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The Daily Star

Today's issue
20 pages

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Floods: UNGA call to help Bangladesh

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has urged the international community to respond urgently to assist Bangladesh in its efforts to overcome the destruction caused by the recent floods, reports BSS.

The UNGA in a broad-based resolution adopted on Thursday expressed solidarity with the government and the people of flood-ravaged Bangladesh and made the appeal, according to a message received here yesterday.

The resolution on "assistance to Bangladesh in the wake of devastating floods" was adopted in the on-going 53rd session of the General Assembly, the message said.

The UN General Assembly called upon the international community, the UN system, multilateral and regional financial institutions and the NGOs to mobilise and provide necessary humanitarian assistance and relief for Bangladesh.

The resolution laid emphasis on providing support for relief. See Page 12 Col 3

Meeting tomorrow to review CHT situation

KHAGRACHHARI, Oct 2: Khitagoing Tracts Affairs Minister Kalparanjan Chakma will hold a meeting with chairmen of the three hill district local government councils in Dhaka tomorrow, reports UNB.

The meeting will review the latest situation in the hill tracts after the announcement of the Regional Council and development plans for the region.

It will also discuss problems in carrying out activities of the councils and ways to solve those as well as to make the councils more representative and effective.

Kalparanjan will visit Khagrachhari on October 6 and hold talks with Jana Sanghati Samity Chairman Joytindrana Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma.

In Khagrachhari, Kalparanjan will also have meetings with UP chairmen, headmen, karbari and elite of Dighinala, Laxmichhari, Panchhari and Manlichhari. Meanwhile, a government delegation came here yesterday and held meetings with tribal. See Page 12 Col 2

\$4 lakh Japanese emergency aid

TOKYO, Oct 2: Japan is to give 400,000 US dollars in emergency aid to Bangladesh, hit by severe floods, the foreign ministry said today, reports AFP.

The financial assistance followed the government's decision on Thursday to send a team of medical experts to the country.

In August, the government also donated emergency material aid, including medicine and medical equipment worth 224,000 US dollars.

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Why Should Universities Bleed?

Column: Beneath the Surface by Abdul Bayes Page 4

Business

IMF, WB urge G7 to help pull global economy out of crisis

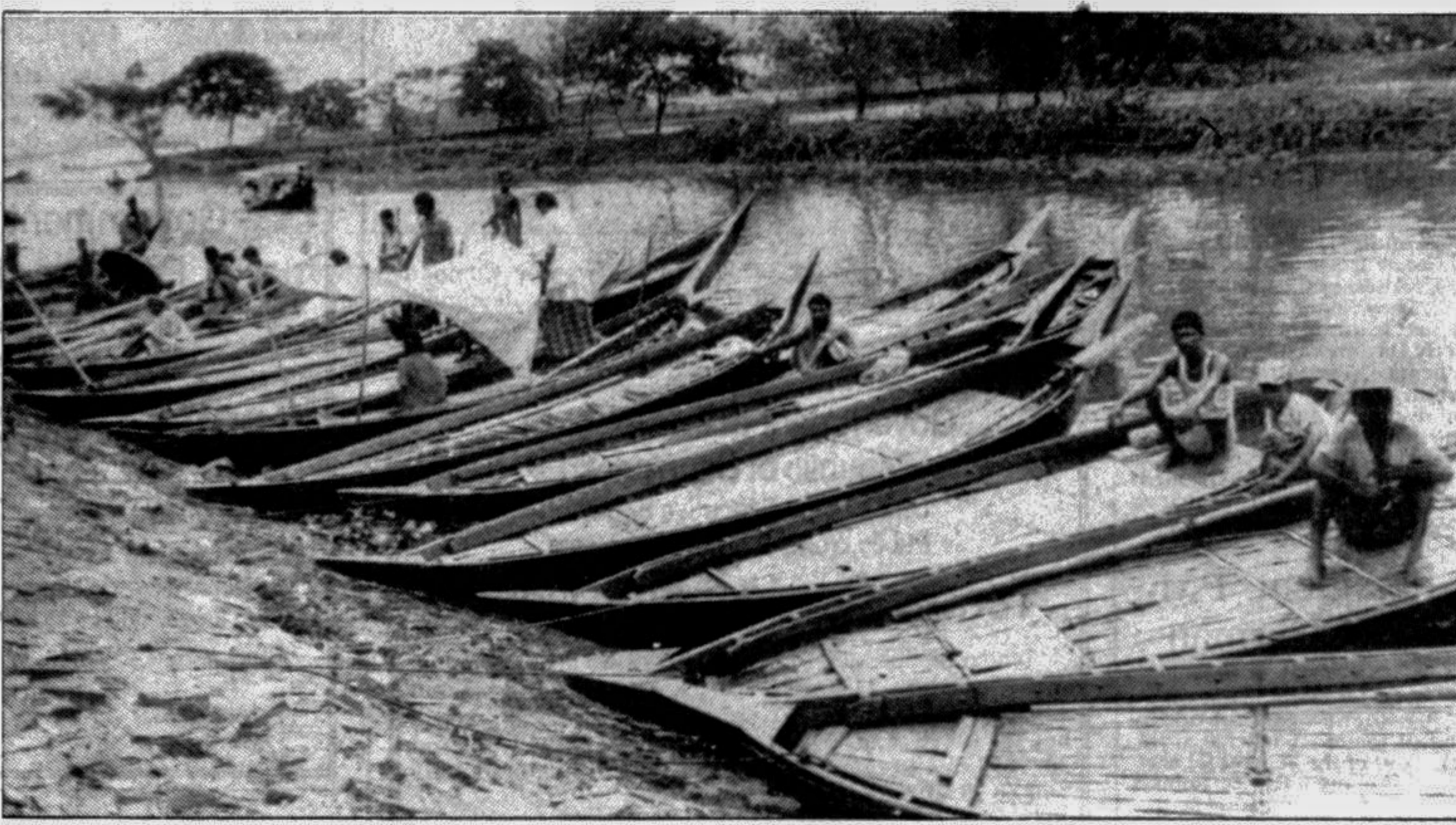
Canada to double its food aid for Bangladesh Pages 6, 7

Star Literature

Two English allusions in Rashid Karim's Prem Ekti Lal Golap; and Art for humanity Pages 8 & 9

Supplements

Today's 20-page issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page supplement on the national day of The People's Republic of Korea on Pages 17, 18, 19 & 20 and a 2-page supplement on 'German Day' on Pages 10 and 11



AFTER THE DELUGE: Boatmen waiting for passengers at Nandipara in the city yesterday. Their incomes had greatly increased when the city streets virtually turned into canals during the floods. From Tk 600-700 a day, their earnings have now come down to Tk 100-200 only, the boatmen said. —Star photo by Sheikh Enamul Huq

Opposition leader's remark very unfortunate: PM

SYLHET, Oct 2: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today criticised the Leader of the Opposition for her recent remark calling the government uncivilised and said such an "indecent comment is very unfortunate," reports UNB.

The nation doesn't expect such indecent comment from the top leader of a political party," she said addressing a meeting of Awami League leaders and workers at the local Circuit House in the afternoon.

Hasina made a day-long visit to this divisional headquarters to offer *fateha* at the holy mazar of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R) and Hazrat Shah Paran (R).

In the morning, the Prime

Minister addressed a coordination meeting at the Circuit House on development of the division. At noon, she went to the mazar of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R) and offered *fateha*. She also offered *Jumma* prayers at the mazar mosque.

From there, she went to the mazar of Hazrat Shah Paran (R) on the outskirts of the city and offered *fateha* and *munajat*.

Addressing the party leaders at the Circuit House, the Prime Minister said every one will have to be a part of the organisation.

She asked the party leaders and workers to involve them in the post-flood rehabilitation and reconstruction work to recoup the losses in shortest possible time.

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She directed the party activists for planting trees and suggested the students in particular to plant five trees each for rapidly overcoming the loss in this sector.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, PM's Advisor on Parliamentary Affairs Suranjit Sengupta, Dewan Farid Gazi MP, Nurul Islam Nahid MP, Sultan Mohammad Monsur Ahmed MP, Imran Ahmed MP, Shah Azizur Rahman MP, Hafez Majumder MP, Mohibur Rahman Manik MP, Shahabuddin Ahmed MP, Syeda Zubunnesa Huq MP, Hosne Ara Wahid MP and Syed Rafiqul Huq MP, and local senior lead-

ers were present.

See Page 12 Col 4

Khaleda sick, postpones visit to Chandpur

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has postponed her today's visit to the flood affected areas in Kachua of Chandpur district due to illness, party sources said, reports UNB.

However, when contacted, her private secretary Mosaddek Ali Falu said the condition of Begum Zia was improving.

On Monday, Opposition Leader Begum Khaleda Zia went on a three-day visit to see the flood-affected people of Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Pabna districts.

She felt uncomfortable on way to Chapainawabganj from Rajshahi the same day.

The condition of BNP chairperson deteriorated on her way back to Dhaka from Pabna on Wednesday.

See Page 12 Col 1

I fortunately survived attempt on life in '75, says Tofael

BHOLA, Oct 2: Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed today said he survived a probable attempt on his life while kept in a "condemned cell" of Mymensingh jail after the 1975 changeover, reports UNB.

"Soon after the gruesome murder of four national leaders inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975, some armed people also tried to storm the Mymensingh Jail to kill me," he told a rally.

"But the then Jail Super Nirmalendu Roy deployed all jail police at the gate so that none with firearms can enter the prison illegally," he said.

The minister said Police Super (late) Farooq also kept the jail cordoned off by police to prevent any attack on the jail.

"Thus I fortunately survived for the second time."

Recalling the fateful days, he blasted Opposition Leader Begum Khaleda Zia, saying BNP is trying to divert people's attention in the wake of the trial of

the killers of Bangabandhu. "Begum Zia hatched a fresh conspiracy as soon as legal action began against the killers of four national leaders inside the jail."

Addressing the public meeting at the local Banglabazar Fatema Khanam Girl College ground, Tofael said: "BNP smells murder in everything as it was formed through killing, coup and conspiracy."

"That's why they filed GD against me. That's why they conspire and go on rampage on the streets as part of their evil design to stop trial of the killers of Bangabandhu and the national leaders."

Tofael's reaction came as BNP accused him and other Awami League leaders of the jail-killing of four national leaders following the recent arrest of two BNP leaders in connection with the gruesome murders.

As thousands of people of his constituency gathered at the See Page 12 Col 4

Normal power supply at Bangabhaban disrupted for 11 hours

By Staff Correspondent

Normal power supply at the Bangabhaban was disrupted for about 11 hours as an 'incoming breaker' of a transformer of the Bangabhaban grid power substation exploded and caught fire at around 4:20 am yesterday.

PDB generators supplied electricity at the Bangabhaban during the power failure. Besides, power was managed from an alternative source to run WASA water pumps at the President's official residence, according to DESA officials.

Parts of Motijheel and Dilkusha commercial areas, Tikatuli Crossing and WAPDA building areas also did not have power supply during this time because of the same incident.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the explosion was due to a fault in the T2 incoming transformer, the officials said. But they could not specifically mention what was the fault.

See Page 12 Col 2

Jail Killing Case CID to seek further remand of 3 leaders

By Staff Correspondent

Interrogation of BNP leaders K M Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manjur and Jatiya Party leader Shah Moazzem Hussain continued at the CID headquarters in connection with the jail killing case for the third day yesterday.

Obaid also an MP, Nurul Islam Manjur, a leader of Barisal BNP and Shah Moazzem, co-chairperson of a faction of Jatiya Party were arrested from their respective residences in the city early Tuesday.

"The outcome of the interrogation is yet to be conclusive," said an official when asked about the progress of the investigation yesterday.

CID will produce them before

the CMM's Court tomorrow on expiry of their four-day remand.

An official of CID told BSS that ASP Abdul Kahar Akand, Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, and two other senior officials yesterday interrogated the arrested politicians at their respective rooms in the CID headquarters.

The CID was verifying the evidences and information gathered during their two-year-long investigation but the arrested politicians were denying their involvement in the jail killings, the official said.

The CID will also seek further remand for justifying their See Page 12 Col 3

Second batch of evidence on Clinton's affair released

WASHINGTON, Oct 2: The House Judiciary Committee today released a second batch of evidence amassed by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr in his probe of President Bill Clinton and former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, reports AFP.

Among the approximately 4,800 pages made public were transcripts of conversations between Lewinsky and her former Pentagon colleague Linda Tripp, who secretly recorded the then intern talking about Clinton.

The committee is due to vote early next week on an impeachment inquiry of Clinton, who has admitted to an improper relationship with Lewinsky.

See Page 12 Col 3

What now happens to JU rape victims?

By Staff Correspondent

What has happened to the rape victims at the Jahangirnagar University?

The story unveiled by the Fact Finding Committee is shocking. It described the agony of victims, forced to submit themselves to the lusts of their tormentors, who blackmailed them often and on.

Though the authorities did not disclose the names and identities of the victims at any stage of the process of investigation and punishment of those accused of rape, deemed by many students and parents as 'lenient', due to political motivation, some also fell victims to the rumours buzzing on the campus.

Some girls who were not victims found their names being dragged into the list by certain elements, seeking vengeance for a variety of reasons.

Because of the trauma they had suffered and the 'social repercussions' faced by them, some rape victims dropped out from their classes immediately after the incidents, according to the Fact Finding Committee re-

port on the rape incidents at the university.

Parties of at least two rape victims arranged their marriage, putting an end to their education life.

The committee report revealed that once a female student had been raped, she became just a prisoner at the hands of the rapists. "Most of the victims were compelled to submit to the terrorists' whims repeatedly, as they threatened to make the matter public. A girl had to endure the agonies of submitting herself to the rapists' command at least 13 times, being blackmailed, the report said.

Many victims and their 'boyfriends' also had to pay 'ransom frequently' to the rapists as they had been subjected to blackmail.

Some of them underwent marked changes in their personality and behaviour following the brutality they had suffered. "A female student of Prilata Hall abruptly became very pale and frustrated though See Page 12 Col 8

Kibria tells C' wealth confce Military dictatorship root of corruption

By Staff Correspondent

OTTAWA, Oct 2: Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria has said the democratically elected government of Bangladesh is firmly committed to fighting corruption, reports BSS.

He was addressing the Second Plenary Session of the thirty-second Commonwealth finance ministers meeting here on Wednesday. The session was devoted to sharing of ideas and experiences on good governance and elimination of corruption in economic management.

Kibria said that the root of corruption in Bangladesh was military dictatorship. The first step towards elimination of corruption from public life is the establishment of an accountable and responsible democratic government, he observed.

He pointed out that soon after assuming office in 1996 the present government had taken some important steps to establish a transparent, accountable and corruption-free administration in Bangladesh. He said under the leadership

of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina the present government has set up a permanent law commission, and administrative reforms commission, banking reform committee and a local government commission.

He further mentioned that the parliamentary standing committee on different ministries had been strengthened and activated.

Departing from past practice the present government has enacted legislation under which ministers are no longer the chairman of the parliamentary standing committees. "MPs other than ministers have been heading these committees thereby ensuring a much greater degree of transparency and accountability," he added.

Kibria said that the government is putting its best efforts to free the financial system of the country from corruption. He said the present government has inherited a corrupt and inefficient banking system where

See Page 12 Col 8

'Prices of essentials rose by 17pc in 9 months'

By Staff Correspondent

Prices of essentials rose by 16.84 per cent in nine months since January this year, according to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB).

The price index was based on an average of weekly and monthly price reviews during the period, says a press release of the CAB yesterday.

Prices of vegetables shot up by 30.81 per cent — the highest. Second to that, prices of rice rose by 18.97 per cent, closely followed by prices of *atta* (wholewheat flour), flour and *suzi* — 17.86 per cent.

Percentage of rise in prices of other essentials are spices — 7.85, oil — 5.1, soap — 2.39, milk — 6.7, and some other items — 5.01.

On the contrary, prices of fish, meat, egg and lentil decreased during the same period. Percentage of fall in prices are: fish — 35.19, meat — 14.98, egg — 17.98 and lentil — 9.68.

According to CAB, rice price had a fluctuating trend during the period. It rose by 1.77 per cent in January and further 5.20 per cent in February-March. But the price fell by 6.17 per cent in April-May and 1.39

per cent more in June-July. In August, the price soared again by 5.77 per cent and further 13.79 per cent in September. Mentionably, two third of the country reeled under the devastating flood during the two months.

Prices of essentials showed an upward trend as certain quarters tried to hoard the es-

See Page 12 Col 8

Mahathir not too choosy about successor

By Staff Correspondent

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2: Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said today he is not too choosy about who will be his successor, reports AP.

The man need not necessarily be very religious and only preoccupied with doing virtuous deeds at all times, the national news agency, Bernama, quoted Mahathir as saying after Friday prayers at the Al-Falah Mosque in the northern town of Jitra in Kedah state.

See Page 12 Col 8

Israel seals borders with West Bank, Gaza

JERUSALEM, Oct 2: Israel today sealed its borders with the West Bank and Gaza Strip indefinitely following warnings by the defense minister that the Islamic militant group Hamas plotted an "unprecedented, horrific" attack in Israel, reports AP.

The closure came as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators reported some progress in talks on a West Bank troop withdrawal. A Hamas bombing would disrupt the US-brokered negotiations which are to climax with a four-day Mideast summit in Washington in mid-October.

However, the Palestinians denounced the closure as collective punishment, saying it would hurt the Palestinian economy and keep tens of thousands of workers from their jobs.

Israeli and Palestinian security forces have thwarted reported attempts by Hamas to carry out attacks in Israel in retaliation for the killing of two of the group's fugitives by Israeli soldiers.

A Palestinian security official said today that two Hamas activists were caught a week ago with 60 kilos of explosives. The two were en route to the Nahal Oz crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel, the official said.

Earlier this week, a Hamas activist was killed when a car rigged with explosives blew up in a West Bank village. In the West Bank town of Hebron, Palestinian police seized nearly a ton of explosives in a raid of a Hamas bomb factory.

Hamas has carried out more than a dozen suicide bombings in Israel since 1994 and has threatened new attacks.

In troubled Hebron, meanwhile, dozens of Palestinians hurled stones and empty bottles at Israeli soldiers who fired rubber-coated steel pellets. Seven Palestinians were in-

See Page 12 Col 8



The only road connecting Mugdapara, Sabujbagh and Ahmedbagh areas of the city with Motijheel Commercial Area is in a deplorable condition. —Star photo

Dacoits rape 2 in Jessore

By Staff Correspondent

JESSORE, Oct 2: Armed dacoits looted four houses and violated two women in Montramur thana of the district yesterday police said, reports APB.

However, villagers rounded up one of the dacoits and handed him over to police. He was identified as Abdul Gaffar alias Lokman of village Kachua under sadar thana.

Police said a gang of armed dacoits entered the houses of Yusuf Gazi, Faziu Gazi, Aziz Gazi and Hamid Gazi of village Bharatpur in the small hours of Thursday and looted away valuables worth Tk 50,000 at gun point. The dacoits also raped two young women.

Alarmed by the hue and cry of the inmates of the houses, neighbours woke up. They taken caught Lokman from the spot.

Teenage girl raped in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 2: A teenage girl was raped by a young man of the same village of Purbochambol of Bashkhal thana today, reports UNB.

Police said Meher Ali, son of Ferdous, forcibly took the girl to a nearby abandoned house at gun point and violated her.

People of her neighboring house recovered her in an unconscious state. Police arrested the culprit and admitted the girl to hospital.

Urgent Notice on Change of VAT Registration Number

Sub: Regarding new 10-digit VAT Registration Number in place of old 8-digit VAT Registration Number being effective from 1st January 1999.

It is notified for information of esteemed individuals & firms interested in VAT registration, turnover tax & cottage industry enlistment that new form "VAT-6" has been prepared for VAT registration, turnover tax & cottage industry enlistment in 1998-99 financial year budget. This form will be applicable in case of new application only

02. In respect of the new form, clients will be given new 10-digit VAT registration number in place of old 8-digit VAT registration number

03. Administrative steps have been taken to automatically change the old 8-digit VAT registration number of those having it now to 10-digit number with effect from 1st July 1998. Till 31-12-98, both the new & the old VAT registration numbers will remain parallelly effective. From 1st January 1999 only the new number will be effective & the old number will cease to be effective from that date.

04. Holders of 8-digit VAT registration number are requested to contact their respective Commissionerate/Division/Circle from October '98 for collecting the new 10-digit VAT registration certificate. For further details in this regard, the nearest VAT office or the undermentioned address or phone number may be contacted.

First Secretary
Phone: 9333954
838120-6, Ex-226

Second Secretary
Phone: 406416, 412212,
838120-6, Ex-(248,339)

DFP-20577-28/9 National Board of Revenue
G-2205