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Clinton's Indo-Pak trip likely to be postponed

WASHINGTON, Sept 19: A planned trip to South Asia this year by President Bill Clinton is expected to be postponed be-cause India and Pakistan have not made sufficient progress toward agreeing to curb their nuclear programmes. US offi-

The White House has declined to announce a final decision on the trip until after Clinton meets Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif next week in New York but aides doubt there could be enough achieved in time to make the trip possible, the officials told Reuters.

Asked if the consensus among senior US officials was to delay the trip, one official said, "that's right.

Another official said when Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, National Security Adviser Samuel Bergj and other top aides discussed the South Asia nuclear situation at the White House last Friday, they agreed India and Pakistan "have a long way to go before we can recommend a trip."

This lack of progress is apparently what lay behind Albright's verbal blast Friday at the 'nuclear follies' of India and Pakistan, contrasting their recent atomic tests with Brazils' decision to sign global nonproliferation accords.

At a State Department ceremony where Brazil deposited its

Outlawed party

in Khulna

ratification documents for the 1968 Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Albright said Brazil dealt 'a powerful and timely rebuttal to the opponents of arms control.

"In the wake of South Asia's nuclear follies. Brazil has given the lie to the dangerous nonsense that the global non-pro-, liferation regime is dead," she

By Public renouncing a nuclear cooperation accord with India, "Brazil has clearly rejected the tortured claim that the way to rid the world of nuclear weapons is to saddle the

world with new nuclear weapons state, she added.

The depth of US disappointment over India, especially, is seen in the fact that while Clinton will meet Pakistan's Prime Minister in New York, he has no plan to see Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, officials said.

Experts from the Brookings Institution and the council on Foreign Relations, in a new report, have urged Clinton to visit South Asia without conditions.

The United States has been in intensive negotiations with both countries since India shook the world and raised the potential for a regional arms race by conducting nuclear weapons tests last May, bitter rival Pakistan followed suit. Clinton was forced by law to

impose broad economic sanctions on both countries as a result, while some sanctions have since been eased, there is great concern about the impact of the penalties on fragile Pakistan. in particular.

US officials hoped the prospect of a Clinton trip would encourage India and Pakistan to accede to international demands to curb their nuclear programmes.

Six weeks ago. Deputy Secre-tary of State Strobe Talbott, the chief US negotiator, was reported to believe that Indian leaders had move significantly toward accepting criteria laid down by the United States and other nations.

This included a judgment that India was leaning toward acceding, without conditions, to the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), a reversal of its public position, officials

Friday, one US official said talks with the Indians were "going downbill ... we haven't really gotten to first base with them and that has spilled over into the Pakistani dynamic."

But another official cau-

tioned that everyday brings. "radically different developments from both governments" and hence there could be movement next week, but even he doubted this would be sufficient.

victims in Old Dhaka yesterday

devastation caused by the pro-

longed flooding. Hasina said

"Loss is so enormous every-

where that it is difficult to find

to combat the flood, Inshallah

we will also be able to overcome

The prime minister assured

its aftermath," said Hasina

that her government has taken

up extensive plans including

Food for Work, Test Relief and

Vulnerable Group Feeding pro-

grammes to support the people

worst hit by the prolonged, dev-

poor people, farmers and small

traders hit hard by the deluge.

"We are trying to help the

astating floods.

with a firm determination.

The way we all had worked

a solution overnight."

Referring to the extent of



Flood victims at a city flood centre cooking food.

- Star photo

activist murdered

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Sept 19: A member of an outlawed party was slaughtered Thursday night by an unidentified gang.

Police recovered the body of Habib Shaikh, 26, Friday evening from Ajogarha beel area under Tarokheda thana.

Police said that some of his still unidentified associates kidnapped him at gunpoint from Senerbazar on Thursday afternoon.

He was an activist of an outlawed party and wanted in several criminal cases including murder, rape and robbery, po-

Tk 4288cr

From Page 1 external food aid in the

pipeline. It reassured the nation of meeting the shortfall of food grains caused by the devastat

ing flood. The prime minister also di rected the finance ministry to allocate and release the funds immediately to the authorities.

She emphasised on creating employment opportunities in the rural areas by starting reconstruction and repair of the damaged roads, bridges and culverts, schools, colleges and

Hasina also stressed the need for quick and successful implementation of the agricul-

ture rehabilitation programme. ture rehabilitation programme includes ensuring availability of seeds and fertiliser free o

decided to extend the help to more than 250,000 farmers of the worst affected areas.

increase in case of necessity Apart from this, the government has also announced a Tk 3,200 crore farm loan programme of the flood affected farmers.

Haripada Sarkar, a peasant

in normal times, had no alter-

native but to try his luck with a

small country-boat to feed his

7-member family. He was ferry

ing people from the damaged-

end of Postkamari Bridge to the

other side, thanks to Bongshai

that devoured the road leading

along with Michel De Muele-

naere, a Belgian journalist, dis-

embarked from Sarkar's boat

on the other side of the Dhaka-

Tangail highway, it was an-

other scene to witness. Dhaka-

bound passenger buses in their

dozens built up a huge traffic.

Failing to proceed further, they

were now waiting in a big queue

for their respective turn to

make a return journey to Tan-

gail with a few passengers or

with Roads and Highways De-

partment, was supervising the

repair work on the damaged

bridge. He said a bailey bridge

would be in place "by tonight"

only point of barrier that vehi-

cles had to encounter on

Construction Company and

Iranian firm Status Construc-

tion Company employed their

However, that was not the

South Korean firm Sungjee

to restore vehicle movement.

Dhaka-Tangail highway.

Md Hossain, an engineer

When this correspondent

to the bridge.

without.

post-flood rehabilitation

Hasina vesterday sought renewed effort from all political parties, voluntary and social organisations to face the postflood situation, reports UNB.

the fresh appeal as her government is poised to launch a massoon in the flood-hit areas with the recession of water.

in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 19: One per-son was killed while three others were injured by a gang of dacoits at Karnakati village under sadar thana here late last night

armed dacoits swooped on three village at about 1:30 last night.

dacoity, robbers looted cash and gold ornaments worth about Tk 50,000 and beat the inmates of the houses mercilessly leaving three people in-

chased the dacoits. During the encounter one Belayet Hossain, 60, was shot dead on the spot.

tion. None was arrested yet.

Acid thrown

would punish her, sources con-

along with her daughter yesterday morning Jahid allegedly threw acid on her and fled away. Tuntuni was safe.

they did not receive any complaint in this connection till last night.

PM urges parties, NGOs to join

tic task of post-flood rehabilitation giving up party politics. she said while distributing relief materials among the flood

The prime minister made sive rehabilitation programme

Dacoits kill one

nesses a gang of about 14 to 15

houses in a row at Karnakati

Local people at one time

A case was filed against 15

people with Kotwali thana in this connection. The injured three were admitted to SBMC hospital with critical condi-

jila that if she did not allow him to take their daughter, he

From Page 1

When Manjila was sleeping

Ramna police, however, said

capacity strengths in saving

some two kilometre roads from

being washed away by the

strong current at Derua in

Mirzapur and Konabari in

Gazipur. These two points are

cated on a little highland at

Gorai near Mirzapur, could es-

cape the wrath of gushing flood

water as the river level failed to

compete with the land height

people sometimes gain by

learning lessons from the past.

"We raised the basement level of

our industries after the 1988

floods," said Ekabbar Hossain,

proprietor of Mirzapur Cold

at Majlishpur, said there was

no hope even for late aman va-

riety and that he had already

started buying rice from local

market for family consump-

tion. "I'll try mustard after wa-

ter recession and then go for

pital, Mirzapur, saw rise in the

number of diarrhoea patients

over the last two weeks. "Every

day over 15 patients are getting

admitted and many others re-

leased after immediate treat-

ment. This number is definitely

much higher than in normal

time," said Rinku Pal, a nurse.

Meanwhile, Kumudini Hos-

boro," said Falu Mia.

Falu Mia, a marginal farmer

Storage.

It is also an example of how

Some 30 industrial units, lo-

still not fit for traffic.

Prime Minister Sheikh "Let us make a united endeavour to deal with the gigan-

afternoon.

According to police and wit-

During the one-hour long

she said The prime minister distributed rice, saree, biscuit and milk among the distressed women and children who took shelters at Manija Rahmar Girls' High School, Anan damoyee Girls' High School and

Ahmad Bawani Academy. Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif and city Awami League leaders were with the Prime Minister during her

EU for ties From Page 1 server status with the EU. After

the opening of the EU office in Kathmandu, SAARC's interaction at economic and political levels are expected to increase manifold. There is also a thinking that

a system of institutionalised consultations between the foreign ministers of the European Union and the SAARC countries would be put in place in the foreseeable future. The idea of the EU is to sup-

port and enhance greater regional cooperation. South Asia as a whole is a powerhouse for production of goods and services of a diverse nature that could profitably enter the European market provided there was increasing emphasis on quality, durability and high standard of manufacturing, Gupwell

EU officials also felt that business prospects in South Asia now is far better than it was even a decade back. "For Bangladesh and other

SAARC countries, the only way to highlight and attract greater Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is to market themselves in a focused manner," said Dick Gup-The main obstacle to devel-

opment of SAARC is the political animosity and divisions. Europe too was always frag-, mented politically. But in today's world the survival and strength of nations and its politics is directly linked with the strength of its economy and economics. Nothing else counts.

Although SAARC was a late comer as a business region since it was established 18 years after the ASEAN, it still could and should attempt to make a jump start without wasting any more time, the EU leaders felt. European Union is now

shopping around and South Asia including Bangladesh should act fast to see that its goods get the best possible market in Europe and in the world."

From Page 1 Mirzapur had collapsed.

Long-route train communication to and from the capital has become almost normal except on some branch routes.

'Flood situation

The FFWC said the Buriganga at Dhaka fell by 14 cm yesterday and was flowing only 18 cm above the danger mark. Shitalakhya at Narayanganj also dropped by 13 cm but was

still 56 cm above the danger level. Turag declined at both Mirpur and Tongi points but was

still flowing well above its danger level. The death toll from flood rose to 840, with 14 fresh deaths

reported yesterday. Diarrhoea has claimed 254 lives in flood-hit areas since mid-July while 2,77,617 people have been affected by the waterborne disease.

Another 100 deaths were reported at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) according to the Health Directorate yesterday.

Anti-Taliban govt demands withdrawal of all foreigners

UNITED NATIONS. Sept 19: Afghanistan's anti-Taliban government, still recognised by the United Nations, demanded on Friday the withdrawal of all foreigners from the country un-

der UN supervision, reports. "Only diplomats, United Nations personnel and the staff of international aid agencies shall continue to maintain their beneficial presence in Afghanistan," the foreign ministry said in a letter to Secre-

tary-General Kofi Annan. Afghanistan's UN seat is still held by the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, which was driven from Kabul by the Islamist Taliban movement in September 1996 and now controls only a small

area of the country. Tension has escalated between the Taliban and Iran in recent weeks after eight Iranian diplomats and a journalist were killed when Taliban fighters captured the opposition stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif on August 8.

One chopped to death in Sylhet From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 19: A man was chopped to death by his nephew at village Nayagram-Kurigram under Gowinghat thana at about 8:30 pm yesterday. Arab Ali, 22, proposed to

marry the daughter of his maternal uncle a few days back But the proposal was refused. Being agitated, he swooped on his uncle. Siddek Ali , 55, while he was returning home from the village mosque after

offering Esha prayers last night. Arab chopped his uncle to death with a dao. The villagers caught the killer and later handed him over to the police. A case has been registered.

3 killed by lightning in Sylhet From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 19: Three persons were killed and two others injured by lightning at village Sonatala under Kanaighat thana this morning. The deceased were identified

as Manik Miah, 25, of village Bataijal, Jamaluddin, 27, of village Sonatala, and Aziruddin of village Sonatala. The injured were admitted to the Kanaighat thana health

complex.

54 shops gutted, 100 damaged at Ctg ing. Local people also took part CHITTAGONG Sept 19: A

devastating fire raged through a market in the city early today ravaging some 150 shops, fire fighters said, reports APB. The fire that originated at

around 10 past midnight engulfed the entire CDA Hawkers' Market and damaged valuables like garments, electronics and stationery goods worth about Tk 3 crore. At least 25 people were in-

Bazar, the city's biggest shopping mall. Witnesses said, members of the Fire Service and Civil Defence from 12 fire fighting units brought the flames under con-

trol at about 5:30 in the morn-

jured, including five firemen

during a frantic fight to tame

the over five-hour long blaze at

in the frantic effort. The cause of the fire as well as the exact extent of loss are vet to be ascertained although investigation was on, officials

According to a preliminary

estimate, the loss is about Tk 1.75 crore, said Kotwali police who believed the fire might have sparked from electric short circuit. Businessmen told APB that

54 shops were completely gutted while 100 others damaged par-

Some shopowners alleged looting of huge goods during the

the Market near Reazuddin tially in the late-night fire which they said caused a colossal damage to property valued Tk 3 crore.

President asks docs

From Page 1

He said the poor and distressed people go to the physicians as a last resort. But "the standard of service is not satisfactory

tablished in each thana head-

Health complex has been es-

quarters, but doctors do not want to go there. Inadequacy of necessary medicines is also felt," he added. The President said good infrastructure of health service could not be effective due to gap between physical infrastructure

and technical infrastructure. lack of coordination, procedural complexity and weak man-Highlighting achievement in the health sector, he said small pox has been eradicated and

many contiguous diseases checked. With present growth rate, country's population will reach

15 crore in next 10 years. Terming the population problem as number one problem of the country, the President said a combined effort should be directed towards solving the menace.

Referring to some success in the health sector during the last one decade, the president said infant mortality rate has been reduced to 77 from 125 in 1985 after bringing about 70 per cent

From Page 1

the Circuit House meeting in

who spoke on condition of

ter also lacked any element of

Chittagong Circuit House you

had agreed to pay Tk ... as your

contribution to the Prime Min-

ister's Relief Fund in presence

of the Honourable Ministers of

Labour and Employment and

Aviation and Tourism. But till

date the draft for the money has

not been made available." said

the letter signed by additional

deputy commissioner (general).

16, asked the recipient to send

the draft for the money (the

amount varied for each busi-

nessman) committed the fol-

Manufacturers and Dealers As-

sociation proposed to con-

tribute Tk 50,000, which drew

an abrasive response from one

of the ministers who was

quoted to have told the busi-

nessman: "You will make five

crore taka when the flood water

A representative of CI Sheet

The letter, dated September

anonymity complained the let-

courtesy.

lowing day.

A number of businessmen

"On September 12, at the

presence of the two ministers.

children under EPI programme He, however, cautioned that there is no scope of complacence with the success as the mother mortality rate in the country is still very high and rate of malnutrition is alarming Besides, new health hazards like AIDS and arsenic pollution are compounding the country's health problems.

Shahabuddin said to face challenges of the 21s century in the health sector, a well calculated, courageous and wise programme should be undertaken. To achieve the goal, the Pres ident laid emphasis on sincer

ity of all involved in the health

The inaugural function was addressed, among others, by Health and Family Welfare Minister Salauddin Yusuf State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof M Amanullah, Vice Chancellor o Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof MA Quadri, President of Association of Physicians of Bangladesh Prof Harun-or-Rashid and Secretary General M A Jalil Chowdhury, Prof Mu nir Uddin Ahmed and Prof To-

fael Ahmed

pay Tk 100,000.

prime minister."

nied the charge.

gains.

An opportunity indeed

Dr Mohammad Tahir and Di Harun-or-Rashid were awarded Ibrahim Memorial and SGM Chowdhury Memorial Gold Medals at the function.

recedes. Why can't you pay two

lakh taka now?" He agreed to

anger among those being chased

is that way they were treated

and the authority of the district

administration was used to

routed through them?" asked

another businessman, "when

we can give it directly to the

Both ministers however de-

"There's no element of pres-

sure. It was absolutely volun-

tary. We just made an appeal,"

said labour minister M A Man-

raf Hossain gave similar state-

ments denying allegation that

they tried to reap personal

PM's Fund and that certain

quarters were attempting to

embarrass them by raising

questions about the method

they used, and the spirit and na-

ture of the meeting they held.

Aviation minister Moshar-

"Why has the money to be

force so-called donations.

The reason why it all caused

No-confidence move Shamiran Dewan asked to explain

KHAGRACHHARI, Sept 19: The government has asked Shamiran Dewan, chairman of Khagrachhari Local Government District Parishad, to submit on explanation in defence of a no-confidence move

his position

against him, reports UNB. The Special Affairs Division in a letter asked Dewan to send his explanations by September

Four members of the hill district council had earlier complained to the government bringing charges against the chairman of abusing power and misusing funds. Binode Behari Chakma

Uhalla Prue Chowdhury, Rana Bikram Tripura and Zahedul Alam also informed the Prime Minister of the alleged misdeeds of Shamiran Dewan. They said the chairman

without holding meeting of the Parishad had implemented projects involving huge money much of which were misused. The members moved for no-

confidence against the chair-

kg through the OMS.

From Page 1 She demanded immediate supply of rice at Tk 10 to 11 per

She urged the government to distribute cooked "Dal-Bhat" among the flood-victims and said, "People don't want to take She emphasised on arrang-

ing massive employment soon

after the recession of flood wa-

ter and said relief is not the solution, people want work for their livelihood. She cautioned that the distressed people from villages will rush to the capital, law and order will worsen and people

Instead of taking BNP's help, the ruling party is busy arresting and harassing the BNP activists, and plundering their relief goods, Begum Zia alleged She said the ruling party ac-

will die from starvation.

tivists had plundered the relief after her distribution at Ramna on Thursday. Referring to the Wednesday's Dhaka University incident, the BNP Chairperson said: "Chha-

tra League activists had opened

fire to injure and kill us.

She urged the government to stand by the distressed people shunning the path of repression on the opponents.

Incidents of rape

JU probe body submits report to VC tomorrow

By JU Correspondent The Fact Finding Committee, formed to investigate the three incidents of rape at Jahangirnagar University (JU), will submit its report to the Vice-Chancellor tomorrow.

Prof Anwarul Haq Sharif, Dean of Science Faculty, who heads the committee told The Daily Star yesterday that the report had been prepared after interviewing a number of female students, journalists, teachers and some leaders of Chhatra League to identify the victims and the rapists. When contacted VC Prof

Alauddin Ahmed said the report will be placed before the Syndicate Tuesday for review. The Syndicate will then send the report to the Disciplinary Committee for taking necessary Replying to a question, the VC said there was no possibility

Wrists of young man chopped off

of forming another committee for further probe into the mat-

By Staff Correspondent A gang of criminals severed both the wrists of a young truck

driver near Panthapath under

Tejgaon thana in the city Fri-

day night.

The victim, Iqbal, 26, son of Abdur Rahman, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources The gang of about four persons called lqbal out of his res-

They took him beside a boundary wall of a building and started beating him. At one stage the gang chopped-off his wrists and fled away. Hearing his screams, people nearby came and took

idence at about 10 pm Friday.

When contacted late last night, the duty officer at Tejgaon thana could not confirm the incident.

him to the DMCH, the sources

US foodgrains

From Page 1

The amount includes a grant of 400,000 MT of wheat and several grants to CARE Bangladesh and ICDDR.B. he said.

Thomas Fox assured that the US government will try to further expand its assistance to help Bangladesh overcome the crisis caused by the devastating

USAID Dhaka office director Gordon west, USIS Director John Kincannon and other USAID officials were present.

The USAID has stressed the need for a "high quality independent assessment" of the damage caused by the flood to enable the donors to plan for future assistance.

It will send an assessment

team to have "first hand infor-

mation" of the situation, they About the donors' preference on NGO's relief distribution channels. Fox said its a worldwide phenomenon because NGOs are believed to be

more flexible. USAID provided Tk 38.88 crore to ICDDR,B and CARE during the 1998 flood to continue relief and health care services to the flood-hit people.

4 burnt alive From Page 1

Estam Miah, 25, Martuj Ali, 45, and Jashim Miah, 25 Nine of the critically injured were admitted to the Mad-

habpur Thana Health Complex

while the others were released after first aid. Rifles of three Ansars, who were in the coach, were also burnt in the fire. Fire Brigade personnel from Habiganj and Madhabpur went to the spot and brought the fire under control.

The Deputy Commissioner and

SP of Habiganj visited the spot.

Stand Beside the Flood Victims!

Bangladesh Masjid Mission(BMM) has undertaken a massive plan of distributing relief materials of Tk. Fifty Lac in 23 Flood affected

Relief Fund. Bank. A/C No.-2066/1-IBBL, New Market Br. Dhaka

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

The ministers said they were Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, trying to raise one crore taka in Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhakaadditional contribution to the address: dstar@bangla.net

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The government's agriculthat house and threatened Mon-*cost, and providing cash help. The government had earlier cerned said. However, the number may

Challenge for peasants