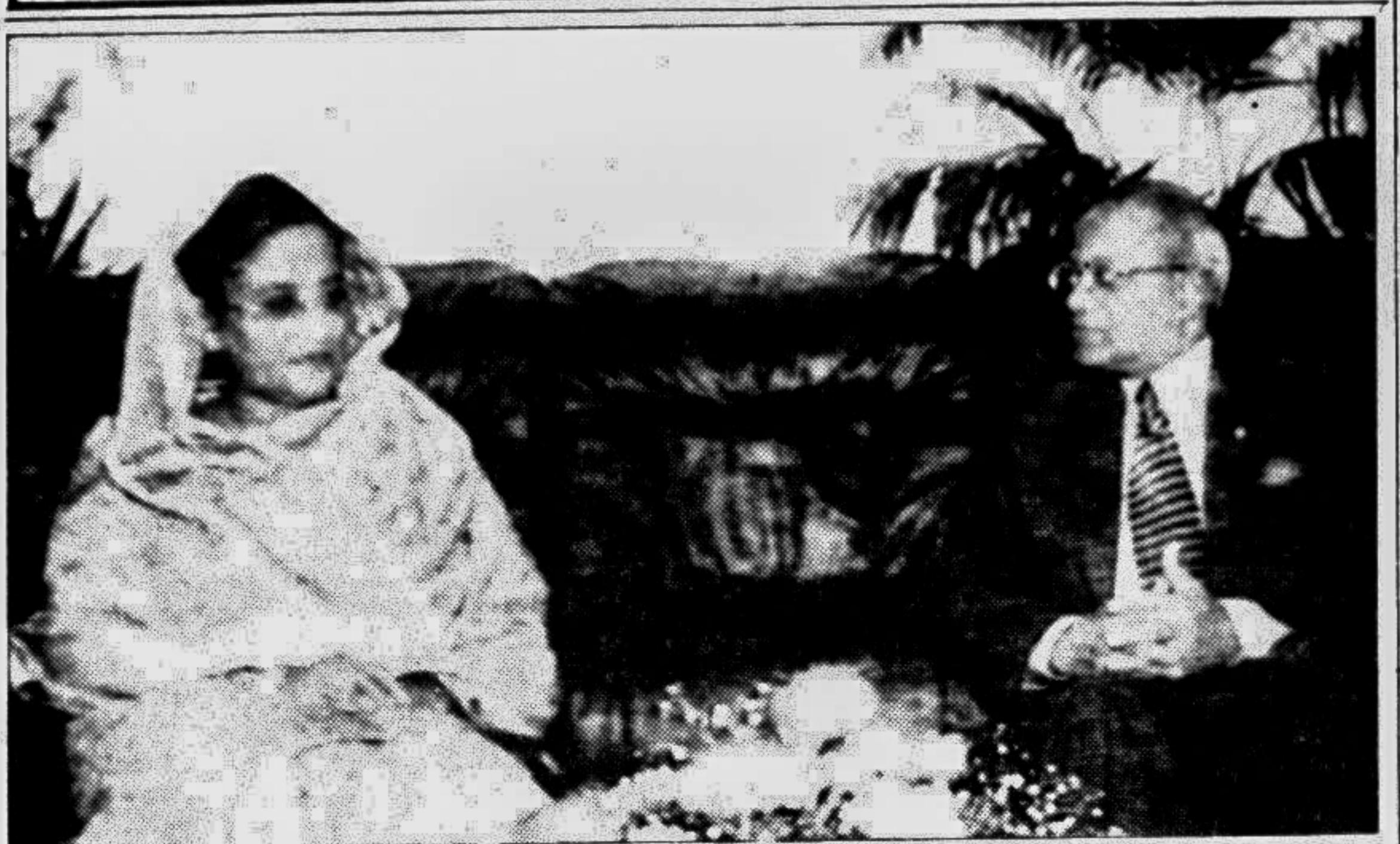


BLUE DART EXPRESS LIMITED

PLEASE CONTACT:

BANGLADESH AIR EXPRESS INT'L
For more information call Head Office : 9565114, Gulshan : 607657,
887771, Chittagong: (031) 712127, Khulna: (041) 725008ON BOARD COURIER
EACH DAY EVERY DAY
TO INDIA

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and President Maomun Abdul Gayoom of The Maldives at the VVIP lounge of Male International Airport after her arrival in Male yesterday.

— PID photo

SAARC summit

From Page 1

SAARC member countries have agreed to reduce tariffs on more than 1,700 items, but some 4,500 remain untouched, and commerce between the seven SAARC countries accounts for only three per cent of their total trade.

The region trades far more with the 15-member states of the European Union, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the North American Free Trade Agreement than between themselves.

The modest level of trade between

Hasina, Gujral

for close

cooperation

MALE, May 11: Indian Prime Minister I K Gujral called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Kurumba village resort here this evening and discussed matters of mutual interest, reports BSS.

The two leaders now in the Maldivian capital to attend the ninth SAARC summit, resolved to work with close cooperation for the development of the two countries and peoples.

Later, talking to a group of newsmen, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh would work with other SAARC nations for peace and prosperity of the region.

ADB report

From Page 1

Increasing share of the population is of working age, economic growth per person tends to be the highest and the national savings rate tends to rise, ADB said.

"Looking ahead, South Asia will have a rising share of workers in the next 30 years.

Although this does not guarantee higher growth, it does provide a potential boost. The challenge is to create sufficient jobs for the large numbers of labour force entrants.

"By contrast, the rising proportion of retirees in the total population will likely dampen East Asian growth and savings rates," the bank added.

Asia's population is currently estimated at three billion, or about 53 per cent of the world population.

CHT peace talks

From Page 1

ban. One BDR JCO and two Shantibahinim were killed and another securityman was injured in the gunfight.

Repeatedly pressed by newsmen, Abdullah gave only a few replies. He said, "There has been no change in the issues being discussed. Only a couple of new demands by them has been

Dipankar tells JS

CHT problem

very close to

a solution

The government and tribal leaders are now very close to a solution of the staggering problem in Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports UNB.

This was stated by a ruling party MP from Rangamati, Dipankar Talukdar, in parliament yesterday.

He made the observation while the government and the leaders of tribal insurgents resumed dialogue in the capital yesterday.

Dipankar, who is involved in the peace process, however, deplored that a certain political party was trying to foil the peace move in the CHT through various activities.

On a point of order, he said the present peace talks between the government and the tribal leaders started under the Ershad government on the basis of 5-point demand placed by the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti.

Dipankar said misleading statements would only confuse the peace process in the CHT and sought cooperation from all the involved parties.

The Daily Star

Khaleda tells US envoy BNP firmly committed to democracy

Outgoing US Ambassador David N Merrill called on BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia at her cantonment residence yesterday, reports UNB.

Merrill was accompanied by his wife Nancy Powell and the meeting was held in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere, said a BNP press release.

During the meeting, Merrill said the US and Bangladesh are working together in the interest of peace and development and hoped that friendship between the two countries would be strengthened further in the days ahead.

Referring to Bangladesh's support during the BNP government to the US in dealing with different international issues like Haiti, Merrill praised Begum Zia's political wisdom and prudence.

President Clinton also appreciated Begum Zia's role, the outgoing US Ambassador said.

He recalled that friendship between the two countries improved much following the visit to Bangladesh of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and of some other US officials.

The BNP chairperson said her party is firmly committed to democracy. It is the BNP which had restored multi-party democracy in the country, she said.

"We are trying our best to give democracy an institutional shape... We are ready to extend our cooperation in all areas to protect national interest and people's rights," she said.

About regional cooperation, Begum Zia said Shaheed Presi-

dent M A Haq Howlader

By Staff Correspondent

The dwellers of Bijlimalah slum under Mohammadpur Thana in the city yesterday alleged that their shanties were being removed by some people claiming to have authorisation for earth filling in the area.

When this correspondent visited the spot adjacent to the Ring Road in Shyamoli, yesterday evening, the dwellers alleged that their shanties were being removed by one Jagul. But Jagul could not show them any document, they said.

Some dwellers also alleged that influential political quarters including an MP were involved in the eviction.

When contacted Mohammad Thana police said they know nothing about it.

The Commissioner of Ward No 42, which covers the area when contacted also denied that the slum dwellers were being evicted and earth filling was going on.

Magbool Hossain, local MP, when contacted said he had not yet been informed about the eviction.

Amannullah Aman was seen carrying the tiny handbag and Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan the two hot water bags she uses on her seat.

Former minister and a top legislator of the party Mr Anwar was also seen carrying Begum Zia's handbag while she returned to the House after the Maghreb recess.

Amidst shouts by Opposition members, seeking the floor, the Deputy Speaker expedited the process of disposing the notices of the day. At a stage, the Chair said in a lighter vein: "The topic of Shahidul Islam of BNP is offer of love; by an MP and it curbs his privilege as a member of parliament.

Rejecting the notice, the Deputy Speaker said, "It's contrary of the parliamentary convention to discuss love affair or any personal matter of anybody."

Several BNP legislators were seen helping their party chief and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia by carrying her handbag and two hot water bags when she was entering the House.

Amannullah Aman was seen carrying the tiny handbag and Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan the two hot water bags she uses on her seat.

Former minister and a top legislator of the party Mr Anwar was also seen carrying Begum Zia's handbag while she returned to the House after the Maghreb recess.

Amidst shouts by Opposition members, seeking the floor, the Deputy Speaker expedited the process of disposing the notices of the day. At a stage, the Chair said in a lighter vein: "The topic of Shahidul Islam of BNP is offer of love; by an MP and it curbs his privilege as a member of parliament.

Rejecting the notice, the Deputy Speaker said, "It's contrary of the parliamentary convention to discuss love affair or any personal matter of anybody."

Several BNP legislators were seen helping their party chief and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia by carrying her handbag and two hot water bags when she was entering the House.

Amannullah Aman was seen carrying the tiny handbag and Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan the two hot water bags she uses on her seat.

Former minister and a top legislator of the party Mr Anwar was also seen carrying Begum Zia's handbag while she returned to the House after the Maghreb recess.

Amidst shouts by Opposition members, seeking the floor, the Deputy Speaker expedited the process of disposing the notices of the day. At a stage, the Chair said in a lighter vein: "The topic of Shahidul Islam of BNP is offer of love; by an MP and it curbs his privilege as a member of parliament.

Rejecting the notice, the Deputy Speaker said, "It's contrary of the parliamentary convention to discuss love affair or any personal matter of anybody."

Several BNP legislators were seen helping their party chief and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia by carrying her handbag and two hot water bags when she was entering the House.

Amannullah Aman was seen carrying the tiny handbag and Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan the two hot water bags she uses on her seat.

Former minister and a top legislator of the party Mr Anwar was also seen carrying Begum Zia's handbag while she returned to the House after the Maghreb recess.

Amidst shouts by Opposition members, seeking the floor, the Deputy Speaker expedited the process of disposing the notices of the day. At a stage, the Chair said in a lighter vein: "The topic of Shahidul Islam of BNP is offer of love; by an MP and it curbs his privilege as a member of parliament.

Rejecting the notice, the Deputy Speaker said, "It's contrary of the parliamentary convention to discuss love affair or any personal matter of anybody."

Several BNP legislators were seen helping their party chief and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia by carrying her handbag and two hot water bags when she was entering the House.

Amannullah Aman was seen carrying the tiny handbag and Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan the two hot water bags she uses on her seat.

Former minister and a top legislator of the party Mr Anwar was also seen carrying Begum Zia's handbag while she returned to the House after the Maghreb recess.

Amidst shouts by Opposition members, seeking the floor, the Deputy Speaker expedited the process of disposing the notices of the day. At a stage, the Chair said in a lighter vein: "The topic of Shahidul Islam of BNP is offer of love; by an MP and it curbs his privilege as a member of parliament.

Rejecting the notice, the Deputy Speaker said, "It's contrary of the parliamentary convention to discuss love affair or any personal matter of anybody."

Several BNP legislators were seen helping their party chief and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia by carrying her handbag and two hot water bags when she was entering the House.

Amannullah Aman was seen carrying the tiny handbag and Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan the two hot water bags she uses on her seat.

Former minister and a top legislator of the party Mr Anwar was also seen carrying Begum Zia's handbag while she returned to the House after the Maghreb recess.

Amidst shouts by Opposition members, seeking the floor, the Deputy Speaker expedited the process of disposing the notices of the day. At a stage, the Chair said in a lighter vein: "The topic of Shahidul Islam of BNP is offer of love; by an MP and it curbs his privilege as a member of parliament.

Rejecting the notice, the Deputy Speaker said, "It's contrary of the parliamentary convention to discuss love affair or any personal matter of anybody."

Several BNP legislators were seen helping their party chief and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia by carrying her handbag and two hot water bags when she was entering the House.

Amannullah Aman was seen carrying the tiny handbag and Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan the two hot water bags she uses on her seat.

Former minister and a top legislator of the party Mr Anwar was also seen carrying Begum Zia's handbag while she returned to the House after the Maghreb recess.

Amidst shouts by Opposition members, seeking the floor, the Deputy Speaker expedited the process of disposing the notices of the day. At a stage, the Chair said in a lighter vein: "The topic of Shahidul Islam of BNP is offer of love; by an MP and it curbs his privilege as a member of parliament.

Rejecting the notice, the Deputy Speaker said, "It's contrary of the parliamentary convention to discuss love affair or any personal matter of anybody."

Several BNP legislators were seen helping their party chief and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia by carrying her handbag and two hot water bags when she was entering the House.

Amannullah Aman was seen carrying the tiny handbag and Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan the two hot water bags she uses on her seat.

Former minister and a top legislator of the party Mr Anwar was also seen carrying Begum Zia's handbag while she returned to the House after the Maghreb recess.

Amidst shouts by Opposition members, seeking the floor, the Deputy Speaker expedited the process of disposing the notices of the day. At a stage, the Chair said in a lighter vein: "The topic of Shahidul Islam of BNP is offer of love; by an MP and it curbs his privilege as a member of parliament.

Rejecting the notice, the Deputy Speaker said, "It's contrary of the parliamentary convention to discuss love affair or any personal matter of anybody."

Several BNP legislators were seen helping their party chief and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia by carrying her handbag and two hot water bags when she was entering the House.

Amannullah Aman was seen carrying the tiny handbag and Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan the two hot water bags she uses on her seat.

Former minister and a top legislator of the party Mr Anwar was also seen carrying Begum Zia's handbag while she returned to the House after the Maghreb recess.

Amidst shouts by Opposition members, seeking the floor, the Deputy Speaker expedited the process of disposing the notices of the day. At a stage, the Chair said in a lighter vein: "The topic of Shahidul Islam of BNP is offer of love; by an MP and it curbs his privilege as a member of parliament.

Rejecting the notice, the Deputy Speaker said, "It's contrary of the parliamentary convention to discuss love affair or any personal matter of anybody."

Several BNP legislators were seen helping their party chief and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia by carrying her handbag and two hot water bags when she was entering the House.

Amannullah Aman was seen carrying the tiny handbag and Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan the two hot water bags she uses on her seat.

Former minister and a top legislator of the party Mr Anwar was also seen carrying Begum Zia's handbag while she returned to the House after the Maghreb recess.

Amidst shouts by Opposition members, seeking the floor, the Deputy Speaker expedited the process of disposing the notices of the day. At a stage, the Chair said in a lighter vein: "The topic of Shahidul Islam of BNP is offer of love; by an MP and it curbs his privilege as a member of parliament.

Rejecting the notice, the Deputy Speaker said, "It's contrary of the parliamentary convention to discuss love affair or any personal matter of anybody."

Several BNP legislators were seen helping their party chief and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia by carrying her handbag and two hot water bags when she was entering the House.

Amannullah Aman was seen carrying the tiny handbag and Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan the two hot water bags she uses on her seat.

Former minister and a top legislator of the party Mr Anwar was also seen carrying Begum Zia's handbag while she returned to the House after the Maghreb recess.

Amidst shouts by Opposition members, seeking the floor, the Deputy Speaker expedited the process of disposing the notices of the day. At a stage, the Chair said in a lighter vein: "The topic of Shahidul Islam of BNP is offer of love; by an MP and it curbs his privilege as a member of parliament.

Rejecting the notice, the Deputy Speaker said, "It's contrary of the parliamentary convention to discuss love affair or any personal matter of anybody."

Several BNP legislators were seen helping their party chief and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia by carrying her handbag and two hot water bags when she was entering the House.

Amannullah Aman was seen carrying the tiny handbag and Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan the two hot water bags she uses on her seat.

Former minister and a top legislator of the party Mr Anwar was also seen carrying Begum Zia's handbag while she returned to the House after the Maghreb recess.

Amidst shouts by Opposition members, seeking the floor, the Deputy Speaker expedited the process of disposing the notices of the day. At a stage, the Chair said in a lighter vein: "The topic of Shahidul Islam of BNP is offer of love; by an MP and it curbs his privilege as a member of parliament.

Rejecting the notice, the Deputy Speaker said, "It's contrary of the parliamentary convention to discuss love affair or any personal matter of anybody."

Several BNP legislators were seen helping their party chief and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia by carrying her handbag and two hot water bags when she was entering the House.