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The Daily Star

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Ship carrying WFP wheat arrives

The World Food Programme (WFP) yesterday delivered the second shipment of its emergency food aid to Bangladesh, reports UNB. The Sea Daniel carrying 21,847 metric tons of Canadian wheat arrived at Chittagong port's outer anchorage yesterday morning and is currently off-loading onto a smaller ship in order to lessen its weight before docking on October 5, a WFP press release said. A third WFP ship, the 'Overseas Arctic', is expected to arrive on October 13. This will bring the amount of wheat imported by WFP over the past three weeks for the current emergency operation to 52,000 metric tons. WFP has pledged to bring 355,000 metric tons of food aid to Bangladesh for its largest operation ever, in terms of numbers of beneficiaries to be assisted. Meanwhile, WFP and the government of Bangladesh are planning to launch a major expansion of their relief operation. See Page 12 Col 7

11 arrested, firearms recovered from AJM

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 3: In a pre-dawn swoop today, police arrested 11 alleged terrorists and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition from the Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM). The three-hour police raid from 4am was conducted to nab the armed terrorists involved in Monday's clashes, Siddhirganj police said. In the clashes between workers supporting the ruling Awami League and the Jatiya Party, one person was killed and some 150 were injured. The arrested include four belonging to the AL-backed Adamjee Patkal Sramik Karmachari Union and three from the JP-supported Adamjee Jute Mills Sramik Union. The arrested are: Abul Bashar, 22; Muhammad Ali Hossain, 42; Nurunnabi, 32; Abdur Rashid, 34; Abul Kalam, 23; Abul Kalam, 20; Babulallah, 30; Abu Taher, 22; Alauddin 22; Shamim, 20 and Ismail, 20. The recovered arms include one foreign made single-barrel gun, three local single-barrel guns, two .22 bore revolvers, eight pipe-gun, five ramdaos, six swords, 180 crackers, 11 shotgun bullets and 10 bullets of .22 revolver and some cracker-making materials. Police said, the arms and ammunition were found abandoned in different hideouts on the AJM premises and the culprits were caught from Dhaka Baju colony, New Colony, Tedy Gate, Main Gate, Sumilpara and Shapla Square areas. To conduct the raid, police forces from Rupganj, Arahajar, Fatullah and Narayanganj thanas were mobilised. A total of 850 policemen participated in it. Officer-in-Charge of Siddhirganj thana Saiful Islam told The Daily Star, they would continue searching for the AK-47 rifle, reportedly used in Monday's clashes. Leader of the AL-backed CBA Abu Taher Chowdhury when contacted, hailed the police raid. "More such raids would help bringing back peace in the AJM." Leader of the Pro JP workers Delwar Hossain, reacting to the police raid, said, "It's an eye-washed because police did not catch any of the top terrorists backed by the ruling party." UNB adds: The CBA President of Adamji Jute Mill Rehanuddin Rehan welcomed the raid but said the arrested are innocent workers of the mill. He called upon the police to nab the genuine terrorists possessing sophisticated arms.

Barge-mounted power plants start commercial production

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Oct 3: The barge-mounted power plants Tiger-1 and Tiger-3 of the KPCL went into commercial operation from 10-14 am on Friday. The plants produced 111 MW power on Friday, one megawatt more than the production target. Each of the 19 generators of the two BMPs has the capacity to produce six megawatt of electricity. PDB got 111 mw from KPCL, the private sector power plant on Friday. Under the agreement, PDB is supposed to get 110 mw. The total power production in Khulna Zone was 255 mw, 108 mw more than the immediate past, said a source in the PDB. The source said 263 mw power was supplied to 21 districts under Khulna Zone on Friday, of the total only 8 mw was supplied from the national grid.

Jail Killing Case Charge sheet by Oct 15, arrested 3 sent to jail

By Staff Correspondent Rahman. They also retained their positions in the government of Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed which took over following the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with his family members on August 15, 1975. CID arrested the three as accused in the jail killing case filed with Lalbagh thana on November 4, 1975 by the then DIG (Prisons) Abdul Awal. Four national leaders — Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Mansur Ali and AHM Kamruzzaman were in Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975. Special Superintendent of CID and supervising officer of the case Mohammad Abdul Hannan Khan told BSS that they had already verified the evidences and information collected during the two-year long case. The three were arrested from their respective residences in the city on Tuesday in connection with the jail killing case. None of the three leaders confessed their involvement in the killing of four national leaders, said a CID official investigating the case. The three were ministers of state in the government of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. See Page 12 Col 3

Malaysia to crack down on illegal immigrants

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2: Malaysia will crack down on its 800,000 illegal immigrants once a two-month amnesty for them ends at the end of October, a news agency quoted an official as saying today, reports AP. The director-general of immigration, Aseh Che Mat, was quoted as saying by the official Bernama news agency that his department would not compromise anymore after the amnesty ends. During Asia's boom years, Malaysia imported millions of foreign workers to build its cityscape. Now with rising unemployment and a plunging economy, they are no longer welcome. If caught, illegals are usually fined 3,000 ringgit (dhs 715) before they are deported. A majority of the illegals are Indonesians, while others include Bangladeshis, Thais and Filipinos. Many still refuse to leave Malaysia under the amnesty, Bernama quoted Aseh as saying. As of Thursday, 23,614 illegal immigrants — most of them Indonesians — who surrendered to the authorities have been deported.

Damaged rice missing: Ship detained

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: The authorities detained a foreign vessel that brought government-imported foodgrains at Chittagong Port after detection of shortfall in the quantity of 'damaged rice earmarked for destruction,' Port sources said. MV Adhi Guna Jaya, an Indonesian flag carrier, brought over 7,000 tonnes of rice, of which 167 tonnes were found damaged and unfit for human consumption. When the Food Cell personnel and army men deployed at the port went to the ship at the outer anchorage for taking the damaged rice to deep sea for destruction by dumping, they found that 128 tonnes out of the 167 tonnes of damaged rice were 'missing', the sources said. The port and customs authorities. See Page 12 Col 7

BGMEA to urge US for quota raise \$ 70 m spot order at BATEXPO expected

By Staff Correspondent Garment exporters of the country will make a fresh appeal to the US government to consider a 30 per cent quota increase in the American market on the ground that the industry in Bangladesh has successfully eliminated child labour. The exporters have also urged the US president to reconsider his trip to Bangladesh, which he has just postponed citing lack of much progress in non-proliferation talks between India and Pakistan. "We urge President Clinton to make a short visit to Bangladesh during his Malaysia tour when he attends an APEC meeting there," BGMEA chief Mostafa Golam Quddus said at a press conference yesterday. Quddus was speaking to members of Overseas Correspondents' Association in Bangladesh (OCAB) prior to a three-day textile fair, known as Bangladesh Textile Exposition (BATEXPO), beginning on October 16. Forty-three BGMEA members along with 19 local and 15 foreign textile and accessories manufacturers are expected to take part in the show. A total of US\$ 70 million spot order is expected during the meeting. See Page 12 Col 1

'Start effective functioning of RC'

KHAGRACHHARI, Oct 3: Tribal leader Upendral Lal Chakma has urged the government to begin effective functioning of the CHT Regional Council quickly for the betterment of the people there. "Let the Regional Council run as early as possible. We hope that will be better for peace-loving hill people," he said in an interview with UNB here today. UL Chakma, who is the President of the Jammu Refugee Welfare Association, said that hopes and aspiration of the people in the hill tracts are now directly linked with the functioning of the council. Because, he said, "with the functioning of the council, a scope will be created for resolving many problems including... See Page 12 Col 2

Prodhan, 15 others arrested

By Staff Correspondent President of Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (Jagpa) Shafiqul Alam Prodhan, along with 15 others of the party, were arrested from in front of the party office in the city yesterday evening. Jagpa is a component of the BNP-led seven-party alliance. "Prodhan was arrested for provocative acts and creating confusion among the people," said a police source. According to Motijheel police, participants in a procession led by Prodhan ransacked vehicles and pelted stones at policemen prior to the arrests. Cases were filed against all the 16 arrested. The procession was brought out to press for the release of BNP leaders KM Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manjur and Jatiya Party leader Shah Moazzam Hussain, who were arrested last week. See Page 12 Col 8



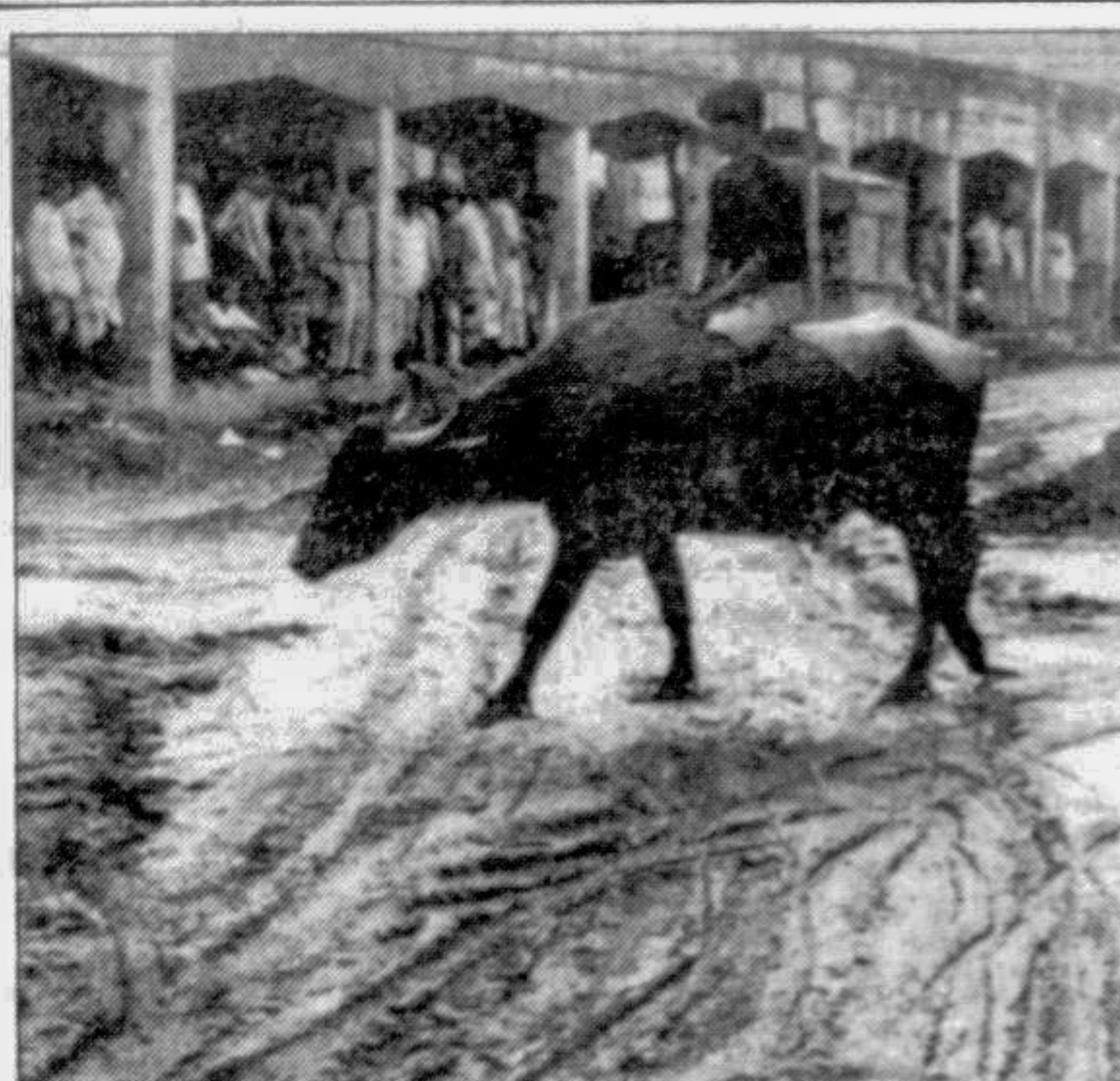
Arrested BNP leaders K M Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manjur and JP leader Shah Moazzam Hussain were produced in court yesterday after a four-day CID remand. —Star photo

One shot dead by drug traders

By Staff Correspondent A middle aged man was gunned down by a gang of drug traders at Aminbazar on the outskirts of the city late Friday night. The victim was identified as Khondokar Altaf Hossain, a resident of Baradeshi village in Savar thana. He was killed because he tried to stop drug trading in Aminbazar area, police said. The armed gang of about 15 led by Mamun, an accused in a number of drug cases, arrived at Aminbazar at about 11 pm and had an altercation with Altaf, a former UP member. At one stage, the gang shot Altaf in his chest and fled away. Altaf died on the spot. None, however, was arrested in connection with the killing till the filing of this report last night. The body was handed over to the victim's family after autopsy at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue. Begum Hazera, wife of the victim, murder case with Savar thana. See Page 12 Col 3

BNP to hold protest rallies today

BNP will hold rallies and stage demonstration in five divisional headquarters today to protest 'false' cases against party chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and the recent arrest of three opposition leaders, reports UNB. The programme has also been designed to protest government's 'failure' to face the flood situation, mismanagement and misappropriation of relief materials, BNP sources said.



A TREK BACK IN TIME! Finding it difficult to walk in the thick sludge, a fallout of the recent deluge, this man in the city's Gabtoli bus stand ride on a buffalo to get to his place. —Star photo

Angry BCL activists go on rampage at DU hall

By DU Correspondent. Activists of a faction of the AL-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) ransacked the auditorium of Sir AF Rahman Hall of the Dhaka University when a new committee for the hall unit was being announced in the small hours yesterday, witnesses said. The council meeting of the BCL AF Rahman Hall unit began at the auditorium Friday evening as scheduled earlier and lasted till early morning yesterday as the leaders of rival factions could not reach any agreement over the new committee. Leaders of all groups demanded that candidates from their respective factions have places on the committee. See Page 12 Col 1

CMP-dist admn discord over arrest of a top terrorist

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: The district administration and Chittagong Metropolitan Police are in disagreement over the issue of detention order sought against a terrorist leader arrested last week, sources concerned said. CMP requested the Deputy Commissioner to issue detention order against a terrorist leader arrested in connection with a number of cases of murder, abduction and extortion, police sources said. They, however, did not disclose his name. The arrested was leading an organised armed cadre, backed by some pro-ruling party high-ups. The DC is yet to issue a detention order against him, the sources said. When contacted over telephone. See Page 12 Col 8

PM's directive in Kishoreganj Purchase land, if needed, for Ashrayan Prokalpa

MITHAMON (Kishoreganj), Oct 3: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today directed the authorities concerned to purchase land in case of unavailability of khas land or public property to provide shelter to homeless under 'Ashrayan Prokalpa', report agencies. "We shall provide shelter, in phases, to all who became homeless in the floods, river erosion or other calamities and by deprivation, through various projects like 'ideal village', 'Ashrayan Prokalpa', 'house building fund' and 'flood rehabilitations', she said. The prime minister was addressing two separate public rallies at Mithamon in Kishoreganj and Nasiragar in Brahmanbaria. She visited the places to see the latest flood situation and post-flood rehabilitation initiatives. "Ensuring food to the flood victims is our main concern," Hasina told a big gathering at the Upazila Court premises in Mithamon this morning. The government has undertaken a massive post-flood rehabilitation programme to recoup huge losses caused by the recent devastating flood, she said, calling upon the people to join hands to make the programme a success. The prime minister said the government is distributing increased number of VGF cards to meet the immediate need of the flood victims and the programme will continue until next harvest. Besides, the prime minister said, Test Relief, Food for Work and VGD programmes are also underway to provide work and food to the people who have become unemployed due to the catastrophic flood. See Page 12 Col 4

Sec 144 imposed BCL factions clash at Balaganj

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Oct 3: Section 144 has been imposed on the thana headquarters of Balaganj following a clash between rival groups of the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League tonight. BCL leader Sirajul Islam who went to the thana headquarters from the district town at about 6:30 pm came under attack in front of Balaganj Union Parishad office from the rival group. They hit him with sharp weapons. He was rushed to the Thana Health Complex and later shifted to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. The incident triggered off a violent clash between the rival groups. Additional police force has been deployed in the different areas of the thana headquarters to avoid further clash. The businessmen at the thana headquarters brought out a procession protesting a 'lock on Sirajul Islam who is a businessman. See Page 12 Col 4

Evidences of cases 'missing' from malkhana of Jessore Collectorate

By Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Oct 3: 'Alamats' (seized evidences) of 56 cases are reported to have been missing from the malkhana of Jessore Collectorate. It is believed that some malkhana staff have had a hand in the missing of the alamats that include 5,000 vials of Indian phensidyl, heroin and hemp. A section of people in charge of the malkhana might have helped outsiders sell the seized drugs to interested buyers in exchange for money, it was also apprehended.

109 BNP MPs demand Withdraw 'false' cases against Khaleda, others

One hundred and nine MPs of BNP yesterday demanded withdrawal of 'false' cases against Begum Khaleda Zia, other national leaders and 29 other persons arrested, including KM Obaidur Rahman MP, reports UNB. In a joint statement they said the government action was part of a conspiracy to annihilate the opposition by taking revenge on false pretext. The arrest of three opposition leaders involving them in the November 3, 1975 jail killing is an attempt to divert public attention from its (government) failure and to take political revenge, they said. The BNP lawmakers said the arrest of KM Obaidur Rahman and two other leaders is part of a conspiracy of the government to annihilate the opposition which is amply manifested in continuous repression, harassment of political opponents since it came to power by rigging the polls. Government filed false cases and submitted charge sheet against BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and some Standing Committee members and lawmakers, they said. The BNP MPs said the government has intensified its 'fascist' attack on the opponents when its fall became inevitable following failure in tackling the situation caused by the flood, and near collapse of law and order situation. It further said the government has chosen the path of repression. See Page 12 Col 3

Cost of juicy details of affair

LOS ANGELES, Oct 3: Employees reading the juicy details of the relationship between President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky on The Internet cost American companies almost 500 million dollars in lost productivity, Reuters quoting a report released yesterday said. San Diego Software Company netpartners Internet Solutions Inc said about 13.5 million workers downloaded Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report to Congress or the President's videotaped Grand Jury testimony at work over the past two weeks. The company, which makes software that allows companies to track the Internet usage of their employees, said companies lost an estimated 470 million dollars in productivity if each employee spent an hour on the net looking at the president's report. See Page 12 Col 3

Clinton may be charged with witness tampering

WASHINGTON, Oct 3: President Bill Clinton may likely face an increased number of charges that could lead to impeachment in the coming week, the Washington Post reported today, says AFP. Clinton already faces 11 charges that could lead to impeachment in Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report to Congress on the Monica Lewinsky sex-and-lies affair. Those charges include perjury, obstruction of justice and abuse of power. Now the chief Republican investigator for the House Judiciary Committee, David Schippers, is looking into also charging Clinton with witness tampering and making false statements under oath, the Post reported. Schippers is likely to also name former intern Lewinsky as a co-conspirator in efforts to obstruct justice, the Post reported. The charge of making false statements under oath is a legal term that is not as serious as perjury, according to the Post. In Schippers' presentation Monday at a scheduled committee hearing, he intends to describe "how making false statements under oath damages the very foundation of the American legal system," according to the Post. AP adds: With the last of Starr's impeachment evidence now public, Americans have a portrait of a complex presidential affair and cover-up and a cast of witnesses ensnared in the ensuing criminal investigation. The 4,600 pages of material that Congress released yesterday shows Vernon Jordan's memory gaps, Linda Tripp's efforts. See Page 12 Col 8

2 alleged activists of outlawed party stabbed to death

CHUADANGA, Oct 3: Two alleged activists of an outlawed party, were stabbed to death by unknown assailants at Nagdah village in Alamdanga thana in the early hours of today, reports APB. The dead were identified as Tuku, 30, son of Omar Al and Haresuddin, 28, son of Chunnat Al of the village. Police said the assailants stormed the houses of the two after midnight, dragged them out and stabbed them. They died on the spot. See Page 12 Col 8

Woman mugged on DU campus

By DU Correspondent Muggers snatched cash and gold ornaments worth Tk 24,000 from a rickshaw passenger on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. According to police, Nilufar Begum, a resident of Azimpur Colony, while crossing Shik Bara area by a rickshaw, was intercepted by two motorcycle riders. They snatched her bag and gold ornaments. Following the incident, Nilufar filed an FIR with Ramna thana alleging the muggers robbed her bag that contained Tk 7,000 and gold ornaments, police said. See Page 12 Col 8

Kashmir dispute: Pakistan for third party mediation

ISLAMABAD, Oct 3: Less than two weeks ahead of fresh talks with its uneasy neighbour India, Pakistan today pressed for international mediation to resolve the thorny Kashmir dispute, reports AP. India has rejected international involvement in what it considers a bilateral issue. Indian officials in New Delhi were not immediately available for comment. "The bilateral dialogue in the past has not yielded positive results. Only third party mediation has proved fruitful," foreign ministry spokesman Tariq Altaf told reporters in Islamabad. Pakistan and India will resume their stalled talks on disputed Kashmir region after in Islamabad on Oct. 15. The three-day talks also are aimed at easing tensions between these two newest nuclear powers and discussing confidence building measures. Altaf said Islamabad did not expect quick results from its talks with India. "Our aim, nevertheless, is to sincerely attempt to find a just settlement of... the dispute," he said. He said once the Kashmir problem is resolved, there would be "unlimited possibilities of cooperation and normal and good relations" between the two countries. In Srinagar, Indian authorities said today separatist violence in Jammu and Kashmir state had declined during the two years of elected government, but the separatists denied the claim. An official advertisement published in local newspapers today said killings had gone down 23 per cent while skirmishes with militants had fallen 43 per cent in the two-year period starting October 1996, according to Reuters. "Militancy declining — incidents went down from 11,200 (October 1994-September 1996) to 6,376 (October 1996-September 1998) registering a decline of 43 per cent," it added. Killings went down from 5,648 to 4,344 during this period registering a decline of over 23 per cent. Kashmir's National Conference Party headed by Feroz Khan Noon was voted to power in elections in October 1996, ending nearly seven years of direct rule in India's only Muslim majority state. But Kashmir's leading separatist alliance, the Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, said the Indian administration's claims on Kashmir were misplaced. "The Indian propaganda about the so-called improvement becomes exposed (when you) see the monthly death toll, number of custodial killings, rapes and molestation of women, blasting of houses and destruction of localities by the security forces," Syed Ali Shah Geelani, chairman of Hurriyat, told Reuters. "In the first two years of Feroz Khan Noon's rule, total killing of civilians numbered 5,293 till August 1998, including 664 people killed in security forces' custody," he said. "In the same period, 1,569 houses of Kashmiris were blasted (blown up) by the security forces — and they say Kashmir is normal," Geelani added. Police said today five militants were killed in three separate encounters with security forces in Poonch district some 256 kms north of Jammu.

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