

Staff Reporter Observing that the biggest mistake of the previous BNP-Jamaat regime was to allow the large-scale use of compressed natural Gas (CNG) in motor vehicles, State Minister for Energy Nasrul Hamid Bipu on Tuesday said the present government wants to give priority to public transports in CNG use. "I think the biggest mistake of the BNP-Jamaat regime was to open CNG in a greater way, leading to its misuse and subsequent deficit. I think there should be a management here. We must keep CNG for only public transports," he told a seminar. Awami League sub-committee on publicity and publication organized the seminar, titled 'Alokito Bangladesh' at the National Press Club. Dr Subrata Kumar Aditya, a professor of the department of applied physics, electronics and communication engineering at Dhaka University, presented the keynote paper at the seminar. The junior minister said the government will invest 20 billion US dollars in the country's energy sector for its development over the next five years with 10 billion coming from foreign investors. In reply to a query, Nasrul Hamid said prepaid gas meters will be introduced with a view to minimizing its wastage and pilferage. Digitisation is also going on in his ministry to stop graft in the energy sector, he added. Addressing the seminar, Prime Minister's Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Adviser Dr Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury said 5.2 billion US dollars were invested in the last five years while projects involving 8.5-billion US dollars are now under implementation. Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Tajul Islam, among others, spoke at the seminar.