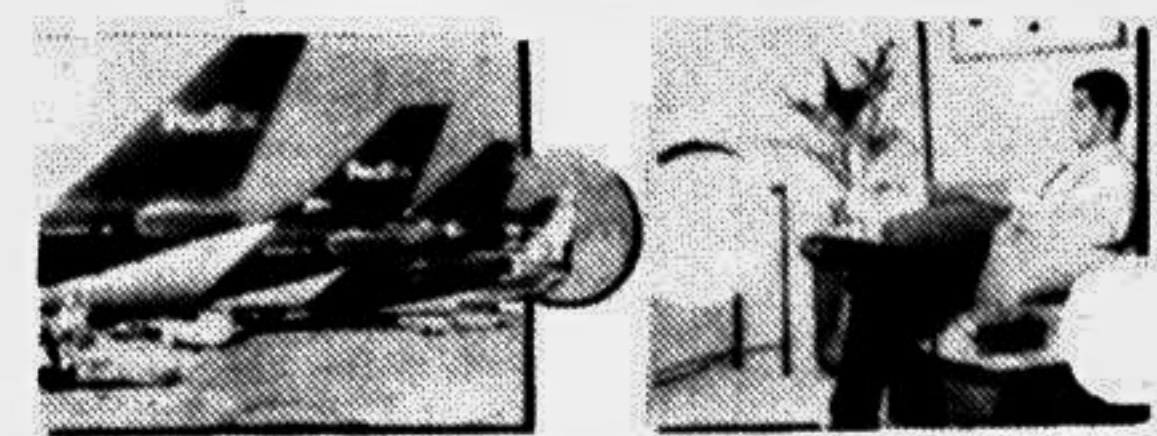


We do our Piece so you can have your peace



Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9655114,
9653227, 9130647, 894213, 808803 DEP2 9338031
Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108
Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, N'ganj, Tel: 9714336

The World On Time

Ideal gift for any occasion.



Toaster - 4 Slices

Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 5,000

Transcom Electronics Limited

Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets

Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg.: 716353, 723578
Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215



Let's make things better



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 because India and Pakistan have not made sufficient progress toward agreeing to curb their nuclear programmes, US officials said.

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 Berger 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 Brazil's decision to sign global non-proliferation accords.

At a State Department ceremony where Brazil deposited its ratification documents for the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Albright said Brazil dealt "a powerful and timely rebuff 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-proliferation regime is dead," she said.

By Public renouncing a nuclear cooperation accord with India, Brazil has clearly rejected 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 Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, the chief US negotiator, was reported to believe that Indian leaders had moved 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 said.

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

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.

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

But another official cautioned 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.



Flood victims at a city flood centre cooking food.

— Star photo

Outlawed party activist murdered in Khulna

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 Ajaraha beel area under Tarokhedha 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, police said.

Tk 4288cr

From Page 1
external food aid in the pipeline.

It reassured the nation of meeting the shortfall of foodgrains caused by the devastating flood.

The prime minister also directed 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 clinics.

Hasina also stressed the need for quick and successful implementation of the agriculture rehabilitation programme.

The government's agriculture rehabilitation programme includes ensuring availability of seeds and fertiliser free of cost, and providing cash help.

The government had earlier decided to extend the help to more than 250,000 farmers of the most affected areas.

However, the number may 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.

Challenge for peasants

From Page 1
Haripada Sarkar, a peasant in normal times, had no alternative but to try his luck with a small country-bus to feed his 7-member family. He was ferrying people from the damaged-end of Postkamari Bridge to the other side, thanks to Bongshai that devoured the road leading to the bridge.

When this correspondent along with Michel De Muele-naere, a Belgian journalist, disembarked from Sarkar's boat on the other side of the Dhaka-Tangail highway, it was another 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 Tangail with a few passengers or without.

Md Hossain, an engineer with Roads and Highways Department, was supervising the repair work on the damaged bridge. He said a Bailey bridge would be in place "by tonight" to restore vehicle movement.

However, that was not the only point of barrier that vehicles had to encounter on Dhaka-Tangail highway. South Korean firm Sunjee Construction Company and Iranian firm Status Construction Company employed their

PM urges parties, NGOs to join post-flood rehabilitation

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought renewed effort from all political parties, voluntary and social organisations to face the post-flood situation, reports UNB.

The prime minister made the fresh appeal as her government is poised to launch a massive rehabilitation programme soon in the flood-hit areas with the recession of water.

Dacoits kill one in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Sept 19: One person was killed while three others were injured by a gang of dacoits at Karnakati village under sadar thana here late last night.

According to police and witnesses a gang of about 14 to 15 armed dacoits swooped on three houses in a row at Karnakati village at about 1:30 last night.

During the one-hour long dacoity, robbers looted cash and gold ornaments worth about Tk 50,000 and beat the inmates of the houses mercilessly leaving three people injured.

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

A case was filed against 15 people with Kotwali thana in this connection. The injured three were admitted to SBMC hospital with critical condition. None was arrested yet.

Acid thrown

From Page 1
that house and threatened Monjila that if she did not allow him to take their daughter, he would punish her, sources concerned said.

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

Ramna police, however, said they did not receive any complaint in this connection till last night.

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 support 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 added.

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 Gupwell.

Flood situation

From Page 1

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

The FFWC said the Buriganga at Dhaka fell by 14 cm yesterday and was flowing only 18 cm above the danger mark.

Shitalakhyia 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 water-borne 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

From Page 1
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 under 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 Secretary-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 Batajaj, 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

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 injured, including five firemen during a frantic fight to tame the over five-hour long blaze at the Market near Rezauddin 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 control at about 5:30 in the morning.

Local people also took part in the frantic effort. The cause of the fire as well as the exact extent of loss are yet to be ascertained although investigation was on, officials said.

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

Some shopowners alleged looting of huge goods during the fire.

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".

Health complex has been established in each thana headquarters, 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 management.

Highlighting achievement in the health sector, he said small pox has been eradicated and many contagious diseases checked.

With present growth rate, country's population will reach 15 crore in next 10 years.

Termining 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

An opportunity indeed

From Page 1
the Circuit House meeting in presence of the two ministers.

A number of businessmen who spoke on condition of anonymity complained the letter also lacked any element of courtesy.

On September 12, at the Chittagong Circuit House you had agreed to pay Tk... as your contribution to the Prime Minister'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).

The letter, dated September 16, asked the recipient to send the draft for the money (the amount varied for each businessman) committed the following day.

No-confidence move Shamiran Dewan asked to explain his position

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

The Special Affairs Division in a letter asked Dewan to send his explanations by September 25.

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 Ullaha 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 chairman.

Khaleda

From Page 1
She demanded immediate supply of rice at Tk 10 to 11 per kg through the OMS.

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

She emphasised on arranging massive employment soon after the recession of flood water 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 will die from starvation.

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 activists had plundered the relief after her distribution at Ramna on Thursday.

Referring to the Wednesday's Dhaka University incident, the BNP Chairperson said: "Chhatra 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.

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 Madhabpur 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.

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 action.

Replying to a question, the VC said there was no possibility of forming another committee for further probe into the matter.

Wrists of young man chopped off

By Staff Correspondent
A gang of criminals severed both the wrists of a young truck driver near Panthapath under Tejgaon thana in the city Friday night.

The victim, Iqbal, 26, son of Abdur Rahim, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

The gang of about four persons called Iqbal out of his residence at about 10 pm Friday. 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 him to the DMCH, the sources said.

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

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 flood.

USAID Dhaka office director Gordon West, US