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Govt tightens up foreign aid receiving policy

By Inam Ahmed

The government has tightened up its foreign aid receiving policy in view of the present better internal resource mobilisation and economic stabilisation.

As a result, tied aid is now being discouraged and more emphasis has been laid on lesser foreign aid dependency. according to sources in the Planning Ministry.

The new policy of the government was reflected in the Finance Minister's recent remarks regarding foreign aid when he was quoted as saying that most donor-induced ifinancial packages often have little relevance to the needs of the

In a recent meeting, the

government decided to shun its previous attitudes of receiving any foreign aid, irrespective of its impact and the country's actual needs.

KARTIK 15, 1400 BS,

Any project to be included in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) will now be evaluated on its own merit or importance.

According to sources in the Finance Ministry, foreign aid would be sought for projects which have been formally authorised and accepted in princi-

Financial experts view that the present high reserves of forex with the central bank and a favourable balance of payment situation have encouraged

the government in taking such

DHAKA SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1993

At this moment, the country's forex reserves stand at an all-time high of 2.4 billion US dollar. On the other hand, the exports are now equal to 60 per cent of imports in value terms - compared to only 40 per cent five years ago.

However, some experts feel that the government's tightening up policy reflects its own poor foreign aid absorption ca-

Most public agencies are now in a wretched condition and are unable to receive new foreign loans because of their continued non-performance or loss-making status.

On the other hand, the donors have also suspended loans for some agencies and are unwilling to issue new loans to others. The World Bank is continuing its aid suspension on new investments in the power sector, the WASA is under fire from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Railway recovery programme with the ADB is yet to be signed because of poor performances of some other sectors.

Against this backdrop, the government's demand for foreign aid has also come down because of the on-going structural reform programme which envisages massive privatisation

ter-ministerial committee has Sec Page 12 Col 8

10,000 BADC staff may be retrenched

By Special Correspondent

A four-member inter-ministerial committee has been formed to work out the procedure of down-sizing the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC).

JAMADIUL-AWAL 13, 1414 HIJRI

The decision of the Ministry of Agriculture to trim and revamp the 32-year old state-run corporation has already been approved by the cabinet.

According to well-placed sources, the BADC's existing manpower of 17,000 will have to be reduced substantially and at least 10,000 employees will become redundant in the process of implementation of the decision. "These employees might face retrenchment", said the sources.

An authoritative source in the Agriculture Ministry told this correspondent that the in-

also been assigned to suggest the core functions and activities of the BADC after the reorganisation.

Headed by the Secretary of the IME Division of the Ministry of Planning, the committee includes Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and two representatives from the ministries of Finance and Establishment.

"The committee will do the job soon, but no deadline has yet been fixed," the source

After obtaining the report from the committee, the Ministry of Agriculture will constitute a task force to implement the whole process of reorganising the corporation.

The decision to recast the BADC and squeeze its functions See Page 12 Col 7

Nirmul body's half-day hartal today

By Staff Correspondent The Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee has called an 8-hour country-wide hartal from 6 this morning demanding trial of Jamaat leader Golam Ajam as a 'war criminal' and a ban on his

The Awami League, the Five-Party alliance, the CPB, NAP (M) and other political parties and students' organisations have extended support to the half-day hartal, scheduled to run until

2:00 pm. On the eve of hartal, the Samannaya Committee of the Nirmul bodies organised a rally followed by a torch procession at the Noor Hossain Square in the city. Besides, street-corner rallies were held at different parts of the city yesterday to mobilise support for the hartal.

The rally at Noor Hossain Square near the GPO was ad-See Page 12 Col 6

30 injured as youths clash in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Oct 29: At least 30 people were injured in an armed clash among two groups of youths at Khanpur here this evening, police and witnesses said

According to witnesses, the 45-minute clash took place between two groups trying to establish their domination over the area. They exchanged about 50 rounds of gunfire and exploded numerous crackers during the showdown that started at about 6:15 in the evening. Skirmishes continued for

two hours. Police reached the spot halfan-hour after the fighting broke out but soon took centrol of the

Seven people were arrested

from the scene. Tension was prevailing in the area following the incident. Ex-

tra police were deployed to guard against further violence.

Abbas Ali Khan slates secular

parties CHITTAGONG, Oct 29: Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abbas Ali Khan today here alleged that the secular political parties backed by the ruling party had begun a campaign to kill the workers of the Islamic move-

Addressing as chief guest the workers' conference of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Chittagong south unit, at the Wajiullah Institute here, Abbas Ali Khan stressed the need for building character in the light of the

teachings of Islam. Khan said practice of manmade rules and procedures in disregard of the 'laws' ordained by the Almighty Allah was the root of unrest and chaos in the

the 4-point accord signed in He urged all to strengthen Parliament regarding the trial the Islamic movement to establish the 'Rule of Allah' for peace and prosperity. Presided over by Shahjahan

central assistant general secre-

tary, Mominul Hoque Chowd-

hury and central organising

Diarrhoea claims

8 more in

Sirajganj

rhoea claimed eight more lives

in four thanas in last 24 hours

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 29: Diar-

secretary Principal Abu Taher.

Chowdhury, MP, Amir of the party's Chittagong south unit. the conference was addressed by Mohammad Kamruzzaman,

Politics of hartals, strikes no longer appeal: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night reiterated her call to unitedly carry forward the politics of production and development for meeting the hopes and aspirations of the people, reports BSS.

Addressing a meeting organised on the occasion of the joining of the BNP by a number of leaders and workers of various political parties, Pourashabha chairmen and commissioners and union parishad chairmen and members at her Sugandha office, she said the politics of slogans, strikes and hartals had no appeal now-a-

The Prime Minister said polities which did not benefit the people could not last long.

Begum Zia said those who had indulged in the politics of 'negating everything' could not help the people earn their liveli-

The Prime Minister hoped that those who had now engaged themselves in the politics of just hartals, strikes and slogans would one day realise their

faults and shun their path of destructive politics. The Chairman of the Pirgani

Pourashabha, commissioners of the pourashabha, chairmen and members of different union parishads, leaders of the Chhatra Union and the Chhatra Moitri under Thakurgaon district last night joined the ruling BNP. They are from the Awami League, the Jatiya Party, the Jamaat, the Communist Party. and the NAP (Muzaffar). Notable among them are the

Chairman of the Pirganj Pourashabha Prof Abdul Gaffar, commissioners Abdul Hanif, Nazir Hossain and Belal Mollah, Chairman of Pirganj Union Parishad Aktaruzzaman, Chairman of Ruhia Union Parishad Taimur Rahman, president of the Tnakurgaon district Chhatra Moitri Fazle Imam Bulbul and president of the Thakurgaon district Chhatra Union Mamunur Rashid.

The Prime Minister thanked the new BNP members and welcomed them to her party.

See Page 12 Col 4

Rao against storming Hazratbal

A truck rammed into a house when its driver lost control over the vehicle near the Khilgaon railgate on the Bishwa Road

Troops beat back marchers

SRINAGAR, Oct 29: Indian forces in Kashmir fired tear gas to stop hundreds of Muslims trying to march toward a mosque where separatist rebels have been surrounded by sol-

in the city yesterday.

diers for two weeks, reports AP. But there was no repeat of the violence that occurred last Friday when paramilitary police fired on demonstrators and killed about 50 people.

For the second Friday, which is the Muslim sabbath, Islamic religious and political leaders called for a mass protest of the army siege of the militants inside the Hazratbal Mosque, the holiest Muslim site in Kashmir.

Unlike a week earlier when thousands of people responded to a similar call, only a few hundred residents braved the streets where reinforcements of federal police were on alert.

In New Delhi, Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao said the army would not use force to flush out the militants. "We are trying to solve it peacefully and we will succeed," he told an election rally.

Demonstrators came out in Srinagar, and the towns of Sopore and Baramulla. They were beaten back by troops using tear gas and truncheons, said the state chief secretary, Meh-

mood ur-Rehman.

No one was killed, Rehman said, but it was not known if there were injuries.

Police say about 60 militants and scores of civilians are inside the mosque, where Muslims believe a hair of the Prophet Mohammed is enshrined in a sealed room.

PTI says, an early end to the crisis seems to be on the anvil

SRINAGAR, Oct 29: A peaceful end to the two-week standoff at the besieged Hazratbal Mosque here appeared in sight today with both government and unofficial negotiators claiming that a settlement between the hold up rebels and the state administration was imminent. AFP. with the authorities involving

ference (APHC) in the negotia-US questions Kashmir's accession to India

leaders of All Party Hrivat Con-

NEW DELHI, Oct 29: The Indian Foreign Ministry summoned a US diplomat here today in connection with remarks by a senior official in Washington questioning the validity of See Page 12 Col 7

tions with the militants in the shrine.

"An agreement has been reached between the militants and the leaders to end the crisis and modalities are being worked out," official sources claimed today.

Hriyat leaders led by Maulvi Abbas Ansari, executive member of APHC, went inside the shrine and held an hour-long parley with the militants and brought out a sick youth who was rushed to hospital.

PTI quoted Mehmood-ur-Rehman as saying there were firm indications that mediators could end the siege "today itself or tomorrow."

AFP quoting Ansari said the militants had ruled out a surrender.

"Their morale is high and they want nothing short of an immediate lifting of the siege and safe passage with arms."

Ansari said the rebels had given the mediators a list of 25 people including politicians and religious figures to whom they would hand over the shrine and a holy relic preserved in it when they vacate the complex.

Meanwhile, life remained crippled for the 14th day today in Srinagar and rest of the Kashmir valley as the indefinite strike and curfew continued

A truly tragic | AL for united stand weekend

-Star photo

By DMCH Correspondent

Tragedy struck a family of three whose plans to spend the weekend at the national zoo at Mirpur proved fatal. All three were killed in a road accident near the Darus Salam police box, Mirpur, yesterday morning.

At around 10 am, the autorickshaw carrying Mohammad Minharul Haque, 35, a businessman - his wife, Zaheda Yasmin, 28, and their only son, two-year-old Abir, was hit by a minibus coming from the opposite direction.

Abir died instantaneously while his parent, succumbed to their injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The couple, who lived at 499 Noyatola, Maghbazar, had planned to spend the day at the zoo, sobbing relatives

Mirpur police arrested the minibus driver - Abdul Baten and seized the minibus (Tangail Ba-412), but the auto-rickshaw driver fled the scene immediately after the accident, said police.

3 others killed Meanwhile, three other

people died and five persons. including four policemen, See Page 12 Col 6

against BNP 'misrule' Awami League President "People are losing their

Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the BNP of destroying democracy and called for a united stand against its 'misrule' to protect democracy and ensure economic emancipation of the people, reports UNB. "People are gradually losing

their confidence in democracy because of unbridled corruption, inefficiency, nepotism and undemocratic acts of the BNP regime," she said. Hasina, also Leader of the

Opposition in Parliament, was addressing a group of leaders and workers of the Khulna district Communist Party, Juba Union and Krishak Samity, who met her at her official residence and joined the Awami League.

The AL chief accused the government party of unleashing terrorism throughout the country jeopardising all important sectors of national life. "The BNP is destroying democracy in a planned way although they are giving lip service to democracy," she said.

Referring to the economic situation, Hasina criticised the BNP government for failing to salvage the economy from depression. She was also critical of the closure of industries, selling out of profitable mills and factories to BNP-men and termination of industrial work-

buying capacity because of soaring prices of essentials; farmers are being deprived of just prices for their produce,' she added. The opposition leader criticised the government for abus-

ing the Anti-Terrorism Act to silence the opposition's protest against corruption and repressive measures She was also critical of the ruling party for backing the anti-Liberation Jamaat-Shibir forces. "The BNP has betrayed

to Golam Azam as a war crimi-Welcoming the newcomers to the Awami League. Hasina said they have taken the right decision at the right time.

Those who joined the Awami League include Khulna city Communist Party President Shyamol Singha Roy, general secretary Rafiq Uddin Bablu, vice-president Harunor Rashid Anisur Rahman Kochi, Convenor of the Rampal thana Krishak Samity Abul Bashar, joint convenor Shyamol Mandal, Abu Taher Sana of the Rampal Khetmajur Samity, Shamir Sharma and office secretary of the Khulna Juba Union.

Israel presents Gaza pullout plan Monday JERUSALEM, Oct 29: Israel PLO accord signed in diers and because the move is say that in the permanent solu-

will present a plan next meet for the phased withdrawal of troops from the occupied Gaza Strip and a programme for freeing thousands of Palestinian prisoners, newspaper and radio reports said Friday, reports AP.

Minister Yitzhak Rabin declined comment.

Palestinian and Israeli negotiators, said the pullout plan would be handed over Monday when talks on giving Palestinians autonomy resume in the Egyptian resort of Taba.

would take over. Other stages weren't detailed.

Washington, the withdrawal is to begin Dec 13 as part of an autonomy plan that would start in Gaza and Jericho on the West Bank. Army radio said Israel would

also present a timetable for freeing many of the 9,500 Palestinians it says are held in Israeli jails for fighting the occupation. The releases would exclude those convicted of killing or wounding Israelis.

Talks have so far been stuck on the issue of Palestinian prisoner releases. Palestinians have been disappointed that only about 600 were freed this week. They would like to see at least 8,000 prisoners out of jail.

. A poll published Friday in the Maariv daily showed 44 per cent opposed any prisoner releases, with only 27 per cent in favour. An additional 10 per

unpopular among Israelis.

cent said they were in favour as long as Muslim fundamentalists weren't freed. Maariv said 513 Israelis were

A cabinet minister, mean-

saying that some Jewish settlements in the occupied territories would have to be dismantled for peace.

tion it is in our interest to keep them", Economics Minister Shimon Shitreet told the Jerusalem Post daily. Rabin's spokesman Gad ben-

Ari said the prime minister objected to evacuating any settlements and that Shitreet "speaks for himself and by no means reflects the government's position of that of the prime minister."

Jewish settler in the occupied West Bank was reported abducted and killed by four masked Palestinians who also forced an Arab man into a car as they fled, Jewish settlers and Palestinian sources said. The settler's body was later found in the abandoned vehicle near Beitin village.

Repatriation of Biharis remains uncertain

By Staff Correspondent

The promised repatriation of some 2.38 lakh Pakistanis now stranded in Bangladesh has become uncertain with the recent political changeover in Pakistan.

Better known as the 'Biharis', the Pakistani refugees fear that with Benazir Bhutto assuming power in Pakistan. the long-drawn process of ferrying them home might linger further.

Benazir, who won the National Assembly elections and formed the government in Pakistan on October 19, is believed to be strongly opposed to the return of the stranded Pakistanis However, Bangladesh For-

were yet to have a clear understanding of the policy of the new Pakistan government on the Biharis' issue. It was still

> The Biharis opted for Pakistan as their homeland during and after the 1971 War of Independence of Bangladesh.

afresh or not, they said.

unclear whether the repatria-

tion process would have to start

The first batch of 325 Urduspeaking Pakistani refugees went home on January 10 last. The symbolic repatriation of the first group of the refugees followed a joint declaration by the then Pakistan Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif and his Bangladeshi counterpart Begum

Sec Page 12 Col 8

till noon today, raising the death toll in the district to 90 during the last 28 days, unoffi-

cial sources said, reports UNB. Officials sources, however, confirmed three deaths during the last 24 hours and 54 in last 23 days. According to unofficial figures, three died in Raigani,

three in Kazipur and one each in Ullapara and Chowhali thana in the last 24 hours. Some 400 people were attacked by the disease in the same period, raising the total

number of attacked people to 7,000. . The sadar hospital and other thana health complexes have already admitted diarrhoeal patients beyond their respective

Some 129 medical teams are working in the affected areas but shortage of medicines hampers the treatment of patients, officials said.

capacities

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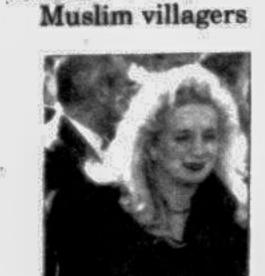
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Bangladesh Agriculture: Crisis in

Development Column: Window On Asia by Shahed Latif

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International UNSC condemns massacre of Bosnian



I shall have a baby only in Jericho, says Soha

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NAFTA won't be unfavourable for East Asia, Washington says

Failure of trade talks to plunge world economic boom: Sutherland Pages 6, 7

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Saying it with Flowers

Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

B Chowdhury returns Deputy Leader of Parliament Professor AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury returned home yesterday after a 15-day visit to

Oli back home

London, reports BSS.

Communication Minister Ol Ahmed has returned home last night after a ten-day visit to China. During his visit, the Minister had successful talk on different issues with Chinese Vice Prime Minister Zhon Jie Hua, Railway Minister Han Zhubin, Communications Minister Huang Zhendong and Minister in-Charge for Foreign Trade and Economic Coopera-

try, reports UNB. Quake kills one in Maharashtra

tion Tian Phunzhi. He also vis-

ited the Chinese Railway loco-

motive and rolling stock indus-

NEW DELHI, Oct 29! One person was killed in a house collapse after fresh tremors in India's western Maharashtra state, scene of a major earthquake last month, the Press Trust of India said today. It said the tremors rocked the Umarga, Killari and Matoda regions of the state on Thursday, in the same area where an earthquake killed at least 10,000 people on September 30, reports Reuter.

Italian govt wins confidence ROME, Oct 29: The Italian

government of Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi today won a confidence vote in the Senate (upper house) over the retention of the so-called minimum tax. The voting divided 132 in favour of the government and 45 against with 43 abstentions, reports Reuter.

A spokesman for Prime

The Haaretz daily, quoting

It said the first stage would be a withdrawal from refugee camps, where Palestinian police

By the terms of the Israel-

Israel has slowed the releases partly in response to continued attacks against solquestioned on Tuesday. The sampling would be consistent with a margin of plus or minus 4 per cent. while, was quoted Friday as

"If there are settlements in areas densely populated with Arabs, I don't think that we can

On the West Bank Friday, a

eign Ministry officials said they