China assures help in communication sector

BEIJING, Oct 23: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed now on a visit here, met Tian Runzhi, acting Minister for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation yesterday, reports BSS.

In the meeting, the Bangladesh minister highlighted the difficulties faced by Bangladesh due to the poor implementation of the Faridpur-Rajbari, Jhenidah-Kushtia road project by a Chinese corporation.

The Chinese minister informed Oli Ahmed, that the Chinese government is aware of this difficulty and assured him that they had taken all steps to see the project is implemented on time. He further informed that China has enough fund and machinery for this project.

Oli Ahmed also raised with the Chinese minister the proposals for Chinese assistance in the implementation of some roads and railway projects which included construction of the bridge over the river Korota on Boda-Debiganj road in the north-west region. Construction of Shangu (Tailerdip) bridge on the Patia-Anwara-Bashkhali road (Chittagong-Cox's Bazar alternative highway), construction of Corai bridge on Rajbari-Kusthia road, upgrading of Dhaka-Mawa-Bagerhat road as the first China-Bangladesh friendship road project, construction of Bhanga-Bhatipara-Narail-Fultala-Khulna road, construction of rail-cum road bridge over river Rupsa including extension of railway track up to Mongla port, construction of 132 km double line, shifting of railway ferry ghat from Jagannathgani to Nalchia, and sleeper renewal of different sections of the Bangladesh

The Chinese minister assured him of the Chinese government's best consideration to these projects by sending teams of experts to study these pro-

Both the ministers also exchanged ideas for attaining better balance in the Bangladesh-China trade. In this connection Oli Ahmed mentioned that the ideas of reducing the tariffs on Bangladesh products, sending buying-cum scalls mission to Bangladesh and for setting up joint ventures with buy back arrangements.

The Chinese minister expressed his active support to these ideas and promised him to take appropriate action on this line.

help the following industries and assured continued support of Chinese government for the development of Bangladesh.

The projects are dye ammonium phosphate plant with an annual production capacity of 115 million M-T (US 13.20 million dollar state credit), BMRE of Carew and Co Ltd. sugar mills for a daily production capacity of 2,000 MT (US dollar 53.85 million), Khalishpur coal mine (Rangpur) extraction, thermal power station project at a place near to both Barapukuria coal mine project (implementation of which is expected to begin from December 1993 under the Chinese supplier's credit) and Khalispur coal mine. a high powered tug boat for Chittagong port, and an assembling and manufacturing plant for buses and trucks under joint venture.

Structural reforms

From Page 1 Col 4

rigidity (of these conditionalities) is such that these is imposed without looking into the prevalent conditions inside the country.

Rahman was also critical of the structural distortions prevalent in the developed economies due to lack of reforms, which, he said, was also responsible for the slow pace of reforms in the developing countries.

Thus, he added, the timing certain conditionalities and speed of the reform programme along with the imbalance in economic fundamentals of the Western countriés are the

points of contention. The Uruguay Round GATT talks have been disrupted by the rich countries, he noted. "These countries asked us to withdraw subsidies but they themselves provided subsidies to their farmers and other pro-

ducers." However, the Minister said that Bangladesh opted for a free-market economy to accelerate the growth rate through enhanced exports in order to

reduce the level of poverty Stressing the need for privatisation of public enterprises. Rahman, however, emphasised on pacing the process during

opportune periods. "The privatisation process has to go through, but we don't have very many takers; we have to allow the private sector to

grow." The Finance Minister also underlined the need to make the private sector transparent and accountable, along with the

The private sector must account for the resources it uses from the banks, he said. "There has to be introspections and public scrutiny.

public sector representatives.

Earlier, during his welcoming address, MCCI president Latifur Rahman said it is important to consider as to how import liberalisation should be brought about and at what speed since it would affect the country's industries and revenue collection in the short

He suggested some form of tariff protection for the manufacturing sector under a longterm fiscal policy.

The MCCI president pointed out that the public policies towards labour are upsetting the reform programmes initiated by the government. This is leading to over-pricing of labour in the organised sector, creation of protective employment in the capital intensive sectors, mis-allocation of resources and maldistribution of income.

"The present range of labour market regulations should not be perpetuated as it does not provide any meaningful protection to the mass of the

working population," he added. Latifur Rahman also suggested regular dialogues between the government and the private sector for arriving at a common approach to the out-

standing issues. To improve the quality of the administration, he said, accountability on economic isRailway

The Chinese minister also expressed their willingness to

sues is a must. "We feel that the House Committees of the Jatiya Sangsad have major roles in this regard" and they can utilise the experience of outside experts to enforce accountability.

Furthermore, he added that any consensus between the ruling party and the major opposition party, which together carry the will of the people, can provide favourable signals and help achieve a quantum leap in economic growth.

In his remarks, World Bank Resident Mission chief Christopher Willoughby noted that combined action, both by the public and private sectors. are needed in the reform areas relating to industrial deregulation, trade liberalisation, privatisation and labour market

improvement. However, he cautioned that implementing the reform measures is a race against time considering the country's prevalent conditions.

"Almost any projection of Bangladesh's future show that the nation faces a dramatic race against time, which will either be won or lost within the current generation."

Willoughby emphasised the importance of speed in implementing the reforms for its impact and success.

The most important single factor, he said, determining the success of structural reforms is the extent of general confidence that they are fair and that they would be fully carried through.

Later Owaise Saadat offered a vote of thanks to the participants at the inaugural session of the seminar, which was largely attended by parliamentarian, political leaders, diplomats, senior government offi cials, donor agency representatives, academicians and leading businessmen and industrialists.

Ctg Jamaat slates killings in Kashmir

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Oct 23: Several hundred supporters of the Jamaat-e-Islami here marched the city streets protesting the massacre in Kashmir by the

Indian troops They chanted slogans condemning the attack on Muslims who were marching to

the besteged Hazratbal Mosque. Earlier, a protest rally was organised by the local unit of the Jamaat at the Chittagong railway station premises.

Kennedy Smith arrested

ARLINGTON, Qet 23: Dr William Kennedy Smith. nephew of Massachusetts Democratic Sen Ted Kennedy, was arrested on charges of assault and battery early Saturday morning after a confrontation at a bar, reports AP.

Arlington County police said in a statement that Smith, 33, was standing outside Bardo Bar and Restaurant with blood on his face when they arrived about 1:45 am.



Kashmiris

From Page 1 Col 7 gas to break up a protest by several thousand angry Muslims in the northern Kashmiri town of Baramulla, officials said. Protests also took place in Anantnag and Srinagar.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The town of Bijbihara, which remained tense, reeled under a strict curfew enforced by the Indian army which took over from the BSF, whose local unit was on Saturday shunted out of Kashmir.

An AFP reporter and photographer today visited the scene of Friday's massacre and found dozens of blood-spattered shoes and sandals littering the road.

An army officer seized the film of the AFP photographer and ordered journalists to leave the areas, saying: "Leave or we will shoot you." One Indian woman journalist was abused when she refused to go.

Local police officers and residents alleged that the BSF opened fire without provocation. "They showered bullets on the procession from three

sides," said one of policemen, Ghulam Qadir Matto. "And later they delayed the transportation of the wounded. Many bled to

25 hurt as bus skids in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 23: At least 25 persons were reportedly injured this morning when a passenger bus skidded off the Chittagong-Hathazari road at Nazirhat, 15 miles from the city. hospital sources said.

Mahaastami observed

From Page 1 Col 7 sion of Durga Puja.

In a message, the Prime Minister said that the country has a glorious religious tradition with all religions aiming at establishment of truth and justice and dedicated to the wellbeing of the humanity.

She said religious ideals, followed in their true perspective, could bring the world humanity on the same platform and same line through mutual

The Prime Minister said the fundamental essence of all religions consists in religious freedom of all, peaceful and mutually-beneficial co-existence and tolerance to each other's religions. The success of each religion lies in the true application of religious values in individual and social life, she pointed out.

Begum Khaleda Zia said that Bangladesh has been a bright example of religious freedom and religious harmony for ages; the Muslims, the Hindus, the Buddhists and the Christians have been living in the country with utmost amity and harmony, she said.

The Prime Minister expressed her firm faith that the members of the country's Hindu community, imbued with the great ideals of their religions. would continue their efforts for the welfare of the country and the nation.

Begum Zia wished that the Durga Puja may bring happiness, peace and progress to each of the Hindu families in the country.

UNB adds: Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday conveyed her "Bijoya" greetings to the members of the Hindu community in Bangladesh as well as the world.

In a message, Hasina said the Hindu community celebrates Durga Puja as one of their greatest religious festivals symbolising 'triumph of truth and justice' over the forces of

The AL. president recalled that once Durga Puja used to be a source of boundless joy and enthusiasm among the Hindus in Bangladesh. "But the festival has lost its grandeur because of hunger, poverty, social unrest and the rise of communalism."

She said celebration of Durga Puja this year bears special significance in view of the prevailing socio-economic political, communal and law and order situation.

Hasina hoped that people of all faiths would maintain communal harmony imbued with the spirit of the country's Liberation War.

The opposition leader also conveyed her best wishes for peace and happiness of the Hindu community.

Sec 144 in two thanas of Pabna

PABNA, Oct 23: Section 144 was imposed in two thanas of the district today to ward off possible violence between supporters of ruling BNP and the Jatiya Party, reports UNB.

JP convened two rallies at Sujanagar thana sadar and Santhia College premises this afternoon as part of its programmes for "Upazila Day" demanding restoration of the Upazila system and release of its leader Ershad.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain visited a Puja venue at the Kamalapur Railway Station in the city yesterday.

Benazir demands partial troops withdrawal from Kashmir

LIMASSOL (Cyprus), Oct 23: Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto condemned Friday's bloodshed in disputed Kashmir and said it made her cynical about an Indian offer for peace talks, reports Reuter

"While they were offering talks more people were killed and two more divisions moved in." Bhutto told reporters at the Commonwealth summit in Cyprus.

The Indian army is besieging Kashmir's holiest mosque in Srinagar, capital of Jammu and Kashmir state and centre of a four-year-old anti-Indian revolt Bhutto urged India to withdraw some troops as a gesture

of sincerity and said only free elections would resolve the problem. What we are witnessing is

state violence against unarmed people - men, women and children. Sentiments rise," Bhutto told reporters from Reuters and the British Broadcasting Corporation at the summit.

letter on Wednesday congratulating her on becoming Prime Minister again, had offered talks on the Kashmir flare-up. "Every time there is violence

Bhutto said that India, in a

Larnaca airport amid reports that Indian troops shot dead it spoils the atmosphere. We some 35 Kashmiri Muslims. "I feel a little cynical about if the was shocked at the news of the offer for talks is for real," she

Bhutto said she suspected it was an attempt to head off Pakistan's plans to propose UN resolutions condemning alleged Indian human rights abuses in Kashmir.

"Indian repression has increased. The world must raise its voice." she said.

The Prime Minister denied Indian charges that Pakistan. which rules one third of the territory, was provoking trouble Free elections must be held, she

"This is the new world order. What we are saying is the right of self-determination cannot be denied." India justified the siege by

accusing the militants of sacrilege, saying it uncovered a plot to steal the holy relic. It accused Pakistan of direct involvement in the plot. Meanwhile, Pakistani Fore-

ign Minister Farooq Leghari on Friday accused India of escalating the conflict in Kashmir and called for an end to the "brutality." "Indian brutality in Kahsmir is crossing all limits," Leghari told AFP in an interview at

He said the shootings were "again an escalation by the Indian security forces," adding that "these acts of brutality must stop" and that a solution to the conflict be found as soon as possible.

Leghari also complained the Indian delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which he was attending in Limassol, did not show real signs it wanted to solve the Kashmir problem

He also complained that the head of the Indian delegation to the CHOGM, Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, had accused Pakistan to "helping the Kashmiris through narco-terrorism." "This we thought was very

unkind," because Islamabad has cracked down on drug smuggling, he said. Canadians go to

polls tomorrow

TORONTO, Oct 23: Canada's politics are expected to move from right to left after Monday's general election, but the swing is due as much to an inept Conservative campaign as it is to growing Liberal support, reports AP

Kamal asks students to fight communalism*

Gano Forum president Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called upon the students to be united to fight against communalism and curb terrorism in the educational institutions, reports

"Communalism and terrorism are the diseases of the society threatening the future of the whole nation. The students should come forward for eliminating the diseases," he told a delegation of the Sampradayekata Birodhi Chhatra Samaj who called on him at the party office. Accusing a fundamentalist

party for unleashing terrorism in the educational institutions, Dr Kamal said the student front of this party initiated the politics of cutting tendons to take hold of the campuses. "The arms and religion

based politics must go," he said and stressed the need for the students' unity in order to eliminate campus violence.

Prokichi slates BCS (Admin) statement

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Action Council of the engineers, doctors, agriculturists and BCS officials (Prokichi), at a meeting yesterday, resolved that the BCS (Administration) Association's statement regarding the council's agitation reflected the mental imbalance' of the administrators.

Chaired by Dr MA Majed, the meeting, held at the Krishibid Institution in the city, was also addressed by council leaders including Md Abu Hena, Dr. Gul Hossain, Dr Gazi Abdul Haq, Javed Iqbal, ANH Akhter Hossain, Dr. Mushtaque Hossain and Ahsanul Huq.

A resolution adopted in the meeting bitterly criticised the country's bureaucrats for their pro-establishment' role.

During 24 years of Pakistan era, it said, the bureaucrats captured the nation's political power since the autocratic regime of Ayub Khan in 1958 and was still firmly determined to continue its hold on the reins of power.

The BCS (Administration) Association, in its statement, Friday demanded that the authorities declare the Prokichi activities illegal

BCS (Edn) Assoc resents delay in appointment

Association vesterday expressed strong resentment at the dillydally process of the authorities to appoint the candidates selected by Special BCS Examination for filling the posts of lecturers at government colleges, reports UNB.

The candidates were selected one and a half years ago by Public Service Commission to fill-up 1876 posts out of the total vacant posts of nearly 4,500

in education cadre. Two-pronged attack

From Page 1 Col 5

The Finance Minister said the implementation of the development programmes had already been geared up. He pointed out that the government had also removed most of the regulations and restrictions and was going to initiate administrative reforms.

plane of development.

He also listed various measures, taken by the government to raise the quality of investment, improve income levels and best utilise the foreign assistances.

The World Bank Resident

tatives at the meeting.

The Midnight Rile

Film festival opens in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Oct 23: For the first time since war erupted, an international film festival opened here Saturday, minus British actress Vanessa Redgrave and other star guests who were refused permission to fly into Sarajevo aboard United Nations planes. Entitled "Beyond The End of the World;" the festival will offer war-weary Sarajevans the chance to see more than 100 films and documentaries from China to Argentina. The opening of the festival, which runs until November 3, drew a crowd of about 500, including UN representatives, and was interrupted several times by power outages, reports AP.

Benazir talks with Fahd

DUBAI, Oct 23: Pakistan's newly-elected Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto held talks with Saudi Arabian King Fahd today after she made a pilgrimage to Muslim holy sites. The two leaders met in the Saudi Arabian Red Sea port city of Jeddah, the Saudi Press Agency said. It gave no other details about the talks, reports Reuter.

Burundi's coup leaders ready to surrender

KIGALI (Rwanda), Oct 23; Burundi's army chief said today that troops who toppled President Melchior Ndadaye were ready to surrender power in return for an amnesty. "The military men have accepted that the government of Efrodebu(Ndadaye's party) rule again but it should examine the question of amnesty for those who participated in the coup, Lieutenant-Colonel Jean Bikomagu told Burundi radio, monitored in neighbouring Rwanda, reports Reuter.

Georgian troops enter Gamsakhurdia base

KUTAISI, Georgia, Oct 23: Georgian government troops entered today the west Georgian province of Mingrelia, stronghold of rebel forces loyal to former president Zviad Gamsakhurdia, Georgian officials said here, reports AFP.

Government troops battled their way into Abasha, key city in Mingrelia, and fighting continued farther north in the village of Marvili, the officials said Rebel forces also abandoned

the village of Senaki, located about 15 kilometers (10 miles) north of Abasha, opening a key route to Zugdidi, the main city of Mingrelia, and to the Black Sea port of Poti seized by armed Gamsakhurdia supporters on October 2. Government troops managed

trol on the entire region of

Mingrelia, which remained loyal

Yeltsin's stand

Russian President Boris

"The developments in

Youngman held

From Page 1 Col 5

Later, Moni escaped from the

often video-taped the alleged

house and attempted to commit

suicide by jumping in front of a

running train but was rescued

The rescuers admitted her to

She filed the case Thursday

Dhanmondi police said that

the Orthopaedic Hospital in

and police arrested one of the

a vigorous investigation is on.

Pak presidency

From Page 1 Col 5

and don't take decisions unilat

erally or according to the whims.

of individuals. Our politics is

based on building consensus

on all important issues", he

Punjab, is considered 'Mr

Chatta, powerful in the

Balkh Sher Mazari, who be-

came caretaker prime minister

after the short-lived dismissal of

Nawaz Sharif by President Ishaq

Meanwhile, the Jamaat-i-

Islami, which came out of the

electoral alliance with the

PML(N) during the general elec-

tions, has hinted at the

possibility of future cooperation

with Nawaz Sharif on fielding a

consensus candidate in the

General secretary of the

Sindh Jamaat-i-Islami, Dr

Athar Qureshi said yesterday

that his party had never closed

the doors of dialogue with the

PML (N) and that his party was

ready to cooperate with other

forces in the larger national in-

Sailad is likely to be a strong

contender from the PML (N) for

the country's highest office. He

has also proved his loyalty to

the party. Sajjad has been cam-

paigning for the office for over a

week now, according to reports.

presidency following the forced

resignation of President Ishaq

Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz

Sharif last July.

Wasim Sajjad took over the

The acting President Wasim

Khan early this year, also ex-

Dhaka in a serious condition.

by some local people.

accused brothers.

Clean in politics.

pressed similar views.

presidential poll.

sexual acts.

to push back a rebel advance on western Georgia Friday by reconquering the strategic city of Samtredia. The troops planned to press forward towards Zugdidi and Poti and establish Tbilisi's con-

to Gamsakhurdia after he was ousted from power in January AP adds: Rebel forces withdrew from two towns, including the birthplace of Georgian

leader Eduard Shevardnadze, BCS General Education the Georgian Defence Ministry said Saturday. Yeltsin, meanwhile, said he has issued a special order to Russia's Defence Mihistry to use the means necessary for guarding a key Georgian rail-

leap in economic growth, employment and end poverty.

Rahman said the government had already created a congenial atmosphere for the growth of a private sector to lead the nation on to the higher

The Finance Minister said despite pains the government had been pursuing widescale reform programmes.

Representative, Japanese Ambassador, UK High Commissioner. USAID Director, US Charge D' Affaires, Canadian High Commissioner, German Ambassador, Australian High Commissioner, French Ambassador, Dutch Ambassador, UNDP Resident Representative. ADB Representative and Danish Ambassador in their interventions acclaimed the economic progress of Bangladesh but stressed the need for accelerating the pace of implementation of the development programmes, privation, administrative reforms and local government reforms.

Economic Relations Division Secretary Lutfullahil Majid. Agriculture Secretary ANM Yusuf, T and T Secretary Dr AMM Shawkat Ali, Health Secretary Syed Shameem Ahsan, Food Secretary Dr Tawfique Elahi Chowdhury, Board of Investment Chairman Meer Mostafizur Rahman, replied to various queries of the ambassadors, high commissioners and lending agency represenGerogia are very important for Russia," Yeltsin told reporters in the provincial Russian city of Yaroslavi. "Georgia, Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan should hold onto the railroad. It was the first official con-

firmation of a stepped-up

Russian involvement in Geor-

gias civil war, in which rebels

are trying to topple Shevar-

dnadze and return the country's

former nationalist president Zviad Gamsakhurdia to power. Shevardnadze had asked Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan to help his government guard major communications against rebel attacks.

One killed, 3 hurt in city By DMCH Correspondent One person was killed and another three were injured in

> around the city yesterday. A rickshaw passenger was killed and its puller was injured when a speeding truck knocked the rickshaw at Dhaleshar on the Dhaka-Narayangani highway just outside the city yester-

separate incidents in and

The rickshaw passenger who could not be immediately identified, died on the spot. The rickshaw puller was admitted to the nearby hospital. However, police seized the

truck (Dhaka Metro TA-6212) but its driver managed to es-In another incident, a youngman was injured when a group of miscreants stabbed

him at Palassey in the city yesterday afternoon. The victim, Mohammed Mostafizur Rahman, 23, was seriously injured and admitted to the Dhaka Medical College

Hospital (DMCH). One Mohammed Obaidur Rahman, 23, was injured when a group of agitated neighbours stabbed him at Kamrangirchar in the city suburbs vesterday.

Obaidur was admitted to the

Khaleda From Page 1 Col 3 Bhutto, Begum Zia said, "It was

a cordial one". "We will hold talks later to resolve bilateral issues," the Prime Minister said in reply to a question regarding the stranded Pakistanis and Bangladesh's

assets in Pakistan. She declined to comment on Benazir's positions on the Kashmir and Farakka issues by saying, "Pakistan is also against

violation of human rights. The Bangladesh Prime Minister said that the Commonwealth has played a vital role in the defeat of racist regimes in Zimbabwe, Namibia and now in South Africa During the two years from the Harare summit to Cyprus, it has monitored nine elections and helped strengthen institution-building, constitutional reforms and streamlining elec-

toral procedures. The Commonwealth has also highlighted the special economic and security problems of small states and also those of least developed countries, the

Prime Minister added. It has concentrated on country-specific economic development and came up with new mechanism, such as, the Commonwealth privatisation fund, debt recording and management systems, technology management and private sector partnership.

provided the leaders of all member-states with an opportunity to meet at close quarters both formally and informally, which was of invaluable benefit A joint communique of the

Begum Zia said the summit

summit will be released on Monday, Begum Zia said. Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and

Law Minister Mirza Golam Haftz were present at the press brief-

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