(What's on today)

Seminar: People's University of Bangladesh (PUB) will hold a seminar on 'Physiotherapy as a profession in Bangladesh' Venue: University premises. Time: 9.00 am

Inauguration programme: Institute of Mental Health and Research in association with Bangladesh Association of Psychiatrists will hold the inauguration of programmes to mark World Mental Health Day'99. Chief guest: Salah Uddin Yusuf. Minister for Health and Family Welfare. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Road. Time: 9.00 am.

National workshop: USC Canada-Bangladesh in association with Adolescent Development Forum-Bangladesh will hold the inauguration ceremony of a 4-day long national workshop on'Adolescent development and Gender'. Chief guest: Prof Zinnatun Nesa Talukdar, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs. Venue: LGED Bhaban auditorium. Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9.00 am.

Signing ceremony: A signing ceremony between Scancement International Ltd and Korea Heavy Industries and Construction Co Ltd will be held. Chief guest: Tofail Ahmed. Minister for Commerce and Industries. Venue: South Ball room, Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 12.15 pm.

Publication ceremony: The Pioneer, Dhaka will hold the publication ceremony of Gender Issue: An Islamic Approach and Islamer Samajik Bidhan. Venue: VIP lounge, Jatiya Press Club. Time: 3.00 pm.

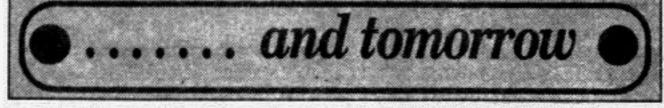
CDRB seminar: Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB) will hold a seminar on 'Indian Democracy; Some Issues for Development'. The keynote paper will be presented by Dr Ramakant, former dean of Faculty of Social Sciences of University of Rajasthan. Venue: WVA auditorium, House no 20, Road no 16(New) 27(Old), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4.30 pm.

Milad mahfil: A milad mahfil will be held in memory of CPB leader Mohammad Farhad. Venue: 98/F. Azimpur. Time: 4.30

Exhibition: A children's painting exhibition organised by ANZ Grindlays Bank in association with Zonta Club of Dhaka III will be inaugurated. Venue: ANZ Grindlays Bank, Sales and Service Centre, 102 Gulshan Avenue, Time: 5.00 pm.

Seminar: Franco-Bangladesh Association of Scholars and Trainees (FBAST) will hold a seminar on 'Solid Waste Management'. Chief Guest: Lt Gneral Noor Uddin Khan Psc (Retd). Minister for Science and Technology. Venue: LGED seminar room, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon.

Film show: Swaborni will screen 5 movies on the second day of its Millennium Films show. The movies are E.T., The Spy Who Shagged Me: Austin Powers2, Prince of Egypt, Shakespeare in Love and The Phantom Menace-Episode One. Venue: The Public Library auditorium. Time: 10.30 am, 1.15 pm, 3.15 pm, 5.00 pm and 7.15 pm.



National workshop: USC Canada-Bangladesh in association with Adolescent Development Forum-Bangladesh will hold the 2nd day of a 4-day long national workshop on'Adolescent development and Gender'. Venue: LGED conference room, 3rd floor, auditorium, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9.00 am.

Film show: Swaborni will screen 4 movies on the third day of its Millennium Films show. The movies are The Saint, The Matrix. Baby's Day Out, Sleeping with the Enemy. Venue: The Public Library auditorium, Time: 10.00 am, 2.30 pm, 5.30. pm, and 7.15

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Moderately heavy fall is likely at one or two places over

Chittagong and Sylhet divisions, Met office said forecasting slight rise in day temperature over the country during the period. The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded at 34.0 degree Celsius at Khulna and the lowest 22.2 degrees at

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.38 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:53 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded

in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Humidity in City/Town Temperature in Celsius percentage

	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.1	26.6	79	48
Chittagong	32.0	25.7	81	85
Rajshahi	32.3	25.4	85	85
Khulna	34.0	25.5	83	96
Barisal	33.2	25.5	80	97
Sylhet	27.5	22.3	100	92
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.0	81	85
COX 3 DAZAI	32.0	20.0		

HERE and THERE

BCSIR

The week-long second workshop on Tissue Culture of Economic Plants conducted at BC-SIR on Thursday with a call to member countries of NAM to priorities biotechnological research and identify thrust areas in accordance with their own priorities, says a press release. The workshop also urged all

participants and other developing countries to develop appropriate technological base to acquire, absorb, develop and disseminate knowledge in biotechnology for a sustainable and self reliant economy.

The workshop was jointly organised by the Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned Movement and other developing countries (NAM S &T Centre), Asia and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and Technology Dissemination Cell of the Ministry of Science and Technology. The closing session of the workshop was chaired by Prof M Mosihuzzaman, Chairman BCSIR Md Fazlur Rahman, Secretary Ministry of Science and Technology delivered welcome

Some 45 experts on tissue culture of economic plants from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, Indonesia. Egypts and Mauritius took part while 15 research papers were presented at the

Jogirkanda Samity

An installation ceremony of the newly formed executive committee of Jogirkanda Samity in Dhaka was held at the Engineers Institution in the city in the afternoon, reports

A cultural programme was also held on the occasion. A large number of people of Wazirpur thana in Barisal district living in Dhaka attended the function.

Hepatitis-B vaccination at DU hall

'Badhan', a Dhaka Univer sity-based welfare organisa tion, began Hepatitis-B vaccination programme yesterday among the students of a dormitory of DU, reports UNB

Badhan. Fazlul Huq Hall unit, organised the programme for the first time to protect the residents of the hall from infection of Hepatitis-B.

Some 200 residents of the dormitory checked their blood and took the vaccine. Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Shahadat Ali inaugurated the programme while Hall Provost Prof Hossain Mansur

was present. 'Badhan' conducted several blood donation programmes and donated some 620 bags of

Qulkhwani of Hasan Saeed held

Qulkhwani of journalist Hasan Saeed was held at his Lalmatia residence last afternoon, reports UNB.

Journalists from news agencies and newspapers attended the qulkhwani apart from rela-tives, friends and admirers, and prayed for peace of the departed

On Thursday, colleagues of the veteran journalist paid glowing tributes to him for his leading role in the launch of and contribution to the growth of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) news agency.

Addressing a condolence meeting at the UNB newsroom, they said an affectionate Saeed was a symbol of honesty, integrity and dedication to the profession.

PM pays tribute to Comrade Farhad

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday paid tributes to Comrade Mohammad Farhad saying that the late leader sacrificed his whole life for socio-economic emancipation of the oppressed masses including peasants and labour-ers, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of the 12 death anniversary of former general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh Mohammad Farhad to be observed today, the Prime Minister said that the life of Farhad is a glittering example of political commitment, honesty and sacrifice for ideology.

The Prime Minister said that Comrade Farhad was a front man of various anticommunal, progressive and democratic movements of the country. He was an active worker in 1952 Language Movement and a front ranking leader of the anti-Ayub student and mass movement. "He had a significant role in earning international recognition for Bangladesh," she added.

The Prime Minister noted that Comrade Farhad helped build resistance movement against the killing of Father of the Nation and murder of four national leaders in captivity inside Dhaka Central Jail. He also played commendable role in forging 15-party alliance and formulating 5-point charter of demands.

Recalling the role played by Comrade Farhad in establishing democracy and rule of law in the country, the Prime Minister expressed her hope that the late leader would remain ever remembered as a symbol of dedication and honesty.

World Postal Day today

The World Postal Day will be observed in Bangladesh today as elsewhere in the world, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Postal Department has taken up an elaborate programme for the day to mark the 125th anniversary of the World Postal Organisation.

On the occasion, a colourful rally with festoons and placards will be brought out from the National Museum premises at 7 am. It will conclude at the Jatiya Press Club.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Muhammad Nasim will inaugurate the rally to be participated by high officials and employees of the Postal Department. Four commemorative pos-

tage stamps, an inaugural envelope and a souvenir sheet will also be released on the day. World Postal Organisation was formed on October 9, 1874 in Bern, Switzerland.

Schroeder says Nazi slave compensation

offer 'decent' BERLIN, Oct 8: Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder today described an offer of compensation for Nazi-era slave labourers in German industry as "decent" and worthy of consideration, reports AFP.

"I urgently advise those in Germany and the United States (who rejected the 3.3 billion dollars offered in Washington Thursday) to reflect a bit and not dismiss it entirely," he de-

The chancellor said it was normal that lawyers -- "who also defend their own interests" -- saw things differently.

"I think that with its offer German industry is on a reasonable track," Schroeder told German journalists.

GSS schools' rally today

By DU Correspondent Children of Gano Sahajjay Sangstha (GSS) operated schools will hold a rally today in protest against alleged nonapproval of four phase projects of the GSS by the NGO Bureau.

Due to non-approval of the project, the future of about 3 lakh children of 750 schools operated by the GSS are now at

Starting from in front of the Engineers Institute, the rally will be end at the Central Shaheed Minar, said a press re-

One killed in accident in Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Oct 8: A cattleladen truck fell into a roadside ditch at Kodda in the sadar thana on Dhaka-Tangail highway killing a trader today, reports UNB.

Police said cattle trader Abdus Sattar, 40 of Devidar thana in Comilla received serious injuries in the accident oc-curred at 5 pm. He succumbed to his injuries on way to local

Two cows also died on the A case was filed with Joydevpur police.

Khaleda condoles death of Krishak Dal leader

By Staff Correspondent BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has expressed her deep shock at the death of M Aminul Haq, the finance secretary of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal (JKD) Central Committee.

In a condolence message yesterday, she prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to members the bereaved family.



Artiste of Chhayanaut performing dance at a function in observance of the sharat utsav at the Bakul Tala of the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University yesterday. -Star photo

Speakers at discussion on Farhad

No alternative to third political force

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged all progressive political forces to build up strong resistance against fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami and its allies to uphold the spirit of the country's War of Liberation, reports BSS.

BNP and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami are pushing the country towards destruction under the cover of communal politics. they said at a discussion organised by the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at its office to observe the 12th death anniversary of Comrade Farhad, former general secretary of CPB. Turning to current political

situation, they stressed on the formation of a third political force bringing together leftleaning progressive parties to liberate the distressed people from all forms of discrimina-There is no alternative to a

third political force in the present political perspective, they observed. Mujahedul Islam Selim, Rasheed Khan Menon, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Nirmal Sen,

Alhaj Abdus Samad, Deelip Barua, AFM Mahbubul Huq, Mohammad Fayjullah, Mahmudur Rahman Babu and Sardar Ruhin Hossain Prince took part in the discussion with CPB president Manjurul Ahsan Khan in the chair.

Paying rich tribute to the memory of Comrade Mohammad Farhad, they said he was one of the key players in the national Freedom Movement and enjoyed considerable clout among the toiling millions Farhad, who played a vital role in all democratic movements in the country, raised his voice against the killing of Banga bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, they said.

They called on all progressive parties to join forces to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh being inspired by the ideals of Comrade Mohammad Farhad.

They stressed the need for rejuvenating party activities to resist the fundamentalist communal forces in the coun-

World Lions Service Day observed

The Lion District 315-A1, Bangladesh accorded a reception to meritorious students and recipients of Lions weeklong service reporting as part of the World Lions Service Day programme yesterday, reports

Commerce and Industry Minister Tofail Ahmed was chief guest on the occasion. The report of the weekly service programme was pre-

sented at the meeting held at a local hotel, a Lions press release said. "Among others, District Governor Lion Sultana Saheda Islam, Lion Iqbal H Khan, Lion Sheikh Kabir Hossain and Lion Moslem Ali Khan were present.

Tofail Ahmed handed over cheques for Taka 1.50 lakh to different organisations on behalf of the club. Vice-president Lion E R M Saladin presided over the function. The minister lauded the ser-

vices of the Lions and said they carried out great humanitarian services in the wake of natural disasters and also engaged in other philanthrophic activi-

He called upon them to stand by the suffering humanity with greater zeal and commitment in

'Govt gives topmost importance to modernise postal department'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government has given top most importance for modernising and improving the postal department, reports BSS. "Post office is not mere a in-

stitutional name. It carries our culture, history and heritage," she said in a message on the eve The prime minister said the

of the World Postal Day. postal communication system is still existing all over the world side by side the various modern communication networks.

Govt to extend assistance to leather sector, says Tofail

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday said the government would extend all possible assistance to entrepreneurs for exploiting the prospects of leather industry, reports BSS.

"The government will help implement the 8-point proposals of the Leather Associations," he said in a speech to the gathering of the leaders of 13 organisations and entrepreneurs active in the leather sector at Bangladesh Finished Leather and Leather Goods Exporters' Association (BFLLGEA) office. The Minister said the gov-

tiative to implement the 12point recommendations of the task force headed by former FBCCI president Yusuf Abdullah Haroon. Profit-making sectors may turn into losing concerns with

ernment has already taken ini-

the passage of time, and the present government has taken a raft of pragmatic steps to stem the trend. Tofail Ahmed said the pre-

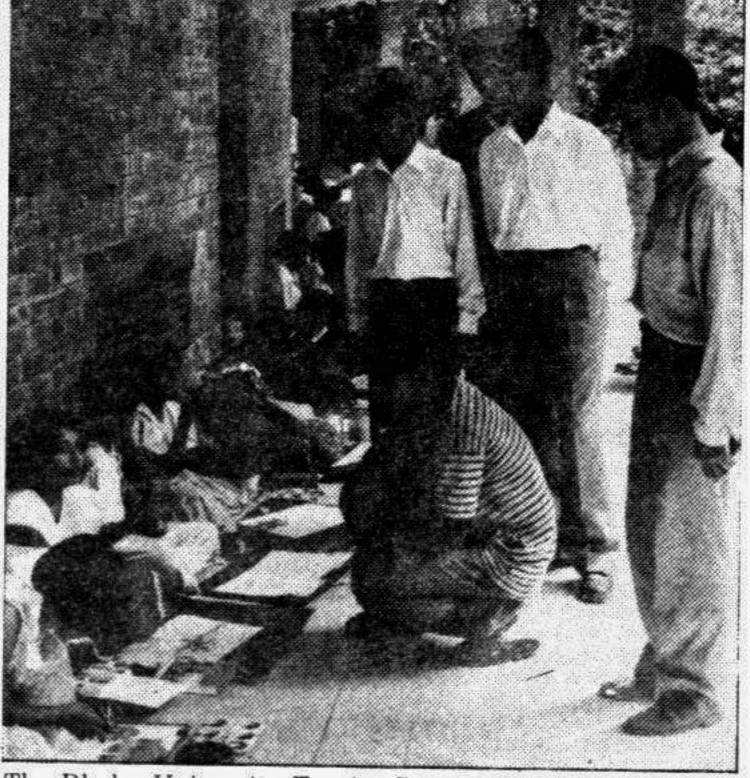
vious BNP government did not take any effective measures to improve the condition of the industrial sector. It rather pushed the local industries into competition by lowering duties to 50 per cent from 350 per cent without prior preparations. The step turned the country into a market of foreign goods.

The Minister said the government is trying to remove the hurdles put up by the BNP government on the way of flourishing the industrial sector.

President of BFLLGEA MA Sattar placed an 8-point recommendations to the Minister to remove the obstacles and infuse dynamism in the sector.

The proposals include inclusion of leather as a traditional item, provision of 25 per cent cash as alternative assistance and rescheduling loan against damage or sick tanner-

Haji Mohammad Selim, MP, president of FBCCI Abdul Awal Mintoo and workers leader Nurul Islam, among others, spoke at the function.



The Dhaka University Tourist Society, as part of its 100day programme organised an art competition for child and juvenile at the premises of Institute of Fine Arts on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

Habibie says Golkar unlikely to review his candidacy

JAKARTA, Oct 8 : Indonesian President B.J. Habibie today said he believed it was highly unlikely the ruling Golkar Party would review his presidential candidacy during its congress next week, reports

"I am not of the same view, that only a few days before (the election), they will change (their candidate), that would be disadvantageous," Habibie said. "The largest possibility is that they would not (change the

candidacy).' Speaking to journalists in a nationally televised discussion, Habibie said that Golkar was a

"I never doubt Golkar," he

professional organisation that

showed consistency in its poli-

Golkar which in May named Habibie as its sole candidate for the presidency to be decided on October 20, is under pressure even from its own ranks to review its decision. Habibie has been under fire from a number of fronts, not

territory of East Timor a vote on autonomy which led to the arrival of multinational peacekeepers last month. The probe into the wealth of former president Suharto and

least for his move to grant the

an embarrassing bank scandal have also undermined his bid for another term. Golkar is scheduled to hold its congress on October 11 and

12, and its chairman Akbar Tanjung has said that although there was no agenda to review Habibie's candidacy, it could happen if requested by provincial chapters.

Immoral act Police official arrested at Faridpur FARIDPUR, Oct 8: An ASI of

Kotwali thana was arrested and suspended on charge of committing immoral act today (Friday). On information, local people

stormed into New Star Hindu Hotel at Chakbazar in the town and found Sultan Ahmed and a girl in a room at noon, witnesses said. Later they handed over the police official along with the

AL: No talks

girl to police. They were sent to

From page 1

the party ticket for the upcoming by-poll, a counter lobby strongly opposed it and demanded that Tipu Panni, a former Jatiya Party lawmaker. be awarded the AL nomination.

The counter lobby argued that Tipu Panni, a younger brother of the country's envoy to Malaysia Wazed Ali Khan Panni, was no longer a JP loyalist and AL would have an easy sail in the parliamentary bypoll if it wanted to evade a humiliating defeat by the expelled leader Siddigi.

Sources close to the Prime Minister's Office also disclosed it to The Daily Star that Panni had an audience with Sheikh Hasina yesterday, which enraged many party seniors who were sympathetic to Shahja-One cabinet minister and

another presidium member

coming out of the Gonabhaban

meeting at 10 last night told this correspondent that question of having dialogue with the agitating Opposition did not arise till Khaleda Zia abandoned her "so-called one-point" movement. "One-point means resignation of our government, which is quite an absurd idea. We have established the 'rule of the

game' through our long struggles that government would be changed only through elections and that again after completion of its tenure", said the minister. ALCWC meeting resolved that party would go ahead with its campaign for all local government elections including the

else take part or boycotted it. said sources. The meeting also condemned killing of five people in a bomb attack inside a mosque in Khulna yesterday.

Upazila polls, no matter, who

Vienna

From page 1 Agency (IAEA) are headquartered in Vienna.

The headquarters of the Inter-governmental Agency on Narcotics and Drugs is also in Bangladesh now has 11 am-

bassadorial level missions in

Europe. These are in London,

Paris, Rome, Brussels, Geneva,

The Hague, Moscow, Madrid, Bonn, Stockholm and Warsaw. Diplomatic analysts feel that Dhaka needs to examine seriously the opening of missions in some other European capitals including those of Norway and Hungary. In Asia, Bangladesh is the largest recipient of Norwegian assistance

while Hungary is considered

Norway has a full-fledged resident mission in Dhaka. Hungary, however, closed down its chancery in Dhaka in the middle of last year, citing 'budgetary restraints'. But some diplomatic observers said Dhaka's failure to open a mission or a trade office in Budapest as an act of 'mutual reciprocity' might have led Hungary to close its mission.

Bangladesh now has resident missions in all the SAARC countries.

It has a total of 48 resident missions.

Tigers save wickets

From page 1

wicket.

hander was on only 18. After being granted a new life, Hinds went on to score a power-packed 40 off 46 balls that included six

fours and a huge sixer. But it were Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Jimmy Adams who laid the foundation of the West Indies total, putting on 92 runs for the fourth

Chanderpaul, who was dropped twice, remained unbeaten on 92. He clubbed three fours and a six in his 109-ball undefeated vigil at the crease. Starving for runs for the past few months Chanderpaul reached his 14th one-day halfcentury from 90 balls. The Guyanese left-hander was dropped by Naimur Rahman at deep square-leg off Monjurul while on 66. He was again let off the hook by Hasibul Hossain at deep mid-on while on 79.

Naimur was injured while dropping the catch and sustained serious injury that required him to take eight stitches on his left hand. He is ruled for today's match. Hasibul, his catching skill amateurish at best, bungled se-

riously to not only drop Chanderpaul, but he also dropped Nixon McLean in the very next Monjurul thdelivery in the eventful 48 over. Jimmy Adams scored a patient 56 off 87 ball embellished

with three fours. The experienced all-rounder also took three wickets for 24 runs to win the man-of-the-match award. The West Indies innings however picked up the pace in

the last ten overs, where they clobbered 96 runs, thanks to some big hitting from Ricardo Powell and Nixon McLean. Teenage sensation Powell smote a quartet of sixes includ-

ing a massive one over midwicket in his 23-ball 34. Lanky McLean clobbered 39 off 23 deliveries that included three towering sixes and a couple of savage hits across the

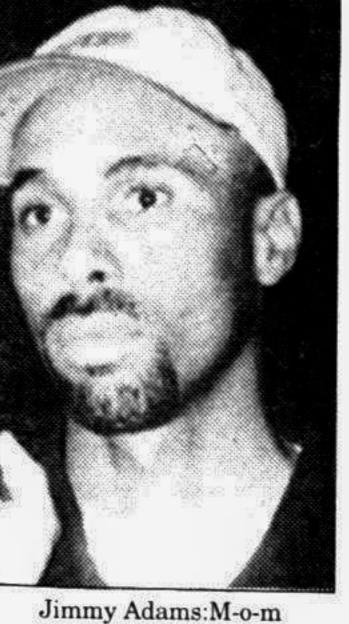
Bangladesh were never up against an ever-increasing asking run-rate, which was about six when they started the chase 55 minutes behind schedule. The Bangladesh innings got off to a delayed start due to a heavy shower.

Opener Shahriar, playing with some purpose, scored 45 off 76 balls with the help of six fours. Javed Omar went early

and skipper Aminul failed again, falling for a duck. Bangladesh at one stage were reeling at 96 for five, but thanks to the undefeated 123-run stand for the sixth wicket between Al-Shahriar and Khaled Masood: the home side avoided total humiliation.

SCOREBOARD BANGLADESH

Shahriar lbw b Adams Javed Omar c Jacobs b Dillon 4 Habibul st Jacobs b Adams 25 Aminul c Campbell b Adams 0



Al-Shahriar not out K Mahmud c Jacobs b McLean 2 K Mashud not out Extras: (lb-9, wb-14, nb-5)

Dit not bat: Enamul Hoque. Naimur Rahman, Hasibul Hossain and Manjurul Islam. Fall of wickets: 1/22, 2/73, 3/73, 4/88, 5/96

Bowler N Perry 45 Dillon Ambrose Adams Chanderpaul 25 0 McLean 17 Hinds 0 35 Powel 0 20 Campbell 0 Result: West Indies won by 73 Man-of-the-match: Jimmy

India insists on own timetable for signing CTBT

NEW DELHI. Oct 8: India refused to be pressured by international appeals Friday to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), reports AFP.

"India's position on this is-

eign ministry spokesman R.S. Jassal. . "We continue to insist that a positive environment is created before a final decision is

sue has not changed," said for-

taken. A joint declaration, issued Friday by nearly 100 countries at the end of a three-day conference in Vienna on kick-starting the CTBT's implementation, urged countries like India and Pakistan to approve the treaty. But Jassal insisted that any

ernment was sworn in next "As soon as the new government is formed, it will engage in building the right consensus to take steps in this direction," Jassal said.

decision by New Delhi would

have to wait until a new gov-

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's multi-party coalition was returned to power this week following month-long

Economic emancipation must for upholding own identity: Nasim

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday stressing the need for adoption of liberal and pragmatic policy in the country said economic emancipation is a must for upholding one's own identity before the world community, reports BSS.

at a function organised to mark the 50th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China, the minister said modern China has taken the economic lead maintaining its own socialist characteristics. "China has made her success

Speaking as the chief guest

on the basis of self-confidence, liberal outlook and proper guidelines utilising its vast population, which is one-fifth of the total global population." he said adding Bangladesh could also take these opportunities maintaining district iden tity of the nation. Bangladesh-China People's

Friendship Association (BCPFA) organised the programme which followed by a cultural function. It was attended by State Minister for Jute AK Faezul Huq, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Wang Chungui, former Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) D P Barua, Workers' Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon and Samyobadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Barua while Anwarul Amin chaired it. Criticising the politics of su-

one of the emerging economies perstition and bigotry. in East Europe, they pointed Mohammad Nasim said if the whole world can open their doors to others in boosting economy, why should Bangladesh be far away from that opportunity, especially in the time of regional approach and liberal policy. Describing the history of

emergence of modern China. Wang said China would support the regional cooperation and efforts that are beneficial to peace, stability and development of the region. Existing friendship between Bangladesh and China would be further strengthened, he observed.

general elections. It was under Vajpayee's pre-

vious coalition government that India conducted a series of nuclear tests in May, 1998. sparking a tit-for-tat response from rival Pakistan. Following the tests, both countries came under intense

international pressure, especially from the United States, to sign the CTBT. New Delhi has criticised the treaty for being biased in favour of the five recognised nuclear powers -- Britain, China,

France, Russia and the United Sub-head US Senate starts CTBT ratification

debate The US Senate began debate today over the ratification of a landmark nuclear test ban treaty amid expectations it

Some 20 senators are sched-

uled to speak during the debate which is expected to last 14 hours. A vote on the treaty is likely by Tuesday or early Wednesday, unless it is deferred at the last minute. The nuclear Comprehensive

Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) does not

would fail.

at present have the two-thirds majority needed for its ratifi-Some lawmakers and the White House have asked for the vote to be postponed as they fear rejection of the treaty will give out the wrong message to the in-

UNSC maintains Iraq-Kuwait mission

ternational community.

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 8: The UN Security Council has agreed to maintain its Observation Mission (UNIKOM) on the border between Iraq and Kuwait at least until April, it was announced today, reports AFP.

In a letter to UN Secretary

General Kofi Annan, the presi-

dent of the Council, Russian

ambassador Sergei Lavrov said Council members concurred with Annan's recommendation to maintain the mission. "They have decided to review the question once again by April 6, 2000," Lavrov wrote in

Pinochet lawyers to appeal against extradition

a letter dated October 6 and

made public Friday.

LONDON, Oct 8: Lawyers for former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet are to appeal after a London court ruled he could be extradited to Spain to face torture charges, Fernando Barros, the general's advisor said today, reports AFP.

charges against him as "politically motivated". In a statement read to the court which authorised his ex-

tradition to Spain on torture charges today, he said: "It acts in violation of the sovereignty of Chile. The events in Chile have nothing whatsoever to do with Spain.

Chile's former dictator Augusto Pinochet today called the