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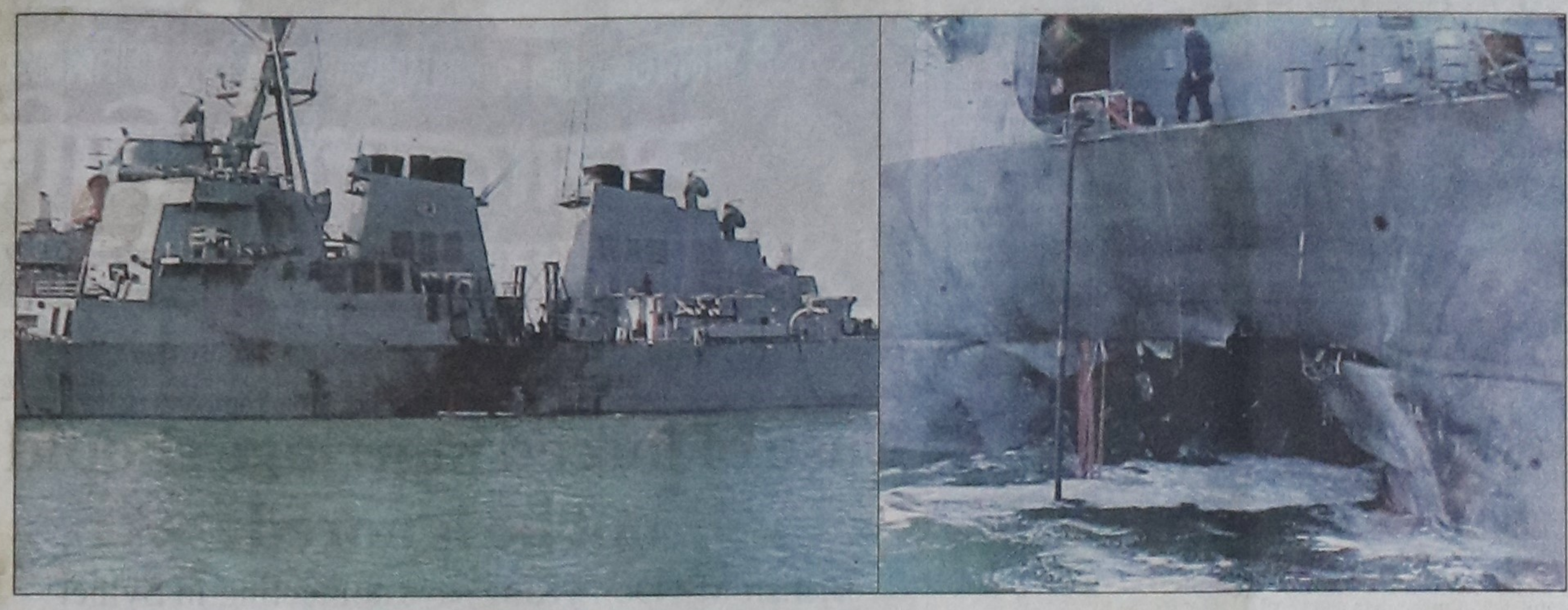
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Suicide bombers in a small boat tore a gaping hole (R) in USS Cole (L) at a refuelling stop in a harbour at Aden on Thursday. Seventeen sailors were killed in the blast. —AFP photo

PM's US visit: Energy, trade & investment to top agenda

By M Anwarul Haq

Energy, Trade and Investment are likely to top the agenda of bilateral talks between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and President Bill Clinton during her two-day official visit to the United States.

The talks will be held at the White House on October 18.

The Prime Minister leaves for US late tonight via London to reach Washington in the evening of October 16. She will be lodged at the Blair House, a prestigious mansion for visiting dignitaries.

Hasina will lead a 100 plus entourage which includes a cavalcade of bureaucrats and businessmen. Though billed as a high profile visit, the media team is relatively small.

Despite intense consultations and a flurry of negotiations between officials of the two countries relating to agenda-setting and agreement signing, the core issues including removal of what the US side considers impediments to expansion of bilateral economic cooperation are still being 'talked out,' sources concerned said.

Officials of both sides confirmed that although differences on such issues as facilitating investments by US companies in the oil and gas sector and setting up of a container terminal near Chittagong port by a US company have been 'narrowed down,' still there are 'differences in approach and opinion.'

Officials in Dhaka have rejected the reported contention that there has been pressure from Washington as regards the core outstanding issues involving oil, pipeline export of gas and the proposed container terminal and allowing trade union activities in the EPZs. Highly placed sources hoped that all 'substantive matters' would be finalised at the Hasina-Clinton meeting in Washington.

The one-day official programme of Hasina, set weeks back, has now been stretched to two days to accommodate 'some schedules.'

During the visit, Dhaka's primary concern would be to obtain duty and quota free access of garments to US market, regularisation of undocumented Bangladeshis residing in US, liberalising US visa system which has recently been tightened in Dhaka and extradition of three convicted killers of Bangandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Besides Bangladesh would seek more US cooperation in the

See page 11 Col 4

BNP petition EC asks Akhter to submit his opinion in seven days

The Election Commission has asked Akhteruzzaman MP to submit his opinion in writing within a week about the BNP petition for vacating his parliamentary seat, reports UNB.

Along with a notification in this respect the Election Commission Secretariat also sent to the embroiled MP the Speaker's letter forwarding the BNP petition to the EC.

"If you have anything to say, you are ardently requested to send your opinion within seven days to the undersigned," says the EC notification signed on October 12 by Deputy Secretary (Law) Mushtaq Mahiuzza.

An official release said yesterday the request was made after the letter and papers relating to vacating of parliamentary seat of Major (Ret) Akhteruzzaman were sent to the EC by the Speaker as per article 66(4) of the constitution and section 3 of Parliament Member (dispute settlement) Law-1980.

The Speaker referred the matter to the EC on October 9 with a See page 11 Col 6

Suicide bombing of US warship in Yemen kills 17 sailors

Clinton vows to strike a hard blow at terrorists after probe

ADEN, Yemen, Oct 13: The apparent bomb attack on a US destroyer refueling in Yemen has killed 17 sailors, US officials said today raising the death toll as American military planes evacuated 22 of the injured from Yemen to Germany for medical treatment, reports AP.

Navy officials in the United States also said explosive experts who examined the ship's damaged hull have concluded yesterday's blast came from an external source, adding to evidence the blast was deliberate.

Western diplomats in Yemen said the explosion seemed to be the work of a well-organised group with good connections in the port of Aden who might have provided the bombers with some logistical support.

The diplomats, insisting on anonymity, said the boat used by the suicide bombers was similar to boats used by port authorities to guide vessels into port or facilitate ships with refueling.

Seven soldiers have been confirmed dead and the families of 10 who remain missing are being notified that they are presumed to have died in the explosion, US Navy spokeswoman Lt Cmdr. Cate Mueller said in Washington. Efforts to recover their remains were continuing, she said.

In addition, 35 sailors were injured in the blast, which tore a hole 6 meters to 12 meters in diameter. US officials say suicide bombers blew up their small boat next to the 9,100-ton destroyer.

The French Defense Ministry said today its army planes had taken 11 of the injured overnight to Bouifard military hospital in Djibouti, where six underwent surgery. Lt. Terrence Dudley, a US Navy spokesman, said 22 others were evacuated today to Germany. Two, apparently less seriously hurt, remained in Aden. American investigators as well See page 11 Col 6

3 murdered, 3 bodies recovered in city

By Staff Correspondent

A Jubo League leader, a textile mill executive and an alleged mugger were killed in separate incidents in the city yesterday while bodies of two others including that of a 12-year-old boy were recovered by police.

Another person, fatally injured on Wednesday, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Jubo League leader Sheikh Jahangir Alam, 40, was shot in the chest when rival gangs led by him and Shaheen traded shots at the 'BNP slum' at Mohammadpur yesterday evening, hospital sources said.

He was rushed to the Suharwardi hospital, shifted to DMCH and finally to the Chest Disease Hospital where doctor declared him dead at about 6:30 pm.

The body of the victim was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. Jahangir was allegedly involved in a drug racket in the area, sources said.

But police said that some unidentified persons shot him when he was returning from a wedding party.

Unidentified miscreants stabbed to death Imtiaz Hossain Rizvi, 35, executive director of Bhojan Textile Mills, at Eskaton Road in the early hours of yesterday, police said.

He joined the mill recently, leaving Radiant Garments, hospital sources said.

Family sources alleged that See page 11 Col 1

Two shot dead in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Oct 13: Two youths were shot dead in separate incidents in the city and in Patiya upazila of the district today, reports BSS.

Police said one youth, identified as Abu Taher Bachchu, 27, son of Abul Kalam of village Dhrampur under Fatikchhari thana was shot dead allegedly by his friends at Nayarhat under Port thana.

Abu Taher along with three others were going to Patenga sea beach from Chandanpura in the city by an autorickshaw, police sources said. On the way he locked in a quarrel with his friends. At one stage, one of them shot at him by a sawed off rifle. He died on the spot.

Local people caught two of the three while the rest managed to flee.

Body of Abu Taher was sent to CMCH for autopsy. A case was filed with Port police in this connection.

In another incident, one Alamgir, 25, was kidnapped from his house at Kolagaon under Patiya by some unidentified gunmen at around 8 pm yesterday. He was killed in the early hours of today.

The body of the victim was recovered from a canal at Shakpura village under Boalkhal thana at around 7:30 am today. Police said the body bore marks of bullet wounds.

Swiss FM in city: Official talks today

Swiss Foreign Minister Joseph Deiss arrived in Dhaka last night on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad received him at the airport. Swiss Ambassador in Dhaka Giambattista Mondada was present.

Joseph Deiss will hold official talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Samad Azad today. An agreement on promotion and reciprocal protection of investment is likely to be signed. He will visit some projects run by Swiss Development Corporation.

The Swiss Foreign Minister will make courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

One Kim gets Peace Prize, other's role 'recognised'



AFP file photo shows Kim Dae-jung (R) embracing Kim Jong-Il on June 15, 2000 before leaving Pyongyang after the historic summit. Kim Dae-jung was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize yesterday for his reconciliation efforts but the latter's role was simply 'recognised.'

OSLO, Norway, Oct 13: South Korean President Kim Dae-jung won the Nobel Peace Prize today for efforts to reconcile with North Korea that have prompted hopes for peace on the Cold War's last frontier, reports AP.

The 76-year-old president, who emerged as a symbol of pro-democracy struggle during 40 years as an opposition leader under authoritarian rule, said he wanted to share the honour with his people.

"I think all the citizens who love democracy and human rights, who have supported these efforts with our people," he was quoted as saying by presidential spokesman Park Joon-young. "I will keep up my efforts for human rights, democracy and peace on the Korean peninsula, Asia and the world."

South and North Korea, foes on the battlefield a half-century ago, have warmed to each other more in the last few months than in a generation. Their armies remain locked in a standoff across a sealed border, but the mood on the peninsula is considerably lighter.

After patiently pursuing contacts with North Korea during the first two years of his presidency, Kim traveled to Pyongyang in June to meet with North Korean See page 11 Col 6

Flood engulfs fresh areas in Satkhira town, 2 upazilas

From Our Correspondent

The flood situation in Satkhira town and two upazilas Sadar and Tala further worsened today with inundation of fresh areas.

Flood engulfed some areas in the western part of the town today. Water level on the premises of Collectorate and Judge's Court Buildings has further increased.

Thirteen more villages in Sadar and Tala upazilas have gone underwater.

Of the affected villages, eight are under Sadar upazila and the rest are under Tala upazila.

Road Communication between Satkhira-Jessore and Satkhira-Kaliganj remained snapped.

Floodwaters have started receding in some areas of one of the worst hit Kalaroa upazila but the situation in other parts of the district remained unchanged.

State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleque today visited different villages under Satkhira sadar, Debhata, Ashashuni and Tala upazilas.

Syed Kamal Bakht Saki, MP, Dr Mokhlesur Rahman, MP and Awami League leader Nazrul Islam accompanied the minister. The minister also participated in the meeting of the district Disaster Management Co-ordination Committee in the evening.

Deputy commissioner of Satkhira Abdul Matin Chowdhury said, that the administration in consultation with WDB will take measures to drain See page 11 Col 4

Flood situation reviewed

By Staff Correspondent

A meeting of representatives of the government, donor agencies and NGOs reviewed the flood situation in southwestern and northwestern parts of the country at the WVA auditorium Thursday.

The meeting, organized by ADAB and presided over by its president Khushi Kabir, also discussed the immediate steps required to tackle the situation, said a press release.

Directors of NGO Affairs Bureau and Disaster Management Bureau of the government, director of ADAB, representatives from Royal Danish Embassy, Asian Development Bank, USAID, World Food Programme (WFP) and other donor agencies and NGOs were present in the meeting.

The meeting stated that the amount of aid could be increased through reducing the transport cost by permitting NGOs to purchase rice from local government See page 11 Col 7

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 14		5.34 pm
Oct 15	5.56 am	

Prayer Timings		
October 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Johr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-40	5-45
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Ganguly inspires India

NAIROBI, Oct 13 (Internet report): Skipper Saurav Ganguly produced a magnificent individual performance as India claimed a place in Sunday's final of the ICC Knockout Tournament against New Zealand with a 95-run victory.

He made 141 not out from 142 balls as his side totalled 295 for six in their 50 overs and later took the crucial wicket of Mark Boucher for 60 with his first delivery.

Defending champions South Africa needed a good start to their innings to have a chance of victory but lost their first four wickets in reaching 50.

Boucher did his best to keep them in the game but his dismissal, followed by that of big-hitting Lance Klusener, put an end to their hopes and they were all out for 200 off the last ball of the 41st over.

Ganguly had no hesitation in batting first after winning the toss and his partnership with Sachin Tendulkar realised 66 runs in 14 overs.

Tendulkar was out for 39 when all-rounder Jacques Kallis found a little extra bounce off the pitch and a relieved Klusener clung onto the chance at slip.

It brought only temporary relief for South Africa, with number three Rahul Dravid quickly into his stride by punching a half-volley through mid-on for his first four.

Ganguly's half-century arrived off 70 balls and increased the pressure on South Africa when Boje was brought on for the 25th See page 11 Col 4

Tomorrow's match

Final

India v New Zealand

Both BTv and ESPN will show the match live from 12.45pm (BST).




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Fleeing from the floodwaters in Satkhira that rendered her homeless, a young girl, with her last belongings wrapped in a bed sheet and her few chickens, stops on a culvert to catch her breath; there may be a long journey ahead. —Star photo.