AAMSU calls for 36-hour

"Assam bandh"

(AAMSU) today called for a 36-hour "Assam bandh" beginning

from 0500 hr on October 10 in protest against the 'deletion of

the names of genuine voters' from the voters list prepared in

1990. The AAMSU president Mustafa Kamai Passa alleged in a

statement that the names of at least 40 lakh genuine voters

were deleted from the draft voters list, all of whom belonged to

Russia warns Gamsakhurdia

of military action

former Georgian leader Zviad Gamsakhurdia of military action

against his supporters as the country's current head of state

MOSCOW, Oct 8: A Russian military official today warned

linguistic, religious and ethnic minorities, reports PTI.

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: The All Assam Minorities Students Union

cial elections - are hoping to

find a way to push the two into

Punjab president of Bhutto's

PPP who lost his bid for a na-

tional seat: "Unless we get a

majority in Punjab, power at the

center will be meaningless. Past

government cannot implement

its manifesto if it lacks hold on

move that drove into the heart

of Bhutto's family stronghold in

southern Sindh, a significant

Qaumi Movement (MQM) which

boycotted national polls

Wednesday, announced it was

back in the running, and with

voters had pledged to back

MQM candidates, and in rural

Sindh MQM would back PML.

former Karachi Mayor Farooq

leader Altaf Hussain called on

'the authorities' to 'invite' the

two sides for talks on a coali-

calls for the leaders of the two

major parties to be invited for

talks. Hussain said in a live

satellite transmission to his

Karachi followers from London.

former premiers agree to a ro-

newspaper quoted unnamed re-

liable sources in Islamabad as

saying the 'authorities' were

concerned about the survival of

democracy in Pakistan, and

considering offering three coali-

Bhutto as premier, and in re-

turn consult him on the choice

of President, another that both

should withdraw as premier in

favour of a third candidate, or

that the two agree on a consen-

sus candidate and a constitu-

tional amendment be intro-

duced to prevent a no-confi-

dence motion for the next five

Qureshi, 63, who introduced a

spate of reforms in his brief

three month tenure, has said he

was not a candidate for any

high office after the elections.

But he said this week he would

be ready to serve the country if

Friday it had lined up almost all

the partners needed for a coali-

tion government that would re-

turn her to the prime minister's

is in a comfortable position to

form the government along with

its allies," Ms. Bhutto said here.

the party had forged alliances

with at least 20 victorious can-

didates from smaller parties

ing the total to 106, only three

and with independents, bring

short of the magic number.

Spokesman Bashir Riaz said

"The Pakistan People's Party

post she lost three years ago.

AP adds: Bhutto's party said

Interim premier Moeen

One was that Sharif accept

tating premiership.

tion options.

called upon.

He proposed that the two

The mass-circulation Jang

"It is a crisis situation which

In Karachi, meanwhile, MQM

In urban strongholds, PML

The Karachi-based Mohajir

party announced electoral al-

liance with Sharif's PML.

In an 11th hour dramatic

Punjab."

Sattar said.

experience has shown that the

Said Jahangir Badar, the

DOWN TO EARTH

The Problems of Slums in City

By AS M Nurunnabi

In the urban milieu of a country, slums, more or less, are an ever-present phenomenon. They are the end product of a country's poverty. Even in the richest country, America, slums are said to exist. Because slums are so many pockets of concentrated poverty. they easily develop into dens of crimes and a threat to urban health and sanitation.

Being in a developing country, the slum problems of its premier city Dhaka present no easy solution because of their ever-growing volume and complexities. In the city, slums of various descriptions such as semi slums, quarter slums, mint slums, etc grow up on vacant public lands, along railway tracks, around bazars - in fact in every vacant space allowing undisturbed occupation for sometime. They proliferate by the day, because of the worsening of the poverty position of the rural and urban poor.

No survey seems to have been made of the city's slums. However, according to statistics presented at a recent seminar. about 50 per cent dwellers of Dhaka city live in slums. Thus the city's slums have taken on an unusually enlarged dimension. Slum dwellers are no tax payers, nor are they among voters. Therefore, politically they do not exist. But humanly and nationally they very much do exist, and they constitute a vital segment of the people. And accordingly, on altruistic and humanitarian grounds, the cause of their rehabilitation merits serious and urgent considera-

From Page 1 Col 4

have taught any lesson to the

people and the political parties

Granting the provincial assem-

bly election, being held tomor

row, will also produce similar

results, there is no certainty

that the provincial governments

will be manned by the party

which rules at the federal level

In such a case, the danger of

precipitating another crisis will

become real. If Punjab is ruled,

as expected, by a Nawaz Sharif

nominee and if he repeats the

performance that Sharif himself

had shown in 1988 when the

Punjab Chief Minister (Sharif

himself) would deliberately ig-

nore the country's Prime

Minister (Benazir), then it might

lead towards another break

down of authority encouraging

take encouragement from a

positive feature of the current

elections. It is the expression of

a clear trend towards the emer-

gence of a two-party system. No

third party is anywhere near the

two major ones. The third

largest number of seats have

been won by Pakistan Muslim

In fact, the largest block of

League Junejo group, six seats

seats is held by the indepen-

dents - 15 including seven

members from the federally-

administered tribal areas where

politics is non-existent and who

are bound to swing to the party

which is going to form the gov-

ernment. The PPP and PML (N)

However political analysts

the forces of authoritarianism.

How do the people end up living in slums? Most of them had their roots in the villages; some of them had lost their lands due to river erosion or were forced to float for economic reasons. When during off-season work is in short supply in

the villages, some of them move to the towns, hopeful of finding any job that may assure their survival. For their shelter they erect makeshift shacks which gradually grow into slums.

The temporary structures in the slums which they call home are mostly made from cardboards, bamboo, straw matting, pieces of plastic sheet or tin or anything which serves as part of roof or door. They are the breeding grounds of diseases and epidemics because of the extreme poverty and starvation and malnourishment of their dwellers. The minimum municipal facilities are denied to them. Nobody's sensibilities are affected by their continuing

The economic rehabilitation of the slum dwellers under a balanced national policy should be among the administration's foremost priorities. But in view of the magnitude of the problem very little or nothing substantial appears to have been done. As a result slums in one form or another keep coming up which the elitist pockets of the city as well as the administration may not pretend to see. But none should take it into his head that bulldozing the slum dwellers out will itself solve the problem. It is reported that at least 27 drives

for demolition of slums in the Dhaka city were conducted by government authorities which made over 1,62,000 people shelterless

According to a recent report of the World Bank, the estimated requirement for housing in Dhaka is around 1.2 million units. Some thought appears to have been given during the ongoing Fourth Five-year Plan to addressing the problems of slums and slum dwellers. The programme under the Plan seeks to rehabilitate squatters through upgradation of the slums rather than relocate them in three phases, short, medium and long. Under the proposed programme, efforts of the various NGOs, donor agencies and the government will be co-ordinated by an agency known as the Dhaka Metropolitan Slum Improvement Committee during the plan period. Important aspects of the proposed programme include upgrading of living conditions and the surrounding environment of slums with provisions of civic amenities, employment opportunities, literacy, primary health care and family planning. Let us hope that the laudable objectives of the programme are realised during the plan period, however limited in scope they may be. It is of overriding importance for the administration to realise that the problems of the slums require to be treated more as part of poverty alleviation and urban environmental protection and not as a fringe issue to be given a casual and palliative treatment.

Bodos kill 10, torch The Midnight Bile Do-or-die battle From Page 1 Col 5 situation a "crisis," and hinted that the authorities - a euvillages in Assam phemism here for the army which will supervise the provin-

GUWAHATI, Oct 8: The Bodo tribal people killed ten non-Bodos and set fire to several villages forcing hundreds of people to desert their homes in one of the worst ethnic clashes in lower Assam since yesterday even after deployment of the army, according to official sources, reports PTI.

While six bodies including two of women were recovered from Milan Bazar area, one more was recovered from Baktol in Bongaingaon district today. Both the local markets along with other markets in the twin districts of Bongatgaon and Kokrajhar were also looted yesterday. Three more deaths have been reported from Jamunguri and Anketa areas today.

About 50 people were injured and over 16,000 people are camps. The victims mostly

disturbed areas last night itself and additional police forces also rushed from all over the state. police prevented torching of more houses by the Bodos by opening fire at Thaikargury also in Bongaingaon district. Nobody was injure in police firing.

A high-level ministerial delegation is visiting the trouble ar-

away from lending to investors

because of the debt overhang

and a large number of default-

ers. The banks are rather being

too cautious to lend to new in-

vestors, the Finance Minister

asked the banks to go for

participatory or partnership

bank lending for investments

rather than the usual practice

A conference of bankers, en-

trepreneurs and others, he said,

would soon be convened to find

out ways to accelerate invest-

of seeking collaterals.

ments.

the sectors.

He noted that he had earlier

taking shelter in different relief

belonged to the minority community whom the Bodo tribes were trying to evict from the proposed Bodoland autonomous district council area, the sources added. Army had moved into the

eas tomorrow. The speakers Debesh Chakraborty would also lead another delegation of leaders of all political parties to the same area tomorrow. Top police and civil officials are camping in the area

Lankan landslide RATNAPURA (Shri Lanka). Oct 8: A mountainside eroded

said Georgia would join the CIS, reports AFP.

by heavy rain crumbled into a village Friday, and dozens of people were feared killed, rescuers and police said, reports "We have unearthed 13 bodies so far. We feel the death

toll would go up to 30," said R K H Ranchagoda, a rescue worker. Other rescuers said the number of dead may be as high "More than nine houses and

several huts were buried. It is very difficult for anyone there to be alive," said Captain P. Silva, an army officer at the site.

Milam From Page 1 Col 8 crease of purchasing power of

The AL has urged people to

AL Presidium members led a

AL General Secretary Zillur

attend a rally at the

Bangabandhu Avenue at 4 pm

torch procession in the city

yesterday campaigning for the

Rahman while inaugurating the

torch procession at the

Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday

evening expressed his concern

over the growing destructive ac-

tivities of the communal forces.

He also criticised the govern-

and order situation.

ment for the deteriorating law

the rural people He said "I have witnessed On the resumption of WB that the people who did not lending to the power and gas sectors, Rahman said that the have the buying capacity even government has been able to for a square meal a few years back are now purchasing comconvince the bank about the modities like transistors, land sincerity of purpose and the and other goods". The governprogress in reducing system ment's policy in socio-economic losses in the sectors and a tensectors had certainly brought tative agreement was reached new dynamism in development for the resumption of lending to process, he added.

Milam thanked the Prime "I stayed two days more (in Minister for her personal initia Washington) in persuading (the tive and interest in the develbank) to resume lending in the opment of women and human gas and power sectors but they resources of the country. are seeking more reduction in He also praised Begum Zia's the system loss and asking for

tomorrow

hartal.

government for its utmost sininitiating institutional reforms cerity to flourish the democratic in those sectors." He said institutional improcess in the country. provements in WASA and the **AL** hartal power and gas sectors would be brought about with the inclu-From Page 1 Col 5 sion of outside experts in the inputs and assurance of just Board of Directors of PDB and prices of essentials.

management practices. Replying to a question, the Finance Minister said that an interim arrangement has been made with the IMF so that Bangladesh would continue to remain under the post-Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) surveillance facility of the fund. The three-year ESAF programme ended in Bangladesh last

WASA and instituting corporate

month. There was unanimous demand from the Third World countries for starting a successor of the ESAF facility at the Washington meeting, he said, but the G-7 did not show much interest in funding it.

On the WB funding for the JSRP, the minister said: "The wage hike created a lot of problem and we had to convince the Bank that it still remains viable under the earlier plan (of the project)."

The bank agreed but insisted that the government bear the additional cost of the project due to the wage hike, he said. "We are very near to concluding the funding negotiations for JSRP with the Bank."

'On the Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Project, the Finance Minister said that negotiations are on track and 'almost everything has been finalised.

The government is seeking a definitive commitment of 200 million US dollars each from the WB, Asian Development Bank and Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan while Bangladesh would contribute 100 million dollar towards the total cost of the project.

A Japanese team is expected to arrive in the capital this week to make a final assessment on the project, he noted. "Substantial progress has already been made and I am confident that the project will proceed according to schedule."

The press conference was also attended by the ERD Secretary Lutfullahil Majid, NBR Chairman, Dr. Akbar Ali Khan and Additional Secretary of the Finance Ministry Amir-ul-Mulk.

Two killed

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Oct 8: Two persons were killed here today

in separate incidents. One Mohammad Ali, 35, was allegedly murdered this afternoon following a dispute over demarcation of house boundary at Dhalai village under Hathazari PS.

In another occurrence, one Abul Kalam died on the spot when a speeding bus dashed him from behind near Sholashahar crossing here this

50 feared killed in JP calls 8-hr hartal tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party has called an eight-hour country-wide hartal from 6 am to 2 pm tomorrow demanding the release of their party chief and former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and for restoration of the Upazilla system.

Jatiya Chhatra Samaj and Jatiya Jubo Sanghati, two front asked all its workers to observe the hartal and bring out processions and hold railies throughout the country on the

The Jatiya Party has also decided to observe Upazilla Demand Day on Oct 23.

Mizan-Zafar From Page 1 Col 4

Kazi Zafar who is now quite vocal against the present government "had already enhanced his popularity among the party workers." "His attempt to break

Section 144 to hold a scheduled meeting of the party had overshadowed the leadership of Mizan Chowdhury," the source pointed out. But another source said that

Zafar maintains a good relation with some of the ruling party policy makers. The arrest of three JP lead-

ers - presidium member Syeed Tarek, joint secretary general Shamim al-Mamoon and publicity secretary Mia Musa - has raised questions among, a section of party leaders and workers They said that leaders were

not that prominent as to be ar-

The source said that all these disagreements and differ-

ences of opinion were yet to turn into a direct confrontation. However, both Mizan Chowdhury and Kazi Zafar said that there is no power struggle

or factionalism within the party.

Kazi Zafar said: "We are united in the JP and have started a massive anti-government campaign and we have reached a point of no return."

From page 1 col 7

In Washington, the Finance Minister was unanimously elected chairman of the Board of Governors of the two Bretton Woods Sister Institutions for the year 1993-94, thus becoming the only person from this region to hold this prestigious position after the Indian Finance Minister way back in

"It is an honour for the country and the region and also a credit to the people and the country for the successful implementation of the structural adjustment programmes during the last two years or so. Rahman remarked on his election as chairman of the 187member World Bank (WB) and IMF board.

The Finance Minister was also elected chairman of the procedure committee and the directors' remuneration committee for a period of one year.

The message sent to the developed countries from the meeting in the US capital, he said, was for them to implement structural adjustments to remove macro-economic imbalances in order to bring about a aster growth in the global

The Western economies, he charged, were taking undue advantage of the economic liberalisation policies implemented by the developing countries while these nations are not being able to capitalise on it because of the poor growth in demand due to the persistent recession in the developed countries.

An economic model was put forward in a book entitled 'Miracle in East Asia', published at the meeting, on why the East Asian economies grew while the Western economies were limping during the past several years, Rahman noted. The book outlined the com-

mon factors for economic success as: Outward-oriented economic policies, trade liberalisation, low rate of inflation and stable macro-economic balances.

In contrast, he said, the protectionist economic policies of the previous 40 years is the main reason for the Sub-Continent's backwardness. "We (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Shri Lanka) are also moving towards that direction now, but we should move faster."

The minister said that there should be a well-conceived social safety-network for the people likely to be affected by further macro-economic adjustments. More targeted programmes like the Food for Work and Food for Education programmes need to be developed instead of providing government handouts, he added.

"The poor should not be left behind in the development process, they should be protected while we carry out the reforms." he said. "Resource would be no problem."

He suggested that a credit programme may be started for the retrenched workers to help them start up micro-level industries based on local resources.

"Human resources development is a sine quo non for the overall development process' and that is why the BNP government has placed so much importance on primary and secondary education, Rahman pointed out.

However, he lamented that despite a Tk. 2800 crore allocation for the education sector, resource use is extremely slow and the sector lacks dynamism. "We need a lot of invigorating administrative action (in the education sector) and we have to move fast." He also emphasised on the

need to bring about administrafive and legal reforms and a participatory democratic process at the local level to speed up the overall development process and added that transparency and accountability are important factors in a marketoriented economy.

On the investment scenario. he said: "I am not at all satisfied by the rate of investment growth and in a way the banks have let us down." The baking sector is shying

morning.

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"গাছ লাগান গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান"-প্রধানমন্ত্রী

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have already started wooling them (polls were not held in one FATA constituency). However the FATA members will not have an easy time to decide whom to align with because the name of the party which is going to form the government will not be known until after the NA mem bers have decided on the leader of the House by secret ballot.

The two-party system will not of course come that soon. It will take at least another couple of elections for the trend to set in with the electorate. This may also encourage the presently-fragmented major parties to try and close ranks. Except for the PPP, almost all the other parties are split into two to six factions. If the electorate returns similar verdicts in the coming elections these fragmented parties may find it necessary as well as profitable

to come together again. The PML (N), led by the former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, though trailing behind PPP, has earned major gain in so far as its leader is concerned. For Mian Nawaz Sharif has emerged as a real national leader. His party's inroads into the urban areas of Sindh may be the result of the boycott of the polls by MQM. But Nawaz Sharif has been able to come out of the clutches of the Jamaat and another religious party which twisted his arms severely in the post-1990 situation. One hopes Nawaz Sharif will be able to sustain the image and act like a national leader even if he cannot make it to the

prime minister's house. The PPP, on the other hand, has doubled the number of seats it could secure in 1990. But to form a government it will need the support not only of its allies, the PML (Junejo group) which has six seats and Islami Jamhoori Mahaz (IJM)

which has four, but also of the

independents. One of the major problems of the new government will be the 8th amendment. Both the PPP and the PML (N) are committed to do something about it but both have subtly different ideas about what to do. The PPP wants the entire amendment to go although it helped it come back to power. Nawaz Sharif wants only the discretion of the president to dissolve the assemblies to be sheared. While people will watch with interest how the two parties tackle the hotly-debated issue, the parties will have to make up their minds before December when the presidential elections are due. No party will feel safe backing anyone a president with the sort of powers that he now enjoys by virtue of the 8th amendment, especially when he will have to be from a province

other than that of the prime minister's own The MQM has finally seen the futility of boycotting the elections on the ground that the government has failed to stop political violence, a phenomenon for which the MQM itself is responsible more than

anyone else. The bluff has been called The caretaker government did not do any of the things the MQM thought it would be able to extract. The government did not withdraw the cases pending against MQM leaders, including its chief Altaf Husain now living in self-exile in London; it also did not postpone the elections, even in the constituencies which the MQM had won in 1988 and 1990, especially in Karachi and Hyderabad. The leadership has acted wisely by withdrawing the boycott for tomorrow's provincial assembly

elections. Yet another outcome of the elections is the poor performance by the religious parties. The Islami Jamhoori Mahaz of Maulana Fazlur Rahman, the PIF of Jamaat Islami and the Muttahida Deeni Mahaz have won only four, three and two seats respectively. Surprisingly, the PIF leader, Quazi Husain Ahmed, was not able to win his seat. A lesser cleric, Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, who was a minister in the Nawaz Sharif government, too, bit the dust. He was the father of the idea of having to mention a citizen's religion on his or her national identity card. It seems the wisdom of letting the radicalised clergy into the main-

stream politics has paid off. The most distinguishing feature of the 1993 polls is its fairness, both perceived and real. No party has so far raised any question, even though results in some cases have been totally unexpected. Several teams of observers from Commonwealth and SAARC countries are here to witness the elections. The caretaker government provided all possible facilities for them. The 1993 elections will have its own place in Pakistan's history just as the

1970 elections do. Meanwhile it will be of interest to record a few tit-bits about the elections and the result it produced:

*Over 40 per cent voters cast their votes in Punjab. *Turnout was low in Sindh

Hoti and former information

*PPP also had some surprise reverses. Among them are Chaudhri Aitjaz Ahsan, a former interior minister in Benazir's cabinet, Jahangir Badar, chief of the Punjab PPP and Salman Taseer, a promi-

*Benazir's brother Murtaza Bhutto who had contested from three seats could not win even from one. He is also contesting from six provincial assembly

seats. *The new assembly will have four women as members. They are Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Ms Benazir Bhutto, Tehmina Daultana and Shahnaz Javed. They all contested from general seats. There are no reserved seats for women. The caretaker government has prepared a daft bill for the consideration of the incoming government to restore the provision of the reserved seats which Zia-ul-Haq had let

be taking part.

finalisation of the plan. pering achievement of the tar-

lay the government felt the need to involve the BIDS in the pro-

The government felt that since the FFYP document bears significance both nationally and internationally, it should be of a high quality. And since the officials of the Planning Commission are engaged in their dayto-day duties, it would not be possible for them to put in the desired level of effort in the preparation of the document. The government also felt that the BIDS, which has efficient manpower, was perfectly equi-

pped to do the job.

The officials also said the involvement of the BIDS would entail unnecessary costs for the government.

A trend towards 2-party system but in Karachi it was the lowest. because of MQM's boycott. In one Karachi constituency it was just 12 per cent.

*Thirteen former ministers of the Nawaz Sharif government lost in the contest. Prominent among them are former interior minister Chaudhri Shujaat Husain, former defence minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah, former railways minister Ghulam Ahmad Bilour, former communications minister Azam Khan

minister Abdus Sattar Laleka.

nent activist from Lahore.

go by default. *In the provincial assembly elections tomorrow, the results are expected to show the same trend as in the NA elections. However the turnout is expected to be much bigger, especially in Sindh where the MQM will also

BIDS to help

From page 1 col 7

They said this delay is ham-

In view of the continuing decess, sources said.

However, some Planning Commission officials said the final document would necessitate revision of the main document, which they feel the Planning Commission itself could do. They said the concerned divisions can revise the micro and sectoral documents and send them to the general economic division (GED). The GED then can edit those and add the macro perspective to complete the document.

ism."

Call for hartal in Sylhet today

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, Oct 8: The Sahaba Sainik Parishad, a religious organisation in Sylhet, has called for a half-day hartal here tomorrow demanding arrest of Taslima Nasrin.

The organisation held a meeting here today with Moulana Abdus Salam in the chair. It was addressed, among others, by Moulana Abdur Rahman. Moulana Abdus Sobhan, Moulana Abdul Aziz, and Hafez Suleman Ahmed

Opposition agitation

From page 1 col 7 agitation, sit-ins and other conventional anti-government programmes. The opposition parties, and the AL especially, are also planning to table a bill during the winter session of Jatiya Sangsad proposing a ban on religion-based politics, an issue on which the opposition and treasury benches almost reached a consensus during the

last session. The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh will be the targets of the opposition agitation. BNP and Jamaat sources

sition programmes politically. Opposition sources said the AL would take the lead during the coming winter's agitations. The JP and a number of other parties would announce simultaneous programmes. Meanwhile, ten left-leaning

parties who have already forged

a pact would also join the anti-

government agitation in the

said they would face the oppo-

coming weeks. Replying to a question whether the agitations would turn into an 'oust the government campaign,' one AL leader said: "We will force the government to root out corruption and curb violence and fundamental-