

China assures help in communication sector

BEIJING, Oct 23: Communications Minister Oil 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-Kushtha road project by a Chinese corporation.

The Chinese minister informed Oil 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.

Oil 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 (Talleridip) bridge on the Patla-Anwara-Bashkhal road (Chittagong-Cox's Bazar alternative highway), construction of Corai bridge on Rajbari-Kushtha 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 Jagannathganj to Nalchia, and sleeper renewal of different sec-

tions of the Bangladesh Railway.

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

Both the ministers also exchanged ideas for attaining better balance in the Bangladesh-China trade. In this connection Oil 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.

The Chinese minister also expressed their willingness to 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), Khalispur 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.



Relatives mourn over the body of a slain Muslim demonstrator at Anantnag in Kashmir Friday. — AFP photo

Kashmiris

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gas to break up a protest by several thousand angry Muslims in the northern Kashmir 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 Maitto. "And later they delayed the transportation of the wounded. Many bled to death."

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 Nazhat, 15 miles from the city, hospital sources said.



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

Benazir demands partial troops withdrawal from 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 besieged Hazrat Mosque.

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

Kennedy Smith arrested

ARLINGTON, Oct 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.

"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.

Bhutto said that India, in a letter on Wednesday congratulating her on becoming Prime Minister again, had offered talks on the Kashmir flare-up.

"Every time there is violence it spoils the atmosphere. We feel a little cynical about if the offer for talks is for real," she

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 UNB.

"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 Sampradayakata 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 Krishbid 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 Mushtaq Hossain and Ahsanul Haq.

A resolution adopted in the meeting bitterly criticised the country's bureaucrats for their 'pre-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

BCS General Education Association yesterday expressed strong resentment at the dilly-dally 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

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leap in economic growth, employment and end poverty.

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.

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 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 assistance.

The Finance Minister said despite pains the government had been pursuing wide-scale reform programmes.

The World Bank Resident Representative, Japanese Ambassador, UK High Commissioner, USAID Director, US Charge D' Affaires, Canadian High Commissioner, German Ambassador, Australian High Commissioner, 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, privatisation, 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 representatives at the meeting.

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.

The Midnight File

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 Efredebu(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 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 control on the entire region of Mingrelia, which remained loyal to Gamsakhurdia after he was ousted from power in January 1992.

Yeltsin's stand
AP adds: Rebel forces withdrew from two towns, including the birthplace of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian Defence Ministry said Saturday.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, meanwhile, said he has issued a special order to Russia's Defence Ministry to use the means necessary for guarding a key Georgian railroad.

The developments in Youngman held

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often video-taped the alleged sexual acts.

Later, Moni escaped from the house and attempted to commit suicide by jumping in front of a running train but was rescued by some local people.

The rescuers admitted her to the Orthopaedic Hospital in Dhaka in a serious condition.

She filed the case Thursday and police arrested one of the accused brothers.

Dhanmondi police said that a vigorous investigation is on.

Pak presidency

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and don't take decisions unilaterally or according to the whims of individuals. Our politics is based on building consensus on all important issues," he said.

Chatta, powerful in the Punjab, is considered 'Mr Clean' in politics.

Balkh Sher Mazari, who became caretaker prime minister after the short-lived dismissal of Nawaz Sharif by President Ishaq Khan early this year, also expressed similar views.

Meanwhile, the Jamaat-i-Islami, which came out of the electoral alliance with the PML(N) during the general elections, has hinted at the possibility of future cooperation with Nawaz Sharif on fielding a consensus candidate in the presidential poll.

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 interest.

The acting President Wasim Sajjad 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 campaigning for the office for over a week now, according to reports.

Wasim Sajjad took over the presidency following the forced resignation of President Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif last July.

Georgia are very important for Russia," Yeltsin told reporters in the provincial Russian city of Yaroslavl. "Georgia, Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan should hold onto the railroad."

It was the first official confirmation of a stepped-up Russian involvement in Georgia civil war, in which rebels are trying to topple Shevardnadze 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 separate incidents in and 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-Narayanganj highway just outside the city yesterday.

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 escape.

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 yesterday.

Khaleda

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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 institutional-building, constitutional reforms and streamlining electoral 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.

Begum Zia said the summit 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 summit will be released on Monday, Begum Zia said.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and Law Minister Mirza Gohar Hossain were present at the press briefing.