Congress probing links between CIA and BCCI

WASHINGTON, Oct The acting director of the CIA defended in Congress Friday the intelligence agency's dealings with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, reports AP.

BCCI, which had branches in the United States and many foreign countries, has been accused of running an international network of drug smuggling, arms peddling, money laundering and bribing of public officials.

The CIA had accounts at BCCI but later found out about its illicit dealings and used the bank to monitor drug traffickers and terrorists, CIA Acting Director Richard Kerr said.

'CIA did not assist any wrongdoing on the part of BCCI or its employees. Kerr testified at a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on terrorism, narcotics and international operations.

Kerr said the CJA did not impede any criminal investigations or prosecutions of BCCI, and did not participate in BCCI's alleged black network' of illicit activities around the world.

BCCI 'was used on an extremely limited basis for legal banking transactions," he told the subcommittee, which has held hearings this week on the scandal involving the Luxembourg-based bank

The CIA used BCCI both to support its activities abroad. such as paying agents, and to funnel money to guerilla groups supported by the United States in Nicaragua and Afghanistan, officials have

The CIA was criticized by some lawmakers this summer for allegedly failing to act on information about BCCI that it gathered in the 1980s.

Kerr said Friday the CIA distributed its information about the bank's activities to a spectrum of federal agencies, including the departments of State, Treasury and Commerce, the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration

and the Federal Reserve. On Wednesday, former federal budget director Bert Lance told the subcommittee he's convinced the CIA re cruited its' Pakistani founder. Agha Hasan Abedi, in 1984 in order to use the bank for CIA

purposes. Lance's statements buttressed testimony Tuesday by Abdur Sakhia, a former top BCCI official who said that

Mobutu's villa

From Page 1 Col. 5 "insists strongly" that the remaining 3,500 Belgians leave. but he stopped short of ordering them out.

He added that some 800 Belgian paratroopers "cannot stay long because the total collapse of the country could en danger the paras themselves."

Eyskens said that despite the plans for withdrawal, the Western nations could not be blamed for a future disaster.

"They have been independent for (over) 30 years. They have to take up their own responsibilities," he said. Zaire gained independence from Belgium in 1960.

Earlier this week, Belgium flew hundreds of expatriates from Lubumbashi to Brazzaville, and its paratroopers on Friday were escorting a convoy

of vehicles. Before riots first flared last

month, there were more than 10,000 Belgians in Zaire. France and Belgium had

sent a total of nearly 2,000 paratroopers to the country last month, but most were withdrawn.

Friday, refuges who arrived in Brazzaville, across the Congo River from Kinshasa, said civilians had ransacked one of Mobutu's private homes in Kinshasa on Thursday, then set it on fire.

Mobutu has several homes in his own country as well as numerous plush residences in Europe.

It was not known where the new prime minister was when this happened.

Mungul-Diaka appeared on state television Thursday night to say he planned to form a government within three days

that would represented 11 regions and the many dozens of ethnic groups in Zaire. His announcement on state television was introduced by two military officers who took

over broadcasts after journalists went on strike Thursday, declaring Mobutu and his agents were forcing them to slant the news.

State radio said Friday that protesters in Kinshasa were barricading roads. On Thursday, demonstrators forced shops, offices and public transport to shut down by blocking roads and stoning vehicles. There were many clashes with security forces who fired into the air to try to disperse crowds. Many people were reported wounded.

Another target of protesters were the embassies of France, Belgium and the United States, which demonstrators demanded should intervene to help overthrow Mobutu.

Abedi apparently had been off the intelligence agency's "watchlist" around

But Kerr called the idea that the CIA recruited Abedi "baseless."

One of the things the CIA discovered, according to State Department officials, is that the radical Palestinian terror ist organization of Abu Nidal was banking at BCCI in Europe and using the money to support front companies in Poland and East Germany

Meanwhile, Reuter adds. depositors from around the world with money frozen in the scandal-hit BCCI bank met in London for the first time today to open a campaign to recover losses totalling 19 billion dollars.

Their money was frozen when operations of the bank were closed down in July in a swoop by regulators in several countries.

Regulators acted on what they said might be the biggest fraud in the history of world

"Our members are angry people, said Adil Elias, chairman of the BCCI Depositors Protection Association, as the group's London meeting opened.

"They feel that bank regulators and others have betrayed their trust. They plan to take actions necessary to recover their losses.

The depositors were considering legal measures and prospects for lobbying politicians to rescue their money.

A big concern of depositors is that various US authorities seek to levy fines of hundreds of millions of dollars on BCCI.

If they succeed in doing so, the fines will be paid out of BCCI assets which should go to depositors, Elias said.

The association is composed of individual depositors. Its committee members have a minimum deposit of 500,000 dollar and some represent tens of millions of dollars.

BCCI operated in nearly 70 countries and had around 1.1 million depositors worldwide. It is 77.4 per cent owned by Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan, ruler of Abu Dhabi and by investment institutions in the Gulf Emirate.

The Bank of England. Britain's central bank, led the global action against BCCI in July after a report from auditors price waterhouse alleged

Ataul Karim to lead UN advance team to Cambodia

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 25: Ataul Karim, a former UN Ambassador from Bangladesh will head civilian operations in a small UN advance team going to Cambodia shortly following the signing of a peace, treaty, diplomats said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

French Brigadier-General Jean-Michel Loridon has already been selected as military commander of the unit.

The initial operation, to be called the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), will include 50 military officers and 20 experts in mine sweeping plus 75 international and 75 local staff for support and technical services. In addition Australia is sending a 40member communications unit.

UNAMIC forces are expected to leave for Cambodia within the next two weeks to be on hand for the arrival of Prince Sihanouk in Phnom Penh on November 14.

Cambodia's warring factions on Wednesday signed a landmark peace treaty which gives the United Nations a central role in administering the country, demobolising the combatants and organising

Not decided yet is who will head the main UN mission, the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is expected to begin operation is 1992, stay in the country for 18 months and cost close to a billion dollars.

Pressure is being put on Under-Secretary-General Rafeeuddin Ahmed, a Pakistani who has been in charge of the mission to date, to go to Cambodia as the Secretary-General's personal representa-

So far he has declined for personal reasons, one name mentioned to replace him is Mohammed Sahnoun, an Advisor to the President of Algeria and a former Ambassador to the United States, France, Germany and the United Nations.

Also not settled is who will run UNTAC's military contingents, diplomats said Australia has put in a bid for the chief military's officer's post as it will probably contribute more than 1,000 troops to the operation.



Prominent businessmen of Rajshahi led by AKM Mustafizur Rahman, President, Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Sugandha office Friday and joined the BNP. - PID photo

UP administration barred from erecting structures in Ayodhya

NEW DELHI. Oct 25: The Allahabad High Court upheld today the acquisition of land around a controversial holy site by an Indian state government controlled by a Hindu-revivalist party, reports AFP.

But the court also barred the Uttar Pradesh state administration from erecting any structure of a permanent nature in the town of Ayodhya. the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Ayodhya, in Uttar Pradesh. lies at the heart of a Hindu-Muslim dispute over a proposed shrine to the Hindu lord Rama. Hindu fundamentalists want to build a temple to Rama on the site of a 16th century mosque. Muslims oppose any changes to the mosque.

The Uttar Pradesh government, controlled by the Hindurevivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), this month acquired 2.14 acres (0.8 hectares) of land at the site to promote "tourism and pilgrimage" in Avodhya.

The acquisition drew immediate protests from other

From Page 1 Col. 8

Ullapara, Nimgachi and

Chandaikona in Sirajgonj dis-

trict, and the party workers at

Bogra Circuit House on her way

appeal to all to stand by the

challenge against hunger, dis-

ease and death," she said

adding that the Awami League

cannot allow people to die un-

buked the government of

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda

Zia for "denying the facts of

death due to starvation and

cholera" in the northern dis-

the area as terrible, she said

"the government is keeping its

eyes closed when people are

dying of diarrhoeal diseases

Hasina blamed the govern-

ment for "failing miserably" to

tackle the situation and said

indifference, negligence and

caprice of the BNP govern-

ment had turned the situation

grave in the northern districts.

warned much earlier of the

impending post-flood disaster

but the Prime Minister and

her government did not pay

"This situation could have

been averted if the govern-

ment had taken appropriate

had unfortunately failed to

Hasina said the ruling party

least heed to it.

measures in time.

She said the Awami League

and for want of food.

Describing the situation in

The opposition leader re-

famine-stricken people in

"Let us unitedly face the

Sheikh Hasina also made an

from the capital to Rangpur.

the northern region.

cross-section of people

Hasina: democracy

political parties and Muslim groups, who branded it an attempt by the state government to help its ally, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP. or World Hindu Council), build the Rama

temple. On October 18, the VHP launched a 40-day religious ceremony and demolished several buildings at Ayodhya. Three days later it organised token work on the Hindu

Friday's court ruling followed two petitions challenging the land takeover.

In a related development, the centrist Janata Dal (People's Party) urged Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to stop VHP activists from conducting excavations around the disputed site so as not to damage the mosque.

take action, the Janata Dal would conclude New Delhi was in collusion with those elements who are trying to undermine the secular character of our Constitution," a party spokesman said here.

Hasina said that though in

the opposition, the Awami

League was distributing relief

and feeding people from gruel

kitchens it opened in the af-

Abdur Razzak MP. Abdul Man-

nan and Sultan Muhammad

Mansur Ahmed also addressed

Addressing a wayside rally

at Gobindagani in Gaibandha

district on way to Rangpur, the

Opposition Leader criticised

Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-

Islami for "hobnobbing" with

She said the BNP had op-

posed discussion in Parliament

on the situation in northern

district despite insistence

League staged walkout from

the House protesting the rul-

ing party's attitude. JP and

Jamaat members sitting in-

side were "exchanging smiles

with members of the Treasury

Mizan Chowdhury and Shah

Moazzem who were elected

from Rangpur did not join the

Opposition walkout and pre-

ferred to stay with the ruling

ruling party's "failure" in

tackling the situation in the

power such a situation would

not have been created, she

organisation of this soil, will

always stand by the people in

their weal and woe.

Had Awami League been in

"Awami League, as an

Hasina was critical of the

She pointed out that even

Hasina said though Awami

Awami League leaders

fected areas.

the rallies.

the ruling party.

from Awami League.

Bench.

party members.

northern region.

If the government failed to

PTI adds: A delegation of the Babri Masjid Movement Coordination Committee (BMMCC) led by Syed Shahabuddin, MP, today called on President R Venkataraman in New Delhi and submitted a detailed memorandum on the situation in Ayodhya with special reference to illegal excavations and demolitions by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad on the

disputed land. During the 30 minute meeting, the delegation requested the President to advice the central government to take all possible steps to stop the illegal activity by the VHP and dismiss the Uttar Pradesh government for its collusion with VHP

Shahabuddin said that the President assured the delegation that he would discuss the matter with the Prime Minister and do whatever was possible.

The other members of the delegation included Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait, Prof Saifuddin Soz, S M Jaffer and Ejaz Aslam of Jamait-I-Islami Hind.

Anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla's birth today

The 118th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq will be observed all over the country today in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

In the capital different or ganisations have chalked out programmes to observe the birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla who had dedicated his whole life for improving the lot of the commonman, spreading the light of education among them and saving the peasantry from exploita

"Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Smriti Sangsad', . Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Gobeshona Kendra and Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Foundation' will jointly hold a discussion meeting in his mazar premises at 8-30am today. Quran khawani and milad mahfil have also been arranged at the mazar site.

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razzaque Ali will attend the discussion as chief guest.

A seminar on Sher-e-Bangla will be held in his mazar premises at 4 pm today under joint auspices of Bangladesh Human Rights Organisation and *Bangladesh Jatiya Bektittaya Gobeshona

AL to observe Jail Killing

By Staff Correspondent Awami League Friday an nounced its programme to observe the 'jail killing day' on November 3.

According to a press re lease, a discussion meeting will be held at 3 pm on the day at the party central office. Al chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting which will be addressed by the party central leaders.

The day's programme also include : hoisting party flag halfmast and also black flag atop the central and branch of fices of the party all over the country, garlanding the portrait of Bangabandhu

The Midnight File

Yslav army reaches Dubrovnik city limits

ZAGREB. Oct 25: The Serbian-dominated federal army on Friday reached the city limits of the ancient port of Dubrovnik, Croatian defense officials said. They said the Croattan forces had withdrawn to Gruz harbor, about 600 meters (yards) north of the old walled town, reports AP. '

Fresh tremors jolt UP

NEW DELHI. Oct 25: Two fresh tremors were today felt in earthquake ravaged Uttarkashi district of Uttar Pradesh but no further damage was reported, reports PTI.

Autonomy of Radio, TV vital, says Huda

Information Minister Nazmul Huda Friday said autonomy of Radio and Television was needed for the overall welfare of a nation, reports BSS.

Addressing a seminar on 'News of radio and television Some proposals here in the evening, the information minister, however, said autonomy of the two electronic media would also bring along responsible use of them.

"If we consider use of independent Radio and TV as a li cence, we will commit mistake", he cautioned.

The seminar, organised by Bangladesh Sangbad Pathak Samity', was held at the Dhaka Club. It was chaired by president of the samity Aminul Huq. Information Secretary

Nooruddin Al Masud attended the seminar as the guest Muhammad Jahangir read

out the keynote paper on behalf of the organisation. Journalists Gias Kamal

Chowdhury, Ataus Samad and Reazuddin Ahmed and Director General of Radio Bangladesh Dr Sadaat Hossain, among others, took part in the discussion. Nazmul Huda said there was

no restriction now in the radio and TV to air opposition news. I have ordered radio and

TV men to collect opposition news even if they do not supply information', he said. The information minister

said the democracy is now in a 'fragile condition', we all should nurture it carefully. He stressed the need for

concerted efforts to institutionalise democracy and consolidate and strengthen different democratic institutions.

The information secretary underscored the importance of dissemination of objective and timely news in the local electronic media so that the people need not to tune overseas media like BBC and VOA.

He also stressed the need for development of news sense and independent news gather ing. The electronic media can

Tin Bigha From Page 1 Col. 8

"Rail roko" and other forms of agitation would be organised state-wide from November 20 to December 9.

workers would march to Tin Bigha on December 13 to obstruct the handing over of the corridor on December 16.

not be made independent overnight rather those should be allowed to run on its own course till achievement of full freedom, he said.

Dr Sadat Hossain said if the persons concerned of the electronic media give up their mentality of going for softoption', the radio and TV news can be made attractive to the people.

Gias Kamal Chowdhury said the people's fundamental and basic rights had been suppressed and oppressed in the country for long time. He called for ensuring people's "right to information"

Reazuddin Ahmed stressed the need for introduction of electronic journalism to make the news attractive and di-

Muhammad Jahangir, in his paper, said it was a matter of great regret and indignation that the 'news' of radio and TV could not earn the confi dence of the people even after 20 years of the independence of the country. He said in comparison to

the last 20 years the present political atmosphere is very much in favour of mass media. "If we are able to reflect democratic mentality in the electronic media now, it will be helpful for the advancement of the country, he said.

Jahangir said radio and TV would have to give autonomy for the interest of democracy. Editorial on page 4

KAFCO

From Page 1 Col. 7

and of late, were dismantling the facilities from the project

The tough Japanese stand led the Bangladesh government to explain through its ambassadors the 'actual situation and government stand' on the issue to those governments so that no misunderstanding and confusion were created the friendly relations between Bangladesh and those coun-

The six-member sub-committee formed by the Council of Ministers comprises Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Energy Minister Dr. Khandoker Mosharraf Hossain, Works Minister Rafigul Islam Miah, Planning Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan. Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan is the convener of

He also said that 50,000

CHANGE OF FAX NO. All concerned are requested to

OLD NUMBER

Please note the following change

the sub-committee.



NEW NUMBER 863703

SADHARAN BIMA CORPORATION The Symbol of Economic Security.

33, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka, Bangladesh. To 25 For (11) 8 422/28-20-23

CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS

All concerned are requested to note the following changes, effective Saturday the 26th of October, 1991:

> Old Numbers: **New Numbers:**

50 00 90

86 10 56

50 00 99 86 10 69

The World Bank Resident Mission in Bangladesh 3A Paribagh, Dhaka 1000

Editor : S. M. Ali

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motifieel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toynbee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000 Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. PABX-246023-4. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.

carry out its responsibilities Hasina will visit the affected areas in Kurigram today towards the suffering human-(Saturday). CHT peace process

From Page 1 Col. 4 Rangamati expressed their grievances over the situation. Chairman of Rangamati district council Gautam Dewan expressed concern and resentment over the delay in transferring all the administrative subjects and declared that he would, if necessary, launch movement to realise the pow-

ers for the elected councils

before his tenure ends on June

So far, two thousand five hundred insurgents both with arms and without arms surrendered till the declaration of the fifth amnesty. The first amnesty valid from October 3. 1983 to April 26, 1984 drew 146 insurgents with arms and 766 without arms. The second valid from April 26, '84 to April 26, '85 drew 648 with arms and 323 without arms. In the third amnesty effective from April 22, 1989 to June

22, 1989, 140 insurgents sur-

rendered with arms and 152

without arms and in the fourth amnesty that lasted from August 23, 1989, September 30, 1989, only 7 insurgents surrendered with arms and 30 without arms. After the amnesty period till September 1991, 134 Shantibahinimen surrendered with arms and 163 without

Quake shakes northern Japan

TOKYO, Oct 25: A moderate earthquake with an intensity of 5.9 on the Richter Scale rocked northern Japan today. the meteorological agency here said, reports AFP. **Boarder found**

dead

body from a hotel in Mirpur

and took into custody four ho-

tel staff for interrogation.UNB.

Police Friday recovered a

area, this correspondent found

a sort of 'gruel kitchen' set up by the owners of nine multistorey buildings the prostitutes are housed in. During today's incidents that began after the Juma'a

The panicky people ran helterskelter for safety. The UARC activists after their past few days' campaign for eviction of the two brothels in the town had planned to

their demand. Accordingly, processions from different mosques in the town started converging at the No 1 Rail Gate near the bus terminal after the Juma'a

Ahmed addressed the meeting. They expressed their firm determination to make their movement a success. They also accused the members of the local administration, including the policemen, of patronising

the illegal activities.

Later, they brought out a procession and paraded the main thoroughfares including the Bangabandhu Sarak. The processionists, numbering several thousands, repeatedly tried to enter the brothel area. But heavy contingents of police deployed since morning at all the entry points of the broth-

The angry processionists ceeded towards different destinations, damaged five buses. 15 rickshaws and attacked two alleged that their goods were looted by the processionists.

At this stage, police lathicharged the unruly processionjuries were treated at the

Habibur Rahman, Superintendent of Police, Tajul Islam, Assistant Superintendent of Police and Saidur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sonargaon - were also wounded in brickbat by the processionists.

main area. Meanwhile, the UARC lead-

Anti-brothel campaign ing UARC leaders urged the minister to take steps for eviction of the prostitutes.

prostitutes in Tanbazar, said that it was an unjust act against them and feared the eviction would throw their future into uncertainty.

children. Two of them are studying in high school at a dark life at Tanbazar. Mamtaz feared that the eviction would force her to

kids in school. Dr Rabeya Khatun of the Sociology Department in Dhaka University expressed her concern over the "unplanned eviction" bid saying that it would cause a serious social

The teacher pointed out that many people, including house and shop owners as well as old prostitutes and their children, depended on the oldest profession and would be

Without proper rehabilitation programmes, the eviction of prostitutes would also cause spread of venereal diseases, Dr Khatun added. Prof AK Ahmadullah of Dhaka University's Social

the urban areas. "Prostitution in disguise may also lead our youth astray". he said and suggested the government to take rehabilitation programmes similar to the

ist on venereal diseases, said that unplanned breaking up of brothels would spread Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, Canceroid, LGV (Lympho Granuloma Venereum) and Granoloma

diseases", he said.

Diarrhoea From Page 1 Col. 5

Northern districts for monitoring the emergency medicare relief services set up by the government in early September last. He covered Nilphamary. Rangpur, Kurigram and

concluded his two-day visit to

Rangpur.

Related story on Page 5

From Page 1 Col. 5

While visiting the brothel

lishments remained closed

prayer all the business estab-

hold a public rally and bring out a procession to press home

Committee leaders, including ex-commissioners of the paurasava Raffqul Islam and Jahangir Alam, president of Narayangani Imam Samity Abdul Awal, Alhaj Jane Alam,

Khwaja Mohiuddin and Iqbal

els obstructed them. were then scattered and proshops at Chasharha. They also ransacked the fruit shops at Falpatti. Owners of these shops

ists injuring 17 of them. Two of the seriously injured persons, who received head in-Narayangani hospital. Besides, three policemen -

Chase and counter-chase also took place during the clashes, which led to a halt to traffic movement in the town's

ers met the Home Minister at his residence last night. The meeting was also attended by Advocate Abul Kalam, MP and Strajul Islam, MP. In the meet-

UNB adds: Resenting the move, Rina Khanam who

claimed herself a leader of the An inmate of Tanbazar

brothel, Mamtaz Begum said she is the mother of three district town, far from her

stop sending money for her imbalance and spread pros-

titution at all direction. rendered jobless.

Welfare and Research Institute said that eviction without corresponding rehabilitation programme would increase the number of floating masses in

ones taken in Thailand to eradicate the social menace. Dr Arifur Rahman, a special-

Inguinale. "Working class people will be the major victims of these

Dinajpur in his two-day visit. He also visited temporary diarrhoeal treatment centres set up in union family welfare centres at Kasiram-Belpukur in Nilphamary and Ikarchalt under Taraganj upazila o