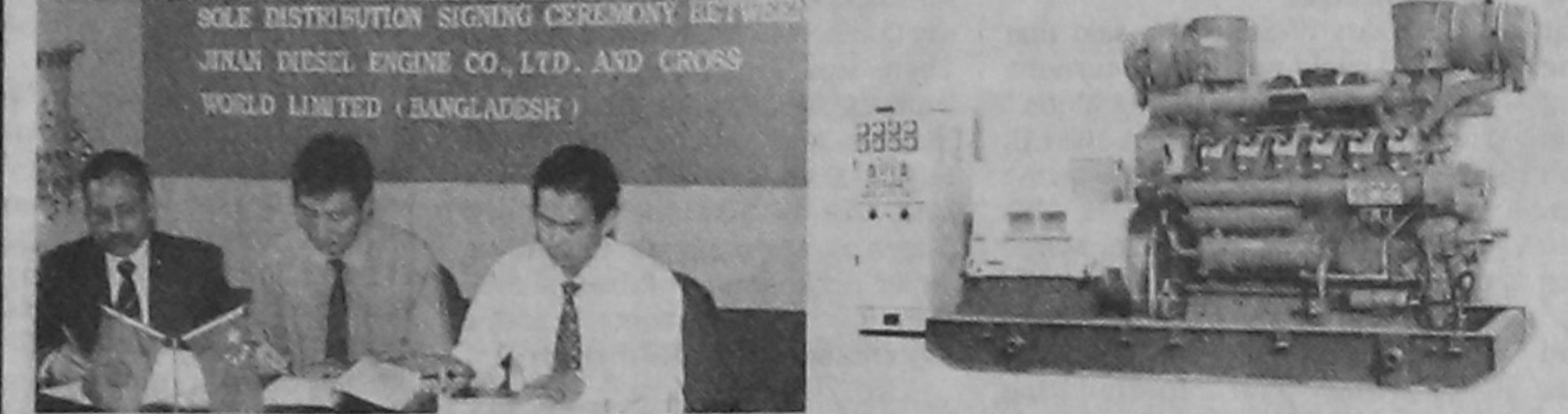




Mieko Nishimizu, World Bank's Vice-President for South Asia, called on Leader of the Opposition and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina at Sudha Sadan in the city yesterday.

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## Call to launch social movement against repression on women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged a social movement against repression on women.

A strong social movement and proper use of law as well as its execution could check repression on women, which has recently been on the rise, the speakers said giving staggering figures of repression cases.

The Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) organised the seminar titled "We will resist women repression to build a beautiful society" at the Jatiya Press Club.

Attorney General Hasan Arif attended the seminar as chief guest, and former Justice Sultan Hossain Khan, chairman of BSEHR, was in the chair.

Advocate Zia Habib Ahsan, president of the BSEHR Chittagong Sadar thana, presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

Advocate Ahsan in his paper said nearly 5,867 women were victims of police repression in the last 25 years, and the government took punitive measures in only 112 cases.

According to official statistics,

one woman is being repressed per hour in the country; ten out of the total are victims of rape. In 1999, women and child repression cases numbered 8,710.

The incidents of repression have averaged 1,400 a year in the last five years and acid attacks on women have increased six times higher.

Advocate Ahsan called for attitudinal change and social awareness against dowry and prostitution, which he termed a heinous crime against women.

Krishna Debnath, district and sessions Judge of Manikganj, said both police and the general public sometimes misused the women repression law, by lodging false cases to harass their enemies.

Advocate Sigma Huda urged the authorities to address the problem and take measures to curb it.

Advocate Golam Mahub, former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Farida Akhter, Elna Khan, Shahin Khan, former MP, and Masuda Ghauc, executive director of the BSEHR, among others, spoke at the seminar.

## RU VC pledges to restore congenial atmosphere

BSS, Rajshahi

The newly appointed Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Dr Faisalul Islam Faruqi yesterday said that he would take all steps to improve the standard of education bringing back a congenial atmosphere on the campus.

"It's impossible to run the university peacefully alone. Cooperation from all the teachers, officers, employees and students are must for smooth running of the university," he said while addressing a reception and iftar party at the central cafeteria of the university.

A group of teachers organised the function to accord reception to the newly appointed vice-chancellors of Rajshahi University and Khulna University.

Former Pro-vice-chancellor of the university, Prof Altaf Hossain

## Workers Party condemns police attack

UNB, Dhaka

The Workers Party of Bangladesh has strongly condemned the police attack and indiscriminate firing that left three people killed and many injured at Arahazar in Narayanganj.

In a joint statement yesterday, party President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimol Biswas alleged that the use of police in party's political activity, and corruption and mismanagement in police administration have called the total police administration into question.

"People will have no confidence in police as a law enforcement agency if these are not corrected immediately," they cautioned.

The Workers Party leaders also expressed grief and sorrow at the death of three villagers and demanded punitive measures against the policemen responsible for the killing.

## 40 destitute women get loan in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong

Labour and Employment Minister Abdullah Al-Noman yesterday said self-employment initiatives for the poor and the unemployed would minimise the level of poverty.

"The country's 60 per cent people live below the poverty line. Most of them are yet to achieve the strength to fulfil their basic needs like food, shelter and clothes. They spend almost 18 hours a day to meet the regular needs," the minister said while addressing a loan distribution function at a community centre.

The minister distributed Tk two lakh among 40 poor and destitute women. Each woman received Tk 5,000 each. They are also getting different skills development training, including weaving, embroidery, block, boutique and computer.

Social Welfare Directorate organised the function to create self-employment opportunities for poor and destitute women. President of Shahar Samaj Sheba Samonny Parishad-1 Alhaj Rafiq Ahmed chaired the function.

Deputy Director of Social Welfare Directorate Khabir Uddin, President of the Chittagong City Unit of Jatiya Party Jahangir Alam Choudhury and Social Welfare Officer Motiur Rahaman, among others, addressed the function.

## 10 firearms recovered

BSS, Dhaka

Ten firearms and eight bullets were seized and 1,430 people, including 10 listed terrorists, arrested during the countryside police operation in the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday.

Giving details of the operation, a police headquarters press release said 19 people were arrested in connection with the arms seizure and 10 cases were filed against them.

The listed terrorists are M Za-

karia, M Firoz Member and M Delwar Bhuiyan of Narsingdhi, Forkan Resvi, Nasir Uddin and Shahidur Rahman of Chittagong. Siraj Mia alias Esu Mia of Brahmanbaria and Ali Hossain, Dilo and Nizam Uddin of Dhaka.

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