

Day of German Unity

Facts About Germany

The Land, Landers and Everything

The Ambassador's Message

TODAY Germany has been united for exactly one year. The Day of German Unity is a day of joy for us. Have there been any changes due to German unification? As for the economy in East Germany the measures undertaken begin to show positive signs indicating an economic recovery. As for the European Peace Order, Germany, situated in the centre of Europe, has been supporting the emergence of new democracies in Eastern Europe. We have stood up for and we will always speak up for the self-determination of people and for safeguarding human rights. Germany, therefore, wholeheartedly welcomes the recent democratic process in Bangladesh and wishes its people every success for the future.

As for world trade we as a major exporting nation need open borders. Free trade and liberalism are, therefore, basic elements of our policy. Perhaps the most important argument which we have adhered to is that we will not accept the situation over the long term that the developing countries keep drifting further away and that the distance between rich and poor countries will become greater.

Today we look back upon 20 years of Bangladesh-German relations. I take great pleasure in sharing my joy with the people of Bangladesh. I include, in particular, the 200 German nationals, who live in Bangladesh contributing to the development of this country and to the raising of the living standard of its people. Over the years our relations have become very warm and friendly. We share many common views, and our two governments cooperate constructively on the international level.

Our bilateral aid is given

from government to government. But there are also many non-governmental organisations which have been actively involved in the development process as well as individuals taking a keen direct interest. It was one of the most encouraging experiences I had when in the aftermath of the terrible cyclone, which struck Bangladesh recently, many Germans as individual persons spontaneously offered help thus demonstrating the great admiration the Germans have for the people of Bangladesh in overcoming natural calamities as part of their living.

Economic development cooperation for good reason has priority in our relations. But I think that over the years the human dimension has become more and more important. Bangladeshi art and design are making inroads in Germany, German fairs and seminars provide a meeting ground for an exchange of ideas, and visits of German scholars to Bangladesh help to familiarize each other with the way of life of a people distant though in kilometers but close in thought. Great mutual respect and sympathy characterize our relationship today.

I am looking with great confidence to the further development of Bangladesh-German relations. The message I carry today says that Germany will also in the future stand by the side of the people of Bangladesh to make life worthwhile and to contribute to peace and social security in this part of the world.

Bangladesh-German
friendship Zindabad!

Karl-Heinz Scholtyssek,
Ambassador of Germany to
Bangladesh

Geographical location: Situated in Central Europe, Germany has common borders with Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, and Poland.

Total area: 356,957 sq km. Population: 79.1 million (41 million female, 38.1 million male; more than 5 million foreigners).

Population density: 222 people per sq km.

Constitution: Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany of 23 May 1949.

Type of state: Federal state with 16 constituent Lander. Upon the accession of the GDR (in accordance with the decision of the Volkskammer — parliament — of 23 August 1990) to the Federal Republic of Germany on 3 October 1990 the Lander of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia, and Saxony were established and became part of the Federal Republic of Germany. The eleven boroughs in the eastern part of Berlin were united with the Land of Berlin.

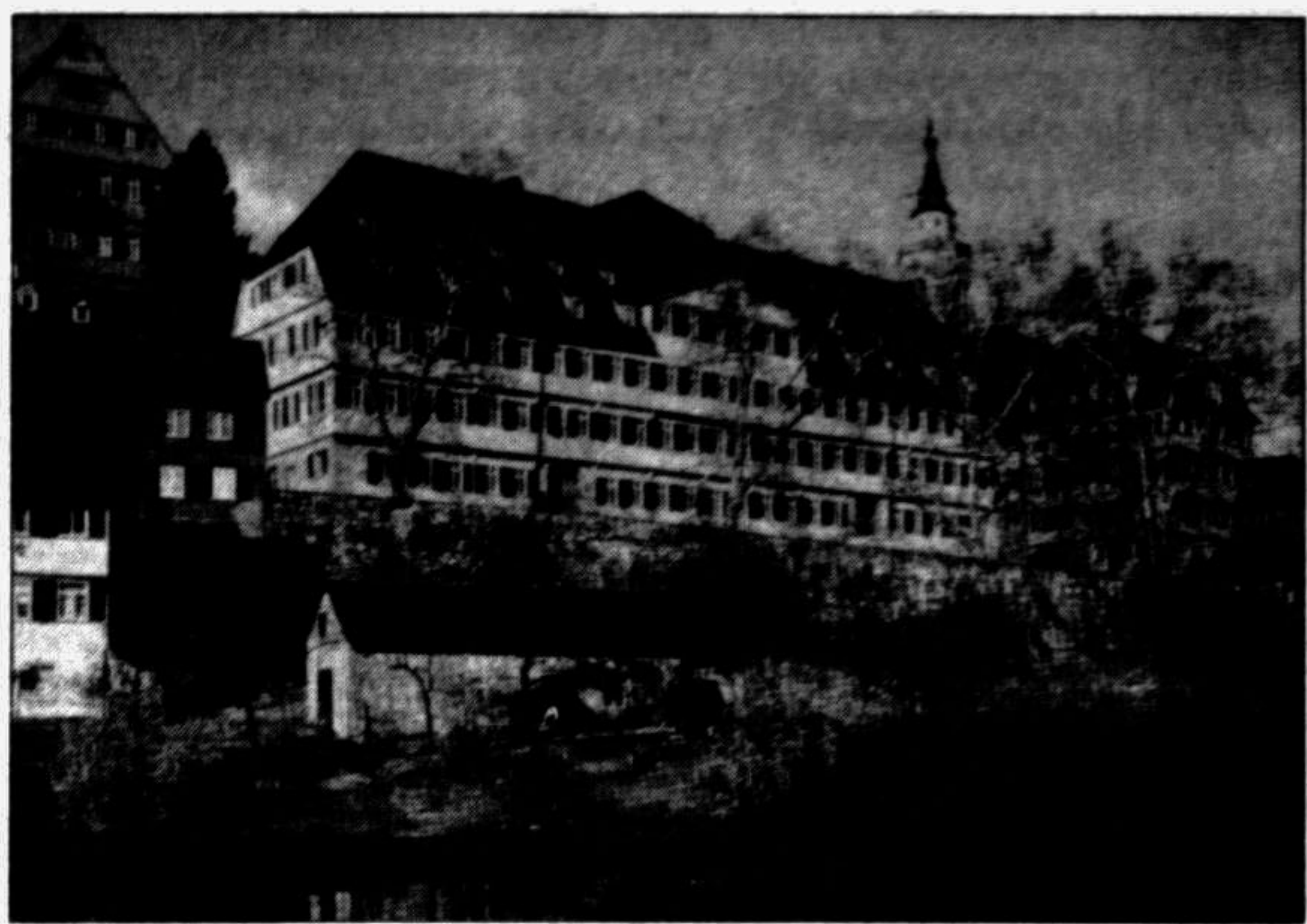
Parliament: German Bundestag; free, equal, general and direct elections were held by direct ballot for the first time throughout Germany on 2 December 1990. The Bundestag is elected for four years. Plenary sessions are chaired by one of the five members of the Bundestag Presidium. Parliamentary work is largely carried out by the committees of the Bundestag, each of which is responsible for a specific field of activities.

Federal Government: The Federal Government (Bundesregierung) consists of the Federal Chancellor and the Federal Ministers. The Federal Chancellor determines the general policy guidelines. Within the limits set by these guidelines, the Federal Ministers conduct the affairs of their departments on their own responsibility. The present Federal Chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl (CDU), has been in office since 1982. He was confirmed in office for a third term after the victory of the coalition made up of the CDU (Christian Democratic Union), CSU (Christian Social Union) and

FDP (Free Democratic Party) in the general election of 2 December 1990. The present Federal Government consists of 19 ministers of the coalition parties. The Federal Chancellor's deputy (Vice-Chancellor) is the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hans Dietrich Genscher of the FDP.

Jurisdiction: The Basic Law (Constitution) guarantees every citizen complete and extensive protection of their rights. The courts of the Lander are the chief bodies responsible for the administration of justice. In addition, there are five federal courts whose main task is to review decisions by the courts of the Lander: the Federal Court of Justice in Karlsruhe, the Federal Administrative Court in Berlin, the Federal Finance Court in Munich, and the Federal Labour Court and the Federal Social Court in Kassel. They are courts of the last instance. The Federal Constitutional Court differs from all other bodies of the judiciary insofar as it is an autonomous court which is independent of all other constitutional bodies and in itself a constitutional body with supreme authority. Acting as custodian of the constitution, it reviews the acts of government agencies as to their compatibility with the Basic Law.

National flag: Black, red and gold. There is no generally accepted explanation for the origin of the three colours. It is said that they were the colours of



High education: The 15th-century university at Tubingen

the uniforms of a volunteer corps fighting against Napoleon's rule in Germany at the beginning of the 19th century. They were first declared the German national colours by the National Assembly which was established during the later Revolution of 1848-49 and met in Frankfurt am Main. National holiday: 3 October, Day of German Unity.

National anthem: The German national anthem begins with the words "unity and right and freedom." It was written by August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben (1789-1874). The music was originally composed by Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) to other words.

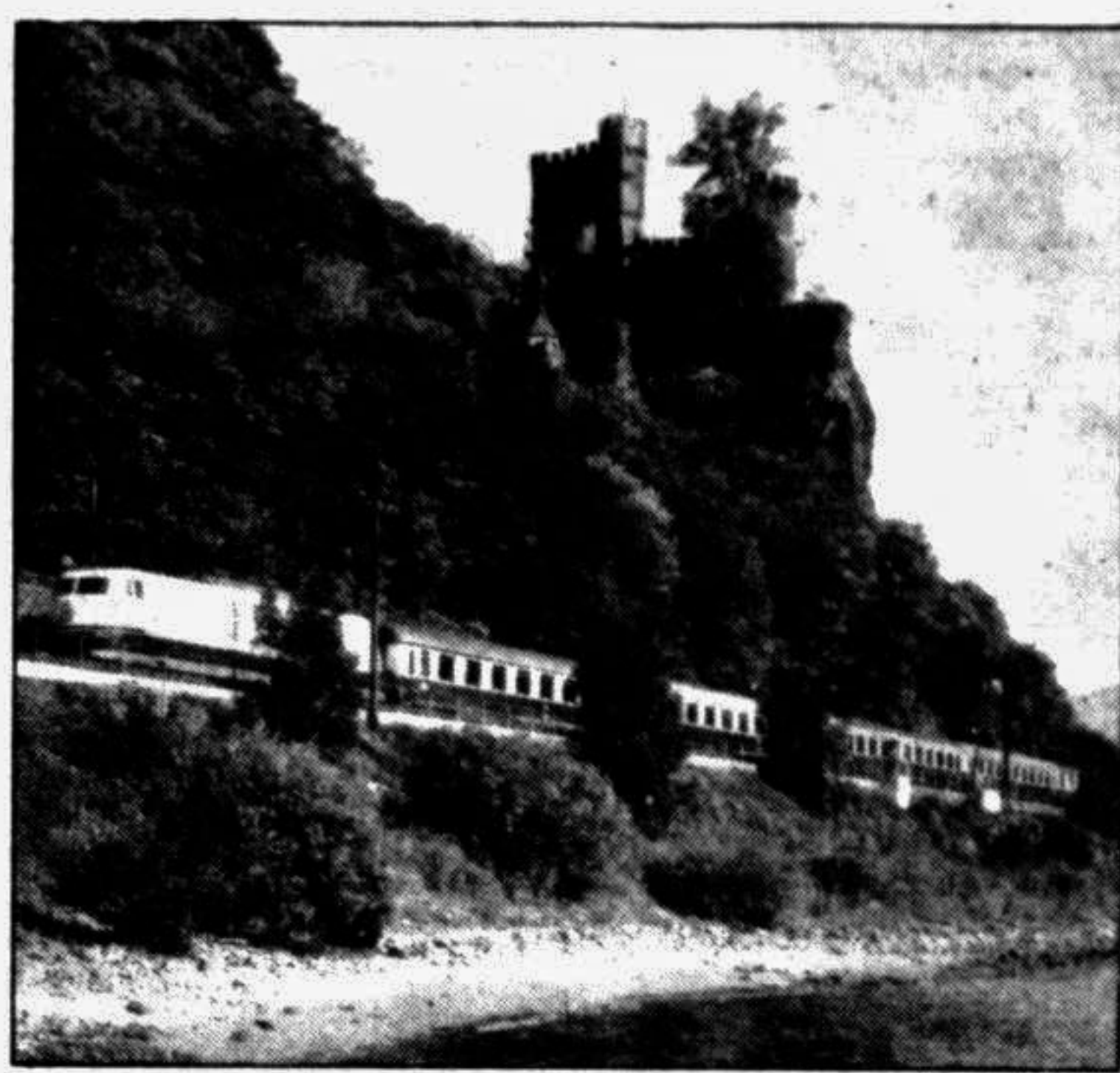
Infrastructure: 10,571 km of motorway, 44,275 km of trunk roads maintained by the Federal and the Lander governments, 80,000 km of rail network operated by the state-owned Deutsche Bundesbahn. Major airports (in alphabetical order): Berlin-Schönefeld, Berlin-Tegel, Bremen, Cologne-Bonn, Dresden, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt am Main, Hamburg, Hanover, Leipzig, Munich, Nuremberg, Stuttgart. More than 6,500 km of inland waterways. Biggest river ports: Duisburg. Major sea ports: Hamburg and Bremen/Bremerhaven on the North Sea; Kiel, Lubeck and Rostock

on the Baltic. **Major industries:** Automotive industry, general engineering, electrical engineering, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, iron and steel making. **Foreign trade:** In 1990, German imports and exports totalled over DM 573,000 million and over 680,000 million, respectively. The share of the former GDR, i.e. the five new

Lander including the eastern part of reunited Berlin, was DM 22,900 million and 38,100 million, respectively. The biggest trading partner in terms of both imports and exports is France, followed by the Netherlands, Italy, the USA and Belgium/Luxembourg in imports, and the United Kingdom, Italy and the Netherlands in exports.



Idyllic: Windmills in the north.



Progress: High-speed train zooming past ancient castle.

Cultural Riches

(Continued from Page 9)

development knowledge. There is too the "Deutsche Welle Listeners' Club." Each month there is a film show with members of the German Cultural Centre Film Club. Films with English subtitles are a definite attraction of the Goethe Institut. The authorities allow film societies to use the theatre and also borrow equipment. The centre also supports theatre production. German plays have been done in Bangla under the guidance of German art directors, Madame Lechner informs me. At times there are literature readings and often there is a combination of original Bangla poetry with German pieces in Bangla translation. Occasionally musical performances such as piano recitals are also held, but this is not frequent. The German Gypsy jazz with the Hansche Weiss Ensemble, one of the artistic presentation of the centre, this year was greatly appreciated by many in the city. The only item that is public at the Goethe Institut comprise the art exhibitions and these include the efforts of Bangladesh artists, which are on display about six times in a year. Reproductions of German artists are also sometimes to be seen here.

Cooperation

(Continued from Page 9)

the final stage of completion. Technical cooperation assistance includes scholarships and miscellaneous grants through various programmes. Amongst these programmes is the Gramscian Bank, which has since September 1987, been receiving support under technical cooperation for the implementation of its training programme. In view of the Bank's expansion this programme is of particular significance. DM 13.0 million has already been made available for phase II of the training programme (1989-1993), covering approximately two-thirds of the funds required for the phase as a whole. This replenishment will guarantee the total financing.

Regarding scholarships the FRG reiterated its readiness to finance 31 non-project-related scholarships in 1991. Eleven of these scholarships are earmarked for the following areas: post-office administrative service (three), telecommunications technology and operations (three) and the power programme with the Free State of Bavaria (five).

Besides bilateral cooperation the Federal Republic of Germany had provided the People's Republic of Bangladesh with the total of DM 2.1 billion in multilateral development assistance (net disbursements), from 1971 to 1988, through its contributions to international organisations such as United Nations agencies, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and EEC.

The next government negotiations will take place in Dhaka in the first half of 1992.

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voice and TV signals between Cebu and Argao and further on to Dumaguete, a distance of nearly 100 km without using any repeaters. And in line with this rapidly growing telecommunication network, the Siemens joint venture company ETSI produces 150,000 telephones every year for the Philippine market.

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Our sincere greetings on the occasion of Day of German Unity

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