

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
 ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
 BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
 MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
 OF DIFFERENT TYPES.
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
 199, TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA.
 TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861995

The Daily Star

Day or Night
 Standard Chartered

VOL. V NO. 251 REGD. NO. DA 781

ASHWIN 19 1402 BS, DHAKA WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1995 JAMADI-UL-AWAL 8, 1416 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

Inside Today

Article

Second White House Ceremony on Peace Agreement

Column: Spotlight on Middle East by Muslehuddin Ahmad Page 4

Focus

New admission rule: Opening a can of worms; A garden state or concrete jungle? and Hartal's toll on the nation

Page 5

International

Bosnian soldiers launch major attack to cut Serb supply route

Karachi needs 60,000 to 70,000 policemen to maintain law and order, says Leghari

Page 8

STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	834.27(+0.01%)
Market capital Tk	51.99 billion
Transactions in volume	290389
Transactions in value Tk	43.06 million

Business

Supply situation meets target: Distribution bottlenecks causing urea price hike

India adopts anti-inflationary credit policy till March

Pages 6, 7

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Decor Innovatively

Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Depression over Bay likely

A depression is likely to be formed in the Bay of Bengal and may turn into cyclone during the current month. A Met office long-range forecast said monsoon may come to a close within 10th of this month. The forecast said Barisal division is likely to experience the highest 220-260mm rain against normal 234mm during the current month, reports UNB.

Vehicle inspection centres to be set up

Five vehicle inspection centres will be set up in four divisional headquarters of the country under the road development project of the Communications Ministry. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide the fund for the project and the centres will be set at the divisional offices of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) in the divisions of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi, reports BSS.

ROK envoy hosts reception

South Korean Ambassador in Bangladesh and his wife Mrs Jong Kyu Byun yesterday hosted a reception at their residence on the occasion of the National Foundation Day of their country. Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali, political leaders, MPs, diplomats, senior civil and military officials and journalists attended the function in the evening, reports UNB.

IPH tests 5621 samples in a year 45pc food items found adulterated

By Morshed Ali Khan

More than 45 per cent of the foodstuff tested over a period of one-year by the public health laboratory at the Institute of Public Health (IPH) were found to be adulterated, according to Dr Mostafizur Rahman, a senior scientist of the Institute.

In 1994, the scientists at the laboratory tested a total of 5,621 food product samples from different parts of the country out of which more than 45 per cent were found to be adulterated. In 1993, the percentage of tainted foodstuff had risen to

more than 47 per cent out of a total of 7,082 food samples tested.

In the month of August this year, the IPH laboratory carried out tests on 302 samples and found that 112 of these items were adulterated.

Sources at the Institute said that these findings were only the "tip of an iceberg," as the number of adulterated foodstuff being sold in the market may be much larger.

"We need a strict law and an efficient monitoring system to crack down on the

widespread and increasing tendency of producing and selling sub-standard food items," said a senior official at the IPH, requesting anonymity.

The IPH is the only appointed body under the provisions of the country's Food Act with a mandate to carry out such tests on food items.

"We are only a government testing authority. We cannot go into the market and pick up samples. Our duty is to scientifically find out what is wrong for consumption of a

See Page 12 Col 7



Double Murder defendant O. S. Simpson (R) and defence attorney Carl Douglas yesterday listening as judge Lance Ito announces that the jury in the Simpson trial for a case related to killing his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson (inset) had reached a verdict Monday in Los Angeles. The jury acquitted Simpson yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

LOS ANGELES, Oct 3: Former football star O J Simpson was acquitted today of charges of murdering his ex-wife Nicole and her friend Ronald Goldman, reports Reuter.

In a stunning conclusion to a trial that has kept America riveted for the past year, a clerk read the not-guilty verdicts in the courtroom as crowds massed outside and millions of TV viewers looked on from all round the world.

Simpson smiled with relief, patted his hand over his heart and hugged his lead attorney, Johnnie Cochran. The victims' families broke into loud sobs in the courtroom.

Prosecution lawyers looked stunned by the verdict. Simpson had pleaded not

Simpson acquitted of murder charges

guilty to murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman, who were stabbed and slashed to death on June 12, 1994, outside her house in the wealthy Los Angeles suburb of Brentwood.

Simpson was later released from jail today.

ABC TV showed footage of Simpson leaving the jail in a white van. The former football great has been in jail for more than a year. Outside the jail, throngs of supporters lined up to catch a glimpse of Simpson.

AFP adds: Simpson could have faced a maximum prison

sentence of life in prison without possibility of parole if convicted of two counts of first-degree murder.

The 12-member jury comprised of nine blacks, two whites and one Hispanic stunned the country Monday when it took less than four hours to reach a decision on the fate of the black sports idol. The verdict was sealed until today.

A prominent black Hollywood personality whose showbiz career included sportscasting and minor film roles, Simpson entered a plea of 100 per cent not guilty. See Page 12 Col 8

Pak cabinet favours ban on public flogging

ISLAMABAD, Oct 3: Partially stepping back from harsh Islamic penalties, the federal cabinet agreed to abolish public flogging in Pakistan as a legitimate punishment for ordinary criminals, reports AP.

The move drew cautious acclaim today from human rights groups, but was seen as only the first in a number of measures needed to revamp the country's legal and judicial systems.

"Well it's certainly a step in the right direction," said prominent human rights advocate and lawyer Asma Jehangir.

Pakistan has been accused of failing to protect human rights and has been cited by international organisations for turning a blind eye to extra-judicial killings, torture

and inhumane punishments.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's cabinet members voted yesterday to approve a draft bill to ban the use of flogging against convicted criminals, except in the case of crimes defined in the Muslim holy book, the Quran.

But, says Jehangir, it's rare that flogging has been actually imposed in those cases.

"I can't remember the last time I heard of flogging imposed for Hadd," she said of crimes cited in the Quran. "The government's been very clever in that respect."

During his 1980s rule of Pakistan, military dictator Gen. Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq introduced a series of harsh Islamic-based laws, including an anti-blasphemy law and public flogging.

A storm of international protest was triggered earlier this year when a Lahore High Court sentenced a 14-year-old boy to hang for blasphemy. The sentence was later overturned.

"The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan has been urging the government to endorse the United Nations Convention against Torture and Cruel Inhuman Punishment or Treatment," Jehangir said.

The draft bill abolishing flogging still requires ratification from the country's National Assembly, but little resistance is expected from lawmakers, Jehangir said.

Public flogging of women was informally suspended in 1985, but remained on the books for men, she said. See Page 12 Col 6

PM starts visit to flood-hit N-dists today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia begins a three-day visit to the flood-hit northern districts today to see the relief operations and rehabilitation programmes there, reports BSS.

A special cell has already been opened in Bogra to monitor and coordinate the relief and rehabilitation programmes at the directives of the Prime Minister.

She will visit different flood-hit areas of Joypurhat, Naogaon, Bogra and Sirajganj on October 4, 5 and 6 to see the flood situation and review the activities of the coordinators involved in relief works.

Begum Zia will stay in the northern districts for three days. After extensively visiting the flood-hit areas on Saturday and early Sunday

See Page 12 Col 7

Fresh areas in 4 N-dists flooded

By Staff Correspondent

The overall flood situation in Rajshahi, Naogaon, Bogra and Joypurhat further deteriorated yesterday with inundation of more areas in these districts.

At least 12 more people were killed yesterday, 5 in a house collapse in Bagmara and Niamatpur and 2 from drowning in Gobindaganj. Five unidentified bodies were recovered in Naogaon.

Road links between the capital and the districts of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur remained snapped as the three collapsed bridge on the highway could not be repaired. Bogra's road link with Naogaon and Joypurhat and the Shantahar-Bonarpara

rail link also remained snapped yesterday.

Reports of outbreak of diarrhoeal disease were received from Gaibandha and other areas when the waters have started receding.

The situation in Dinajpur and Rangpur further improved yesterday with the recession of water but people in flood shelters and on embankments are awaiting relief. There is scarcity of drinking water.

In Gaibandha, Sirajganj and Madaripur, the situation remained unchanged.

Meanwhile the Flood Information Centre said that most rivers in country's four

See Page 12 Col 1

CID starts probe into train robbery

By Staff Correspondent

The CID police has started investigations into the robbery in the Chittagong-Dhaka inter-city train Mahanagar Purabi that took place Monday evening near Arikhola station.

Communication Minister Oli Ahmed has urged upon all relevant departments to do everything necessary to bring the miscreants to justice. The CID (Criminal Investigation Department) was asked yesterday to investigate the incident, according to Railway officials.

Earlier, a three-member probe body, headed by S K Habibullah, Chief Operating Superintendent of BR's Eastern Zone, was formed immediately after the incident. High officials of the BR also visited the spot.

The Dhaka bound 7-com-

See Page 12 Col 8

Top leaders maintain informal contacts

By Rashed Mahmud Titumir

Some top leaders of the ruling and opposition parties are responding positively towards resolving the political stalemate and are maintaining informal contacts.

The ranking politicians, however, conceded that the informal discussions are only preliminary exchanges as the official position of each side remains unchanged and formal contacts are yet to take place.

A cabinet member and central leader of BNP acknowledged that he has been in contact with leaders of Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami during the last few days.

"We are talking to one another in order to resolve the crisis and I found everybody is sincere about this. Every one with whom I have talked to has expressed his willing-

ness to sit for a dialogue before the time runs out. But both the party chiefs remain stuck with their previous positions," said the BNP leader, requesting anonymity, last night.

He also said, "We can not arrive at any conclusion as the decision is to be taken to this effect by our chiefs."

A JP leader, who holds a key organisational post, added, "Some miracle may happen at the end of the day which will break the deadlock. But it is still unclear how it is going to happen."

Jamaat Secretary General Matiuur Rahman Nizami noted, "We understand the people want a peaceful solution to this political impasse. As head of the government, it is Begum Khaleda Zia who should first come forward

See Page 12 Col 1

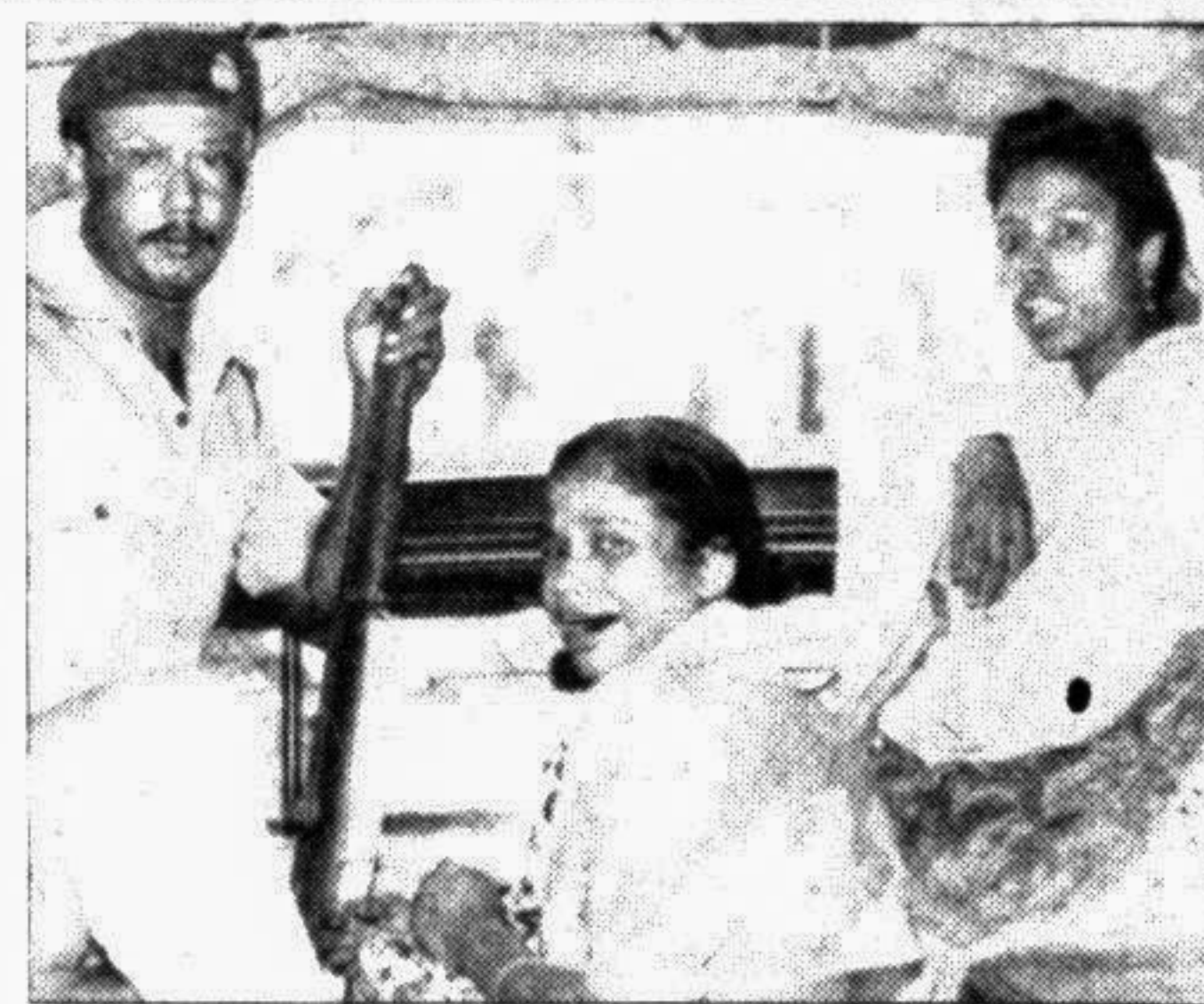
Woman snatcher caught red-handed

By Staff Correspondent

A woman was caught red-handed inside a bus in the city when she tried to steal a gold chain from a fellow passenger's hand bag yesterday afternoon.

The woman identified as Nazma, 22, was later handed over to the police.

The passengers of the bus, bound for Gabtoli from Sayedabad bus terminal, caught Nazma as she pushed her hand into the bag of Selina Akhter, a staff nurse of Shamorita Hospital at Dhanmondi, police said.



Police taking Nazma (C), arrested on charge of snatching a gold chain from a lady (R) in a bus near Sahbagh yesterday, to Ramna thana. — Star photo

Ittefaq incident: One arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Detective police yesterday arrested one person, Mohammad Hossain alias Renu, 40, in connection with the shootout between two outsider groups at the Ittefaq Bhabar Sunday afternoon in which one young man was killed.

A special squad of 12 plainclothes detective policemen intercepted a Nissan Patrol jeep in front of Madhumita Cinema in Motilheal at about 1:35 pm and arrested Renu. He was accompanied by another man in the jeep.

Police recovered a licensed pistol and 14 rounds of bullets from Renu who hails from Munshiganj and resides in Pikepara area under Mirpur thana, in the city.

Detective police was interrogating Renu last night. He will be produced before

See Page 12 Col 7

Monthly roundup Murders up in city

By Masud Arif

Incidents of murder took an upturn in the city and its suburbs last month with 19 cases recorded with police against 11 in the previous month.

The number was 7 in July, 13 in June and 20 in May last.

The number of unnatural deaths declined to 31 in September compared to 43 in August and 31 in July.

Six people were killed in road accidents, three persons reportedly committed suicide, two were electrocuted and one drowned, according to police. Besides, at least 38 people mostly young men, were injured some with bullet and bomb splinters, in clashes in different parts of the city. Rivalry between groups and extortion were the causes of the clashes.

The most talked-about incident which surprised the city dwellers was shooting of a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader, Abu Morshed, in the Dhaka District and Sessions Judges' Court premises on September 25.

Morshed, son of Advocate Azizullah Bhuiyan, who was joint secretary of the JCD city unit was shot in the chest, belly and back. He died after a week of treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Rivalry between two groups of youth at Moham-madpur in the city was the cause of the murder, police had said.

Meanwhile, two young men were murdered and body of a young woman was found near the town protection embankment at the

See Page 12 Col 7

AL to ensure women's rights if voted to power: Hasina

Sheikh Hasina yesterday said women's problems could be solved and their rights ensured through establishment of an accountable government and political stability in the country, reports UNB.

Exchanging views with leaders of different women's organisations at her Dhanmondi office, the Awami League president explained the logic behind the demand for a caretaker government headed by the Chief Justice to ensure fair voting.

"We are in agitation for the people's rights to franchise and food. Vote under a neutral caretaker government is a people's demand and the BNP government must concede to it," said Hasina.

See Page 12 Col 1

Prisoner beaten to death by police in Kushtia jail

KUSHTIA, Oct 3: A prisoner was beaten to death by on-duty police in the district jail early today, reports UNB.

According to jail sources, Nakim Sarder, an under-trial prisoner of a woman repression case, was mercilessly beaten by three wardens following an altercation. Nakim, hailing from Daulatpur thana, whose bail prayer had been rejected several times since his arrest on July 26, died in the jail at 2 am.

The prison guards — Saber Ali, Habilder, Fazlur Rahman, Habilder and a constable — were suspended by the higher authorities after the incident.

The Jail Super confirmed the death and the Deputy Commissioner visited the jail. Nakim's body was sent to the General Hospital morgue.

Ferry passengers clash with toll collectors: 20 hurt

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 3: At least 20 persons were injured in a clash between ferry ghat toll collectors and passengers at Nitayganj Fire Brigade Ferry Ghat today.

Three seriously injured — Shahidul Islam, 27, Mithu, 24, and Badal, 25, — were admitted to the Narayanganj General Hospital. Others were given first aid.

The clash started when the owners of three ferry ghats prevented the inhabitants of greater Bander thana area from using the fire brigade ferry ghat.

The passengers were boycotting the three ferry ghats in protest against exorbitant toll. They alleged that the Isphani, Tanbazar and Central Ferry Ghats were charging 20 paisa more than the government rate.

Later, the passengers held a rally and demanded immediate transfer of the port officer of the Narayanganj BIWTA.

JCD rivals clash in Ctg: 14 held

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: Two rival groups of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) traded gunfire and exploded cocktails at Nasirabad today. There were, however, no casualties.

The two groups also chased each other.

The police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Police arrested 14 JCD activists and recovered along with ammunition.

Cigarettes worth Tk 30 lakh seized

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: Detective police seized smuggled foreign cigarettes worth Tk 30 lakh from the estuary of the Karnaphuli river after an exchange of the fire with smugglers. The cigarettes were being carried by a trawler from a foreign ship anchored at the outer anchorage.

The smugglers, at one stage during the gunfire, gheraoed the police who then called for a larger force, says CMP press release.

The smugglers later fled as soon as a big contingent of police, along with some senior officials, rushed to the spot.

Over 350 killed in two days of fierce Lankan fighting

COLOMBO, Oct 3: More than 350 soldiers and rebels have been killed in two days of fighting in Sri Lanka's separatist war and defence analysts said today the battle was a major setback for the guerrillas, reports AFP.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) resorted to suicide bombers in a failed attempt to counter a military advance and the death toll rose to 358 with the latest fighting, the military said.

Some 1,000 rebel fighters fought a four-hour close quarter battle with troops inside the northern Jaffna peninsula, where the rebels maintain a de facto separate state, spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

"We are certain that we killed over 200 Tigers," he said. "We have recovered 105 bodies of both men and women Tigers. We found a lot of automatic rifles and mortars."

"This is a major debacle

for the terrorists," he said.

The army lost nine soldiers in the latest battles on two fronts at Atchchuveli, inside the Jaffna peninsula, Munasinghe said.

Defence analysts said the losses were a serious blow to the Tamil Tigers, who had earlier vowed to beat off any military advance inside Jaffna, the symbol of Tamil separatism in the island.

Shortly before taking on the ground troops, the LTTE deployed suicide bombers to

ram an explosives-laden boat against a navy landing craft taking troops home from the battle front, the military said in a statement.

It said 15 soldiers aboard the landing craft, the Ranagaja, were killed and another 40 wounded in a fierce two-hour sea battle off the island's northwestern coast.

The navy sank seven Tiger boats and claimed killing at least 30 LTTE sea tiger guerrillas.

Munasinghe said the mili-

tary expected the counter offensive following the army's "thunder strike" operation inside the peninsula. The army deployed 7,500 infantry troops backed by air and tanks on Sunday and fighting began on Monday.

The death toll in the two days of fighting was 336, according to claims by both sides.

Munasinghe said the LTTE's counter offensive was a setback to the rebels because it was led by two of

their top men, known as Balraj and Swarnam.

Tamil sources said the Atchchuveli area occupied by security forces after their offensive was considered vital for the Tamil Tiger rebels because of several arms dumps and underground structures in the thinly-populated town.

The area is located just southeast of the main Palaly military complex and the Tigers had used their fortifi-

See Page 12 Col 8