

# DOWN TO EARTH Garbage all around

By ASM Nurunnabi

A fast growing city is generally plagued with many woes. If that city happens to be in the Third World, redress of the woes gets all the more difficult. Dhaka city presents a typical example of such a case with an evident difference that the concerned authorities do not seem to be committed to meeting the challenge in a steady and effective manner. The Dhaka City Corporation seems to be failing to measure up to the minimal expectations of its citizens in this behalf particularly at the sphere of cleanliness. Here lies the cause of their existing frustration.

The city corporation gives great publicity to its motto "Keep your city clean" by all possible means. But it does not seem to appreciate fully that this motto behaves specific obligations on its part also. The general public impression in this behalf is that its performance leaves much leeway to make up.

Let us look at the problem in the light of certain statistical data. From informed sources, it is gathered that within its total area of jurisdiction covering approximately 132 square kilometres, the network of roads, lanes and by-lanes spreads over 2,331 kilometres. The total span of open drains measures about 2463 kilometres. The total number of authorised markets stands at 86 whereas the number of unauthorised ones exceeds 100. The job of keeping these unauthorised markets clean also rests with the city corporation.

As regards its logistical support, the corporation re-

portedly at present has manpower of 4750 cleaners. In the opinion of concerned quarters, the existing manpower is inadequate. They feel that at least another 2000 hands are required to cope with the situation. Since the existing state of affairs is already a cause for concern, it is generally felt that the municipal authorities should give serious consideration to the question of augmentation of the existing manpower.

The total number of transports of various sizes meant for cleaning work is reportedly 184, a good part of which remains inoperative at any given time. The number of hand carts which are also engaged in this work is said to be quite inadequate.

The city corporation area was divided into 10 zones about one and a half years ago with the objective of providing better services to its citizens. Though the budgetary expenditure on this account substantially increased, the expected results have not been in evidence. Some areas in the city are in such a deplorable state that they are sarcastically referred to as "third world" type localities by the affected people. Indeed, these areas present a miserable sight with hundreds of unrepaid roads and lanes accumulating piles of uncleaned garbage.

Recently the city corporation undertook a cleanliness drive which showed some improvement. However, this effort appeared transient. Later we have been witnessing a relapse into the former state.

City dwellers in general feel

that, although the city fathers always take the plea of constraints of funds and logistical support, there appears no evidence that with their existing setup, the municipal authorities are seriously doing their business. On the other hand, in many areas, signs of neglect, lack of proper supervision and unsatisfactory performance are too many.

In certain specific jobs, such as keeping the kutchas clean and collecting garbage from dustbins, their neglect is all the more distressing. The present condition of kutchas is beyond description. Some of our citizens are also somewhat to blame for their indifferent ways of dumping the garbage at improper places with no sense of timing.

What can be done to improve the situation? Some people think that the concerned authorities should be more active, more responsible and more responsive to the complaints of the people, whatever be their present limitations. On the other hand, the citizens should also grow more civic sense. Unless they get more conscious of their civic duties in keeping their respective areas clean, efforts on the part of the municipal authorities, however, regular and thorough, will yield little fruitful results. Some people even go to the extent of thinking that the municipal authorities may consider imposing punitive action by making suitable rules in those areas residents of which are persistently negligent in keeping their own areas clean.

## Klerk offers blacks a vote, promises whites a veto

CAPE TOWN Jan 24: South African President FW De Klerk today offered Blacks a vote — and promised Whites a veto — on the outcome of talks about an interim government that will guide South Africa to multi-racial democracy, reports Reuters.

Delivering his opening address to the 1992 Parliament, he said he was willing to give Blacks their first seats in parliament during the transitional period.

De Klerk reiterated many of the main points he made at the start on multi-party political reform talks last month.

In a speech inevitably lacking the drama of his opening address in 1990, when he repudiated apartheid, and in 1991, when he legalised the African National Congress (ANC), De Klerk said details of interim rule would be hashed out in multi-party talks and tested by a vote.

I envisage a referendum in which every South African will be able to take part and in which the result may be determined globally as well as racially per parliamentary voters roll.

## Student bodies urged not to shelter terrorists

DUCSU leaders Friday said the recent killing of student leaders was the result of sheltering armed hoodlums in their own organisations, reports UNB.

In a joint statement, Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) VP President Amanullah Aman, MP, and General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon said that student leaders like Moniruzzaman Badal and Abu Hasan Murad were being killed as their own organisations provided shelter to terrorists and killers.

They called upon all the student bodies to build up combined resistance and not to give shelter to any terrorists in their organisations.

Condemning the killing of Murad, the DUCSU VP and GS demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers.

UNB from Rajshahi University adds: JSD (Inu) backed Chhatra League (N-S) Friday brought out a procession on the campus demanding immediate arrest and trial of the killers of Murad.

It also organised a rally in front of the Teacher-Student Cultural Centre (TSCC), addressed by student leaders Hasibur Rahman Hasib and Karim Sikder.

## Islamic confce opens in city

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Friday called for following the teachings of Islam to ensure peace and stability in the society, reports BSS.

He said Islam is the complete code of life and it is the only religion which can lead the mankind towards humaneness.

The President was addressing a Grand Islamic Conference at Mirpur in the city organised by Bangladesh Muslim Samaj Sangsker Sangsad. With the Sangsad Convener Moulana Mohammad Ruhul Amin (Raipur) in the chair, the conference was also addressed, among others, by Alhaj Moulana Habibur Rahman Juktubadi.

The President called upon all to shun the habit of a luxurious life and have self-control without which welfare to the mankind will not be possible.

"You have to know what is Islam and establish its ideals in your personal, family and social life to ensure brotherhood, justice, stability in the society as well as in the country," the President said in this respect. President Abdur Rahman Biswas stressed the need for acquiring proper knowledge as Islam emphasises on it.

The President also called upon the Ulemas to contribute their best in the teaching of Quran and Hadith for its true reflection in our general life.

## More Sarbahara men surrender arms

JESSORE, Jan 24: Three members of Sarbahara party activists surrendered their arms and ammunition today to the law enforcing agencies in presence of Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tarique Islam at the Jessore Circuit House ground, reports BSS.

Rezauul Islam, Rahmat Ali and Mofzur Rahman of Mihida and Galdia villages under Sadar upazila deposited one country-made gun, two pipe guns, one Indian-made pistol and some ammunition.

Following the surrender they demanded their social security and rehabilitation.



Musical session on the second day of the three-day silver jubilee celebrations of the Nazrul Academy at the National Museum in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Mass Killing Day observed in Ctg 'BNP has promoted those responsible'

CHITTAGONG, Jan 24: Awami League leaders Friday blasted the BNP government for what they alleged politically rehabilitating the war criminals of 1971, including Jamaat leader Prof Golam Azam, reports UNB.

The present government has wrecked the objectives of the hard-earned independence by patronising and rewarding some war criminals, they told a rally at Laldighi Maidan here Friday afternoon.

The City Awami League organised the rally to observe the "Mass Killing Day". On this day in 1988, at least 21 people were killed when anti-police opened fire on an anti-autocracy procession led by Sheikh Hasina near Laldighi Maidan.

Central party leaders Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razak, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, Mosharrif Hossain and ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury addressed the rally. City Awami League President M. A. Mannan presided.

Party General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP said Awami League is pledged-bound to wipe out violence and killing from politics. But BNP's lack of sincerity, she alleged, is creating obstacle in achieving the objective.

Referring to police firing on the anti-autocracy procession in 1988, Sajeda said instead of

holding trial and punishing the offenders, the BNP government gave promotion to some officials who were responsible for the order to shoot on that day.

She criticised the government for not publishing the report of the one-member commission headed by Justice Amnur Rahman on the January 24 incident.

Referring to Bangladesh-Myanmar border situation and the influx of Rohingyas, the Awami League General Secretary rebuked the government for its "failure to effectively tackle the issue with Burma."

Addressing the rally, Abdur Razak MP called for scrapping of the Indemnity Ordinance to consolidate democracy. "There is no alternative to scrapping the infamous law," he said.

Razak was critical of both BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, and said Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia sought help from anti-Liberation elements like Jamaat to form her government.

He urged all pro-Liberation and democratic forces, including those in the ruling BNP, to resist anti-Liberation Jamaat-e-Islami.

The Chittagong City Awami League chalked out a two-day programme to mark the Day, which will be concluded with a discussion meeting today.

## Mass Upsurge Day

From Page 1 Col 8  
On this day in 1969, Matur Rahman, a student of Class X of Nabakumar Institution, was killed when police opened fire on anti-Ayub student demonstration in Dhaka.

Azad, also Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, accused the ruling BNP of resorting to dilly-dally tactics on the question of repealing the Indemnity Ordinance. He urged the people to remain alert against any conspiracy to thwart repeal of the ordinance.

Also recalling the January 24, 1988, police firing on Sheikh Hasina's procession in Chittagong, Azad alleged that it was an attempt on Hasina's life by the Ershad government.

He criticised the BNP government for not publishing the report of the one-man enquiry commission on the incident.

Presided over by City Awami League President Mofazzar Hossain Paltu, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Abdul Mannan, Abdul Jalil, Dr Mostafa Jalil Mohiuddin, ex-student leader Abdul Mannan and Chhatra League President Shah Alam.

Our DU Correspondent adds: Shaheed Asad Parishad organised a five-day programme on the occasion of the Mass Upsurge Day and the Shaheed Asad Day that concluded on Friday with a public rally in the afternoon at the TSC compound of Dhaka University.

The rally was addressed by Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, United Communist League Leader Abdul Mannan, Convener of Samillito Sangskritik Jote Faiz Ahmed, elder brother of Shaheed Asad Engineer Rashiduzzaman, father of

Shaheed Matur Rahman Azhar Uddin Mallik, Workers' Party leader Hazera Sultana and Abul Hossain. Prof Shakhawat Ali, President of the organisation presided.

Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury in his speech said we have failed to materialise the dreams of the martyrs in the country.

Later a cultural programme was held at the TSC island.

Muktijoddha Juba Command organised a discussion meeting at its office in observance of the day. The meeting, presided over by Ohidul Islam Swapan, Joint Convener of the organisation, was addressed among others, by Chief Coordinator Sadek Khan, Member-Secretary Alauddin Huq Milon.

The meeting extended its full support to the programme of public trial of the war criminals of the Liberation War on March 26.

The other organisations which observed the day include Jatya Ganotantrik Party (JAGPA), Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya, Bangladesh Chhatra League (L-A).

Our Khulna Correspondent adds: CPB Khulna unit held a rally in the city to mark the Mass Upsurge Day. The rally presided over by Advocate Firoz Ahmed, held the corrupt elements in politics responsible for creating hindrances in materialising the aspirations and dreams of the martyrs.

## Bush may propose new missile cuts

WASHINGTON, Jan 24: President George Bush may propose dramatic new missile cuts next week, reports

## The Midnight File

### ME talks: Arabs fail to find common stand

MARRAKESH (Morocco), Jan 24: Arab Foreign Ministers ended talks here today without adopting a common strategy for multilateral Middle East talks in Moscow later this month, Arab League secretary general Esamat Abdel Meguid said. Abdel Meguid also said the Marrakesh meeting focused on the forthcoming trip by Moroccan King Hassan II to New York to attend the January 31 summit of the 15-member UN Security Council. The summit is to discuss the UN role in the post cold war period and disarmament, reports AFP.

### Gamsakurdia's call to create 'national army'

ZUGDIDI (Georgia), Jan 24: Georgian legislators loyal to Zviad Gamsakurdia claimed today the ousted Georgian president had issued an order calling for the creation of a 'national army' to resist the ruling Military Council that seized power earlier this month in Tbilisi, reports AFP.

### Hundreds of Kurds killed in Turkish air raids

ANKARA, Jan 24: Turkish air raids on Kurdish rebel camps this week have left between 150 to 500 separatists dead, press reports said here today. There was no official confirmation of the death toll, but a military source said heavy losses had been inflicted on the Kurds, reports AFP.

## Power workers warned

From Page 1 Col 5

tative for the CBA (Collective Bargaining Agent) elections of BPDB and DESA to ensure smooth labour movement and labour situation. The proper solution to the problems of workers and employees of any organisation was through mutual discussions with the legally elected CBA, it said. The press note said the management of the Power Sector had almost reached deadlock due to varied opinions of different unions and their programmes throughout the year and their abrupt movement.

The government hoped that proper steps would be initiated to resolve the legitimate problems of the workers through discussions with the elected representatives after the CBA election.

The press note said the date for the CBA election of Power Development Board had been fixed for the next month and that of DESA would be decided soon. But prior to CBA elections the labour organisations of the two bodies were creating anarchy in the name of movement and taken a programme of strike on January 26. Their such activities were repugnant to labour-management relations as well as the interest of the BPDB and DESA, it said.

The press note further mentioned that the World Bank had suspended the release of approved loans for the development and expansion of electric system in 16 towns of the country due to serious system loss of PDB and DESA and their unsatisfactory revenue collection. It has also declined to offer loans and support for any new project. Foreign aid was indispensable for the maintenance, development and expansion of an important sector like power due to dearth of our own resources, it added.

It noted that it would be impossible to get foreign aid if such indiscipline continued among the workers. The government has taken up necessary and fruitful programmes to turn DESA into a full fledged and effective commercial organisation by reducing system loss in phases and increasing the revenue earning of PDB.

The future development of the power sector and interest of all the employees of the power sector lay in the successful implementation of these programmes, it said.

## Kashmir

From Page 1 Col 4

city on Sunday, although the government has made tight security arrangements to assure its safe passage.

Some 50,000 participants of the Ektra Yatra (unity voyage) reached Jammu, Kashmir's summer capital, today amid reports that a landslide had blocked the only highway linking the city to Srinagar.

The BJP leadership told AFP prior to the Srinagar explosion that the yatra, which was mauled in a Sikh militant attack in Punjab that killed six people Thursday, will not be called off despite the security threats.

"We will continue", said BJP vice president KM Malkani. Another report says: Hindu nationalists agreed today to prune the size of their motorcade on the last leg of a tense journey to the urban hub of Muslim militancy in Kashmir, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Bharatiya Janata Party leaders L K Advani and A B Vajpayee told a public meeting in Jammu, that the size of the cavalcade would be cut, PTI said.

They, however, did not say how many activists would finally join the 300 kilometre (180 mile) final leg to Srinagar, urban nerve centre of Muslim militants fighting for Kashmir's secession.

Party president Murli Manohar Joshi, who is leading the "Ektra Yatra" from one end of India to another, will decide how many he will take along, they were quoted as saying.

The BJP leadership in Kashmir has previously said some 100,000 people would accompany Joshi to Srinagar.

## Garments

From Page 1 Col 7

been gradually shifting to fashion wear instead of cheap items as expertise has grown. Garment sources said although the fashion items would require costly fabrics, the CM charge would not increase. This would also shove Bangladesh out of competition in fashion wear.

The President of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BGMEA), Mohammad Mosharrif Hossain, while talking to this correspondent said that the garment export might fall this fiscal year compared to previous years due to the higher fixation of local content percentage. He said Bangladesh's export to the quota countries would be worst hit due to this. Hossain added that in that countries like Vietnam and Cambodia would bag the orders from the buyers who would refuse Bangladesh.

## Donors

From Page 1 Col 4

These outstanding issues, the officials indicated, are likely to be pressed by the IMF and World Bank review mission.

The government, on the other hand, might ask for softer terms.

The original size of ESAF was 285 million SDR but raised to 345 million in September last in view of Bangladesh's request to stabilise its balance of payment situation strained by the Gulf War.

A total of 285 million SDR have already been disbursed by the Fund and the rest is for the third year's programme.



## Airport closed: Five killed

# Regular army troops loot stores in Zaire

KINSHASA, Jan 24: Looters in military uniform killed at least five people and pillaged homes in western parts of Kinshasa overnight after a day of unrest, two Zairean human rights groups said today, reports AFP.

The airport was closed meanwhile and traffic on the Zaire river was interrupted after a night of gunfire and tension following political unrest, witnesses said.

The looters struck in the Bandalungwa, Ngiri-Ngiri and Kitambo districts of the capital, the Human Rights League and the Association for the Defence of Human Rights said in separate statements.

Regular army troops looted stores in the Ndolo area close to the city centre, an informed source said.

Two hotels were raided, including the one where the Leopards football team, just back from Senegal, was staying.

State television, back in the hands of civilian journalists after troops loyal to President Mobutu Sese Seko put down a mutiny on the Premises, said personal possessions and team equipment was stolen.

A group of soldiers took over the national radio station for three hours on Wednesday night and broadcast calls for

the resignation of Mobutu, Prime Minister Nguzu Karl-Bond and his government.

Nguzu said late Thursday, that the takeover was "an attempted military coup" masterminded by the opposition. The Defence Ministry reported that loyalist troops had ended the occupation at the cost of two lives, a rebel and a civil guard.

Some of the rebel troops were arrested, while others managed to escape, Nguzu said. The airport was likely to reopen Friday and river traffic would pick up again, authoritative sources said.

Speaking on television, Nguzu firmly placed the blame for the rebellion on 'certain members' of Zaire's National conference, an apparent reference to the opposition Holy Alliance, which he did not explicitly name.

Following the broadcast, some members of the alliance, which Nguzu had helped to found before becoming premier, told AFP they feared arrest and would not be sleeping at their own homes.

By midday today, however, no arrests had been reported and Holy Alliance leaders said they would hold a press conference in the afternoon to issue their response to Nguzu.

## Muazzin fined for causing 'noise' in Israel

JERUSALEM, Jan 24: An Israeli court fined a Muazzin 250 shekels (100 dollars) and ordered him to lower the volume of his mosque's loud-speaker which it said disturbed Jewish residents here, an official said Thursday, reports AFP.

The head of religious affairs in the Israeli-occupied territories, Adnan Al-Husseini, meanwhile denounced the court action as a "dangerous precedent."

The Muazzin of the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood mosque in Arab East Jerusalem, Walid Didi, "caused too much noise and unjustly disturbed residents of Maalot Daphna," Jerusalem Police Commissioner Shaoul Naim said.

The Jerusalem court also ordered him to lower the loudspeaker's volume to 40 decibels, the maximum legal level, from what it said was current reading of 59 decibels, he said.

## Four killed

From Page 1 Col 7

Our DMCH correspondent reports: An unidentified boy of 15 was burnt to death at his residence at Khilgaon Government Colony on Friday. He was admitted to DMCH at about 5pm and died after two hours.

Yunus, 5, was allegedly beaten to death by his father Abdul Khaleq on Friday sent to DMCH. It was reported.

An unidentified man, 30, was run over at Khilkhet at about 11.30 pm Thursday. Sutrapur Police seized the bus but its driver managed to escape, police said.

Bilati, a 20 year-old maid-servant, was brought to DMCH from east Jurain at about 2.30am with serious burnt injuries Friday. She died there in the early morning.

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