

Aristide won't return until Cedras leaves

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 28: Ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide said Thursday he would not return to Haiti until the man who toppled him, Lt Gen Raoul Cedras, leaves, reports AP.

"I think he will have to leave, and then I will be able to return," Aristide told a news conference after his speech before the General Assembly.

"One, he (Cedras) must leave," Aristide said in French. "Two, I must return," he said when asked whether he would return as long as Cedras remains in power in Haiti.

Earlier, Aristide appealed to the international community to impose a complete blockade on trade with Haiti to help bring about his return.

Aristide had been scheduled to go back Saturday under a July agreement with Haiti's army leader, but violence by military-backed groups has disrupted the UN-mediated plan for restoring democracy.

The UN Security Council reimposed an oil and arms embargo on Haiti last week in an attempt to pressure the military leaders who ousted Aristide in a bloody coup in September 1991.

But Aristide said more was needed. "We request a total and complete blockade, which is

necessary, even essential," he told the 184-nation General Assembly.

He urged the UN Security Council to impose an aerial blockade against Haiti as one additional measure which should be taken to help restore him to power.

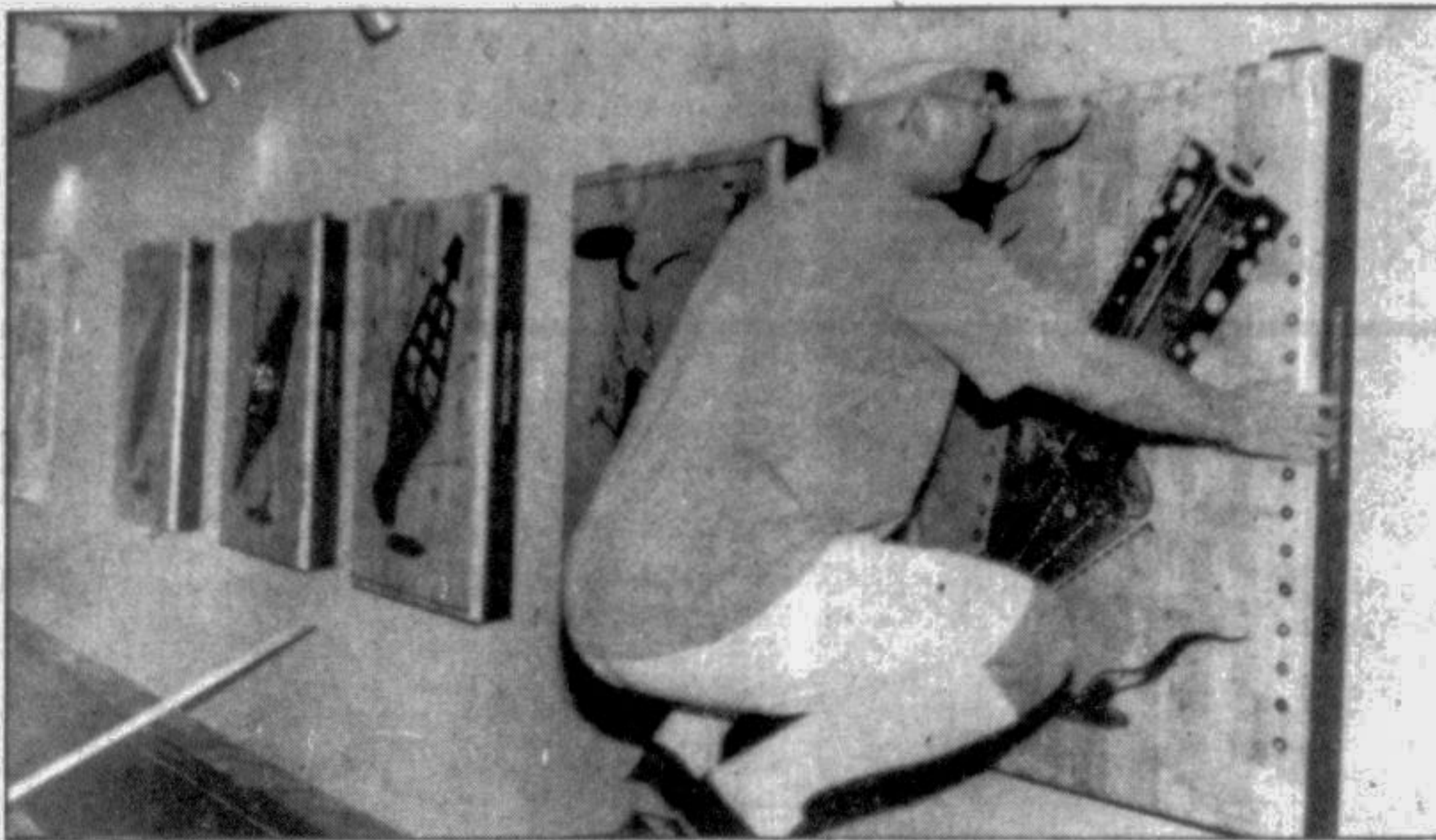
In a 25-minute speech greeted by applause, he vowed to return to his impoverished Caribbean nation and emphasised political dialogue, reconciliation, economic reconstruction and justice.

"It is not a matter of choosing to return or not to return," he said. "Oct. 30 is a choice between departure and lateness."

He indicated flexibility about the actual date of his return, but a return Saturday is considered highly unlikely because of turmoil on the island.

In Washington, President Clinton said he was "looking into other options," for returning Aristide to Haiti. He did not immediately address Aristide's remarks, which were completed just minutes before Clinton spoke with reporters outside the White House.

Clinton said he spent 40 minutes Thursday morning discussing Haiti with his national security advisers.



Art works being hung on the walls of the Osmany Memorial Hall yesterday for the forthcoming 6th Asian Art Biennale which begins in the city November 2. — Star photo

Asian art show: Delegates start arriving

Delegates of the countries participating in the Sixth Asian Art Biennale have started arriving in the city, reports UNB.

The month-long exhibition is due to open on Nov 2.

A total of 13 participants including a five-member delegation from Japan, a five-member team from Iran and one each from Pakistan and Sri Lanka arrived Wednesday.

Thirty countries including host Bangladesh have so far confirmed participation.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Postal Department will release a commemorative postal stamp of Tk 10 Monday.

A small leaflet on the background and importance of the art exhibition will also be published.

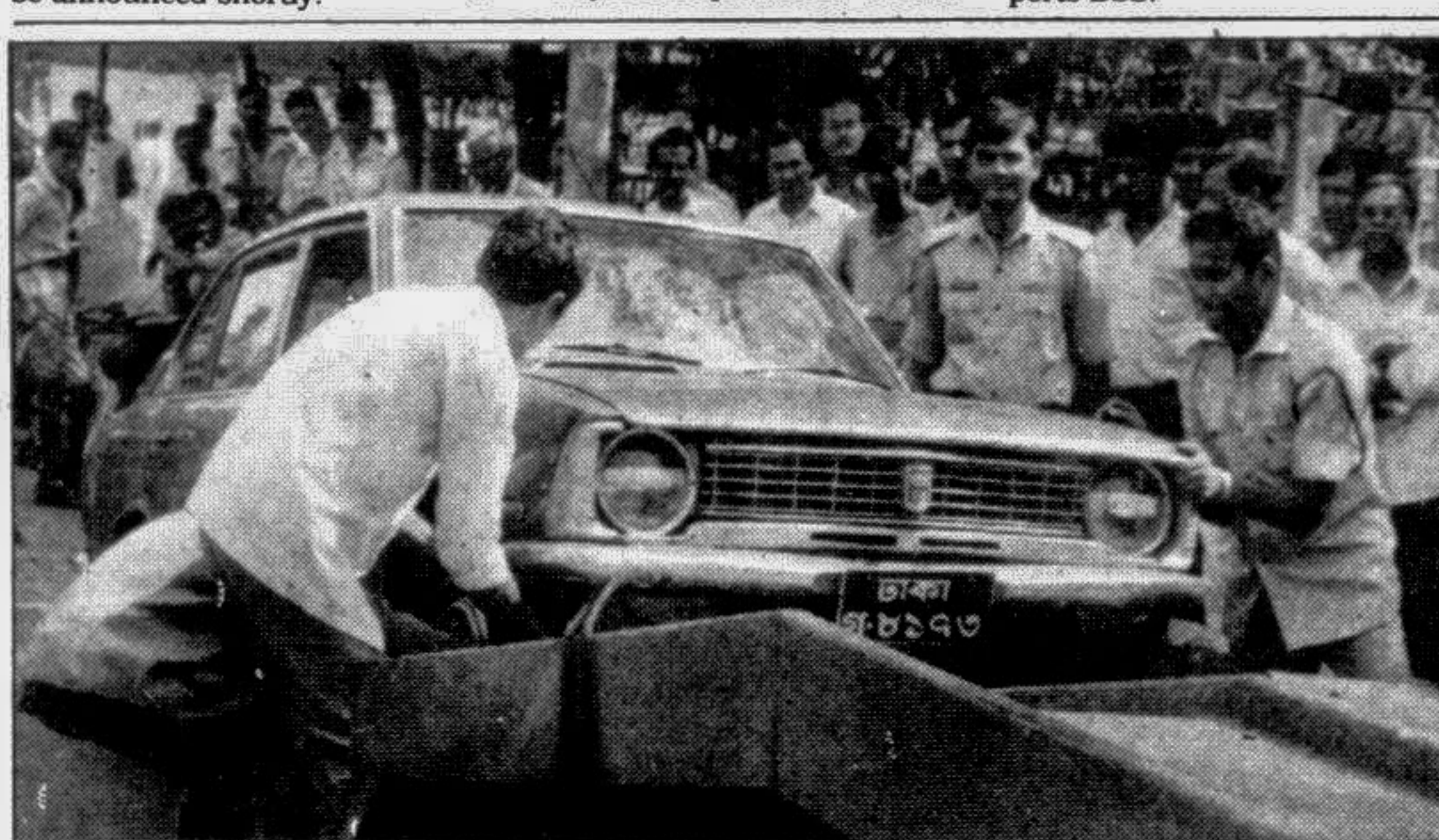
The department will also release a set of four commemorative postal stamps of Tk 10 and a souvenir sheet of Tk 50 on the natural beauty of Bangladesh on Saturday.

The department will also release inaugural envelopes of Tk 5 and will use a special canceller on both the occasions.

BNP rejects

From Page 1 Col 8: tricts there are more than one party committee, a meeting source said.

The source said that there was no detailed discussion in the meeting on the formation of the 251-member central committee, pending since September's national council, but the party chairperson reportedly reassured the meeting that the committee would be announced shortly.



Police hauling away a car from a no-parking zone near the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday. — Star photo

Probarana Purnima today

Probarana Purnima, one of the religious festivals of the Buddhist community, will be celebrated today, reports BSS.

The highlights of Probarana Purnima are 'barsha brata palan' and 'kathin chibar dan'. The three-month long barsha brata of the Bhikkhu-Sangha, which has been celebrated from Ashari Purnima, will be completed through this Purnima (full moon) and celebration of kathin chibar dan will begin the next day.

The Probarana Purnima will continue for a month until the Kartiki Purnima in the Buddhist populated areas of the country. The traditional 'Janush' festival will be celebrated this evening.

The Bangladesh Bouddha Kishiti Prachar Sangha has chalked out a day-long programme at the Dharmarajik Bouddha Bihar in the city.

The programmes include Buddha Puja at 4 am, probhat ferry at 5 am, breakfast at 7 am, Buddha kirtan at 9 am, a symposium on the significance of Probarana at 4 pm, pan-chashil graha n and pradwip puja at 6 pm and hoisting of fanush and Bouddha kirtan at 7 pm.

The Bangladesh Bouddhists Federation has also planned Probarana Purnima programmes at the International Bouddha Bihar at Merul, Badda.

Probarana Purnima, will also be celebrated today in Chittagong and elsewhere in the districts.

Ngeze under house arrest Coup fails in Burundi

BUJUMBURA, Burundi, Oct 28: The military coup that toppled Burundi's first democratically elected government a week ago has collapsed, Radio Burundi said Thursday, reports AP.

The state-owned station, which had been in the hands of the military, said the former foreign minister Francois Ngeze who had been named by the army as head of state was under house arrest.

The announcements were described as 'government communiqués', but it was not clear who was issuing them. Surviving members of the civilian government have been in hiding since the Oct 21 coup.

The radio said 15 army officers who took part in the coup had fled the country to escape arrest. The military had been seeking amnesty for the soldiers.

"We remind all Burundians and the international community that the small group which sought to overthrow the state has been disbanded," the station said.

President Melchior Ndadaye and at least four other top aides were slain in the early hours of the coup, which set off a week-long wave of ethnic killings among the majority Hutu people and the minority Tutsis.

Mark Doyle, a British Broadcasting Corp reporter, flew over central and northern Burundi in a helicopter Wednesday and said he saw bodies littering the streets in one village.

Doyle said plumes of smoke rising from other villages indicated that the ethnic battles were continuing and estimated that thousands had already died.

Bishop Bernard Bududira, head of the Roman Catholic Church, said the death toll could be higher than in 1988, when an estimated 20,000 died in similar clashes.

A DESA engineer, talking to The Daily Star, said there was a fault at a ring-man unit near Bangabhaban. He said efforts were on to rectify the fault which tripped the power supply.

Different areas of the city suffer such power failures almost everyday.

Tk 150 cr Danish grant

Bangladesh will receive about Taka 150 crore as grant from Denmark during 1994 under an agreed minutes signed here yesterday at the end of the annual consultations of Bangladesh-Denmark bilateral development cooperation, reports BSS.

Dhaka, Tehran sign MOU

A memorandum of understanding was signed here last night at the end of the two-day first session of Bangladesh-Iran Joint Commission emphasising the need for more closer co-operation between the two friendly countries in the fields of economic, commercial, rural development and manpower, reports BSS.

The leader of Bangladesh delegation and Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and the leader of Iranian delegation and its Minister for Rural Development and Reconstruction G R Forouzesah signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the state guest house Meghna. Members of the delegations of both the countries were also present.

Both the sides emphasised that the scope was still wide and promising for further co-laboration between the two brotherly countries in the field of trade, industry, manpower and technical cooperation.

The Joint Commission identified projects both in private and public sectors to be financed either through joint venture or with assistance from the Iranian government.

The first session of the joint commission began here on October 26.

Both the sides agreed to consider the recommendations of three sub-committees: Committee on agriculture, rural development and fisheries, committee on trade and industry and committee on culture, science and technology, human resources development and manpower.

The Iranian delegation members left here for Tehran last night. State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman saw them off at the airport.

Biogas plant opens in Tangail

TANGAIL, Oct 28: Country's largest biogas plant with a daily production capacity of 900 cubic feet of gas was commissioned today at Dhaleshwari Dairy Farm at Charabari, about six kilometres from Tangail, reports BSS.

The amount of gas generated from the plant can run 25 electric bulbs of 100 watt each for 12 hours and a double burner cooker for 8 hours a day.

Constructed jointly by the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) and S D S, an NGO of Tangail, at a cost of Taka 51,000, the volume of the plant is 1600 cubic feet. It is charged daily with cowdung collected from about 50 cattle per day.

Inaugurating the plant, State Minister for Science and Technology Professor M A Mannan called upon the scientists to expedite setting up of biogas plants in the rural areas for the welfare of the common people.

He said the cowdung produced per year by about two crore and 20 lakh cattle in the country could produce biogas equivalent to about 15 lakh tons of oil.

US Secy of State

From Page 1 Col 8: strengthened democratic institutions and human rights practices.

She also expressed confidence that Washington would devote "significant energy" to promoting peace, security, democracy and development throughout South Asia, describing overall US relations with the region as being "on a more solid footing than at any time in the past 30 years, in spite of the enormous challenges we face."

Raphel also referred to areas of "disagreement in our relations", and concluded, "I believe that we have the tools to turn problems into opportunities."

In the speech during her swearing-in ceremony, Raphel said: "We will support and nurture Bangladesh's young democracy through practical programme such as strengthening its parliamentary institutions."

Raphel, who most recently served in India as Counselor for Political Affairs at the American Embassy there, joined the US Foreign Service in mid 1970s. She served as a USAID economic/financial analyst in Pakistan. She also served as a political officer in London covering Middle East, South Asia, Africa and East Asian Affairs and as Counselor for Political Affairs in South Africa.

In addition, she worked at the State Department as an economist in the office of Investment Affairs, economic officer on the Israeli Desk, Staff Aide for the Assistant Secretary for the Near East/South Asia Bureau and Special Assistant to Under Secretary for Political Affairs.

Raphel is a graduate of the University of Washington, and holds an MA degree from the University of Maryland. She also studied in England at Cambridge University and the University of London. She and her husband, Leonard Ashton, have two young daughters.

Raphel will leave Bangladesh on November 6.

The Midnight File

10 more bodies found in Bosnian village

SARAJEVO, Oct 28: An additional 10 bodies of Muslim civilians, some of them mutilated, have been found in a central Bosnian village sacked and burned by Croat militia forces, the United Nations said today. UN and European Community observers entered the hamlet of Stupni Do, near the Croat stronghold town of Vares, earlier this week to investigate a suspected massacre of Muslim inhabitants by Croat forces following a Bosnian government army attack in the area, reports Reuter.

Rutskoi shifted to hospital

MOSCOW, Oct 28: Former Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, one of the leaders of this month's failed hardline revolt, has been taken from jail to hospital with high blood pressure, Interfax news agency said today. It quoted Security Ministry sources as saying Rutskoi, an Afghan war veteran, had been moved from his Moscow prison cell to the high-security jail's hospital on Wednesday night. His condition was said to be satisfactory, reports Reuter.

Beijing thwarts mass march by Muslims

BEIJING, Oct 28: Hundreds of police thwarted plans by angry Muslims from restive western China to stage a mass march in Beijing against ethnic repression earlier this month, Chinese sources said, reports Reuter.

Two Beijing-bound trains on separate routes were stopped in remote towns and surrounded by some 600 people's armed police and government and party officials, the sources said.

In Qinghai Province armed police clashed with other Muslims who set out on foot for

Beijing in early October, according to the sources, whose accounts were confirmed today by officials in the Qinghai capital Xining.

"They were stopped at a key bridge over a river outside Xining," one source said. "Nine of the Muslims drowned when they tried to swim across the river."

Beijing-bound Muslims also were barred from boarding the few commercial flights linking the heavily Islamic city of Xining with the Chinese capital.

The incidents suggest the anti-Chinese unrest in the largely Muslim west over the last two months was far more explosive than has been acknowledged in scant official accounts and reflect more than just anger over an ethnically insulting Chinese book.

PM: Medical

From Page 1 Col 7: desh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, the USA, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Referring to her inaugural address at the 7th SAARC Summit in Dhaka, the Prime Minister said she had emphasised the need for strengthening cooperation in all fields.

"Other regions of the world are trying to adjust to the complex situation. They intend to do so by coming closer, by uniting their strength. We in South Asia must also do the same," she said.

Begum Zia, the current chairperson of SAARC, stressed on forging an effective regional response to the many common challenges and formulating a truly viable agenda to improve the living standards of the South Asian region.

Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf, Chairman of the inaugural session Prof SN Samad Chowdhury, President of World Federation of Societies of Anaesthetists Dr. Say Wan Lim, President of AARD Pr. MV Silao from the Philippines, Prof Vasu Matti Divekar of India and SACA Organising Committee Chairman Prof KM Iqbal also spoke.

Later, Begum Zia went round different stalls of medical equipment set up at the venue of the conference.

Hasina's farewell dinner for Australian envoy

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday hosted a dinner in honour of the outgoing Australian High Commissioner Richard K Gate at a local hotel in the city, reports UNB.

Hasina thanked the envoy for his contribution towards promoting the Australia-Bangladesh relations during his mission in Bangladesh. She also appreciated his role in development cooperation between the two countries.

The Opposition Leader recalled the friendship between Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Australian Prime Minister.

The outgoing envoy praised the role of the Awami League in Bangladesh's politics.

The farewell dinner for the Australian High Commissioner was also attended by the High Commissioners and Ambassadors of Pakistan, Russian Federation, Belgium, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Egypt, the Netherlands, Palestine, Turkey and Charge d'Affaires of the United States and Poland and the Deputy High Commissioner of India.

It was also attended, among others, by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, MP, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, MP, Salauddin Yusuf, MP, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, MP, Abdul Momen, Kamruzzaman, Amir Hossain Amu, Mafizur Rahman, Dr Durgadas Bhattacharya, Abdul Jalil, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Akteruzzaman, Sultan Sharif and Shamsuddin Khan.

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Dialogue

From Page 1 Col 5: tion council yesterday evening detailed the plans of its token hunger strike scheduled for November 15.

The non-administrative public servants and the professionals are pressing for implementation of a 17-point charter of demands that include administrative reforms to accommodate the elected representatives of the people at the head of all levels of local government, formulation of a rules of business making the ministers heads of their respective ministries, separation of the judiciary from the administration, restoring equal status among the district-level officers, and formation of a warrant of precedence according to the payscale for government officials.

CMCH doctors resume duties

From Staff Correspondent: CHITTAGONG, Oct 28: Doctors have resumed their duties at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital today following postponement of their protest programmes, hospital sources said.

Fifty-four patients were admitted today to the hospital and doctors attended them, hospital sources added.

Doctors here went on a strike since October 18 in protest against the raid by unidentified gunmen on the doctors' cafeteria that left three persons killed, including a doctor.

They called off the strike at the request of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who yesterday visited the Chittagong Medical College Hospital to see the injured.

Autopsy reports

From Page 1 Col 5: possible for us to send the reports immediately."

He said there are only five teachers and a medical officer in the department, and they were all over-worked.

"When we send the viscera for pathological test in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) laboratory at Mohakhali, they take at least two to three months and this causes the delay because without this our autopsy reports cannot be finalised," the teacher said.

"In June and July last we did not have the government-record-book or proforma for autopsies which we get from the government Press," he said.

He added that the report of the autopsy on the body of the woman magistrate had already been posted.

Prokrichi's hunger strike Nov 15

By Staff Correspondent: The non-administrative civil servants and the professionals including engineers, agriculturists and doctors will observe an eight-hour token hunger strike on November 15 to press home their 17-point charter of demands.

Scheduled to be observed at the Engineers' Institute premises in the city, the hunger strike, beginning at 9 am, will be participated by the officials and the professionals working in the capital.

The coordination council of the non-administrative officials and the professionals (Prokrichi), which has been agitating for administrative reforms since April last, had announced the plan for the hunger strike during a rally in the city on the 19th of this month.

At a meeting yesterday the council leaders observed that the government should withdraw police guards posted at the residences of the District and Divisional Commissioners with a view to deploying them in maintaining law and order. The meeting felt that when Parliament members and District Judges were not entitled to police security, the DCs should not be allowed to enjoy the facility either.

The deployment of sentries at the residences of the DCs costs the public exchequer several crore taka every year, the coordination council estimated.

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