

DOWN TO EARTH

Continuing Sufferings of City Road Users

By A S M Nurunnabi

In May last, when the monsoon was fast approaching, Dhaka WASA embarked on multi-pronged digging in several sectors of the city's road network. The purpose was to improve and extend the city's vital storm sewerage project. The digging work involved a total of ten kilometres of roads in the densely populated areas of the city which included Shantinagar, Inner Circular Road, DIT Extension Road, New Elephant Road, Mirpur Road, Motijheel, Dilkusha, Tejgunipara and New Market areas. While the road digging operation lasted in such a wide area, it threw the road traffic system into utter confusion, adding to the suffering of the public.

It appears that by now the road digging operation has been completed with all necessary ancillary work. In the past it was seen that an unsatisfactory feature of the digging operation had been that when the work was completed, the affected alignments were seldom restored to their original condition in full. As a result, depressions, potholes, uneven road surfaces remained much to the suffering of the road users.

It appears that the past tradition continues in the present situation also. The hope that with the completion of the operation the situation will ease has not been fully realised. The tunnels that were dug for pipelines had been refilled with sand, earth, brick chips, etc. But the road alignments do not appear to have been properly compacted. The result is that with continuing use by various transports, the road surfaces are getting increasingly uneven and bumpy with numerous potholes. A journey along the affected roads takes on the aspects of a bumpy trek through a hilly terrain.

It behoves the Dhaka WASA and the City Corporation to take steps without further delay for proper carpeting of the affected road surfaces in the interest of smooth flow of vehicular traffic.

It may be a small matter but it involves the health of our school children. The reference is to the tiffin our school children take during the mid-day break. How many of the parents and guardians care to know what their children and

wards take during this time except for those who bring their own tiffin from home?

At present a tiffin system is in vogue in most government schools. Under the system, the school children get some sort of tiffin, which is scanty in quantity, yet somewhat of tolerable quality. A large number of schools are outside the scope of this system. Even where the system is in operation, the children use to supplement their tiffin with snacks brought from home or purchased from outside.

Where there is no tiffin system, particularly in private schools, and where the children do not bring their own tiffin, the only alternative for them is to buy their mid-day snacks from outside. The food items that are usually available from outside sources near school premises include peanuts, hog apple (amra), cucumber, pickles, cut fruits, chatpaty, ice-cream, etc. Some of these items may be harmless, for example, peanuts, but there are other items like cut-

fruits, ice cream, etc. which may be of questionable quality from hygienic point of view. The children do not usually have the capacity to judge what is hygienic or not; they naturally take to those items that are comparatively cheap and tasty. Here lies the danger of catching infections of various diseases. Hundreds of school children daily take these food items of questionable quality. The enormity of the health hazard can be gauged from this practice.

One effective way of dealing with the problem is for the school authorities to arrange for suitable tiffin items at economy prices within the school premises. They should at the same time take suitable steps to discourage sales of food items under unhygienic conditions outside the school premises. Whatever steps are taken to minimise sales of dubious quality food items will surely contribute to insuring the health of our school children.



Madrasa Walamaya Forum Dhaka city unit brought out a procession yesterday protesting Jamaat-Shibir attack on Maolana Delwar Hossain. — Star photo

Fight for separate state in Bihar Yadav suffers setback as 3 ministers quit

RANCHI, Oct 23: The Bihar Chief Minister, Laloo Prasad Yadav, today suffered a major jolt with three of his cabinet colleagues and an equal number of legislators, representing South Bihar, resigning from office and party posts, to fight for the creation of a separate state comprising Chhotanagpur and Santhal Pargana, reports PTI.

Contrary to the stand of Yadav and his reported statement that the bifurcation of the state will be possible only over his dead body, the pro-demand ministers and legislators relinquished their posts in the larger interests of the Janata Dal in the region at a meeting of the party leaders and activists of the region held at the Zila Parishad auditorium here.

Those who resigned were Karam Chand Bhagat, Minister for Tribal Welfare, Mangal Singh Lamaye, Minister for Health Education and Family Planning, Laxman Ram, Minister of State for Mines, Lal Chand Mahato, MLA, and Chairman of the Bihar Mineral Development Corporation

(BSMDC). Others who resigned from the state Janata Dal were Inder Singh Namdhari, MLA and Vice-President of the State Janata Dal and Gautam Sanagar Rana, its General Secretary. They handed over their resignations to Bhagat, according to Rana.

Addressing a press conference after the three-hour meeting, Bhagat announced the formation of a struggle for a separate state comprising 16 districts of the state's tribal areas.

He said that a 'massive rally' would be held here on November 25 by mobilising the masses towards the cause.

Bhagat said that the meeting also resolved to pressurise the national JD leadership to decide the Dal's stand on the issue by convening a working committee shortly.

He, however, demanded that representation of the Bihar JD men should be a 'must' whenever such a meeting would be convened by the party to chalk out a policy on the issue.

3 Ministers resign demanding ouster of Karnataka CM

BANGALORE, Oct 23: In an apparent move to force the Congress (I) high command to take a swift decision on the demand for the ouster of S Bangarappa from the Chief Ministership of Karnataka, three 'dissident' ministers today submitted their resignations direct to the State Governor, Kurshid Alam Khan.

Azeez Sait, Minister for Work, Mrs Manorama Madhwaraj, Minister for Large and Medium Industries, and M S Atmananda, Minister of State for Horticulture, personally met the Governor and tendered their resignation letters.

The three ministers told the press later that though there was much discussion over the change of leadership in Karnataka especially in the last two months and even party high command gave hints to that effect nothing had happened so far.

With a view to giving sufficient time to the party high command to take a decision on the Karnataka impasse, they said they waited so far and decided to submit their resignation to the Governor today.

Sait regretted that despite pleas by several ministers and legislators to the high command to prevent Bangarappa from organising the October 17 'Sadhaneya Samavesha', the high command failed to act.

He even displayed a copy of letter which he had sent to the high command narrating reasons for stopping the Samavesha.

Challenging the Chief Minister to accept their resignations they said they had no confidence in Bangarappa.

Dhaka-Yangon

From Page 1 Col 8 comprising 63 refugees early this month, sources said.

Meanwhile, four Myanmar nationals who were released from Cox's Bazar jail after completion of their rigorous imprisonment will be pushed back into their homeland soon, officials sources said.

The four Myanmar national were convicted and sentenced by Bangladesh court on charge of smuggling and other illegal activities.

A battalion commander level flag meeting was scheduled to be held at Teknaf Wednesday between the border officials of Myanmar and Bangladesh for handing over the Myanmar nationals. But it was postponed as the Myanmar side could not appear at the meeting due to inclement weather, officials added.

Buddhists

From Page 1, Col 4 ern Indian state of Bihar where the holiest Buddhist shrine is located.

Despite India being the cradle of Buddhism, Buddhists form a tiny minority in Hindu-majority India. Buddhism had a much greater impact on east Asia, where it was taken by traders following the silk road.

The religion has a large following in Japan, which acquired it from China. The Bodhi Gaya shrine is visited by thousands of Buddhists from Japan, Thailand, Nepal and Sri Lanka every year.

In India, Lord Buddha was absorbed centuries ago into Hinduism as the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

"Buddha and Vishnu are the same so why should not we pray here", asked a leader of the Hindu nationalist Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Forum) after some 50 of his supporters also entered the shrine to offer prayers.

Sasai, who was born in Okayama and raised in Tokyo, came to India in the mid-1960s and has been based in the western Indian city of Nagpur since 1967. He took Indian citizenship in 1988 and speaks at least three Indian languages.

The crusaders also list 12 other Buddhist shrines in India which they urge New Delhi to hand over to the Buddhists.

Sarbaharamen beat one to death

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 23: A man, Abdul Hakim, of village Ashani of Guthia union of Ujipur thana was beaten to death today at noon allegedly by the activists of Sarbahara Party.

He was attacked by the Sarbaharamen while returning home from the Magarhat bazar of the village.

Police recovered Hakim's body and sent it to the Barisal Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

With this the number of killings in nine unions of Ujipur thana in last nine months stood at 10.

Several hurt as prisoners, police clash

PABNA, Oct 23: Several people were injured, three of them seriously following a clash between prisoners and jail police here yesterday, officials today said, reports UNB.

Three prisoners, Mohammad Rajon (28), Pitu (28) and Shohag (25) — who were seriously injured, were admitted to the jail hospital.

Deputy Jailor Mujibur Rahman said that the clash between the jail police and prisoners started when a relative of a prisoner was not allowed to meet him in the jail.

Togolese soldiers free deputies

LOME, Oct 23: Togolese soldiers today freed all the hostages they had held for 25 hours at the parliament building in Lome, including many members of the transitional parliament, reports AFP.

Several employees came out of the Palais Des Congress, where parliament sits, on foot, followed by members of the High Council of the Republic (HCR) in their cars.

"We're all free," one deputy told AFP.

Babri Masjid

From Page 1 Col 5 stated that in the relevant trench, no fragments of any stone temple have been reported. The structure found in the trench is undoubtedly an ordinary pillared structure.

On the VHP's booklet, entitled 'new archaeological discoveries', they said how can anyone trust the authenticity of the finds which were discovered only in the presence of the protagonists of the temple theory. Neither this representatives of the ASI nor that of the critics who have been hotly contesting the presence of a temple were asked to be present at the time of digging.

The experts, Prof R S Sharma, former Chairman, Indian Council of Historical Research, Prof M Athar Ali, Prof Suraj Bhan and Dr D N Jha, said they would submit their report to the government on October 29 alongwith their comments on the VHP materials.

Perot's poll cost

From Page 1 Col 4 the investigation after the Washington Post reported Thursday that Department officials had not only searched files on Clinton, but looked for records under his mother's name.

The Department searched files on Clinton's citizenship and foreign travel records under Freedom of Information Act requests by various news organizations.

A probe into the Department's handling of the requests began Monday. There has been and will be no cover-up, Eagleburger has pledged.

In question is whether government officials attempted to assist the re-election campaign of President George Bush under the cover of the information requests.

Clinton, campaigning in Seattle, Washington, accused the State Department of "not

only rifling through my files, but investigating my mother," whom he jocularly called 'a well known subversive.'

'It would be funny if it weren't so pathetic,' he said.

A Department official told The Post that the search for files under Clinton's mother's name was a 'routine' part of any records search on an individual and that officials believed that perhaps some of his files may have been filed under one of his mother's names.

His mother goes by the married name of Virginia Kelley, but Department officials searched her records under 'Virginia Dell Blythe'.

(carrying the surname of her first husband) and Virginia Dell Clinton, (the surname of her second husband).

UN Day today

From Page 1 Col 8 more participatory, people-centred way of conducting international affairs.

To many people, particularly those living in countries in transition, this is a time of turbulence and uncertainty. In other places anarchy seems to prevail. In much of the world, economic distress brings bewilderment and fear.

I see hopeful signs that a new and better era is emerging. A re-invigorated United Nations will be at the heart of cooperative international progress.

On this United Nations Day, therefore, let us dedicate ourselves anew to the Charter. Let each of us ask what we can do to confirm the United Nations as mankind's best hope for the future.

UNB adds: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday reaffirmed the country's total and unwavering commitment to the principles and purposes of the United Nations charters.

In a message on the eve of the United Nations Day, she pledged Bangladesh's fullest participation and constructive contribution in achieving the aims of the world body to ensure global peace, tranquility and prosperity of mankind.

On the auspicious occasion of the 47th anniversary of the ratification of the UN charter, the government and the people of Bangladesh join me in reaffirming our total and unwavering commitment to the principles and purposes of the United Nations charters.

BDR recovers tiger skin

From Our Correspondent JESSORE, Oct 23: A special patrol of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered a skin of a Bengal tiger from a night coach bound for Dhaka from Satkhira this evening.

Nobody was, however, arrested.

The BDR also recovered contraband goods worth Taka 9 lakh 60 thousand today from different border areas under its anti-smuggling drive-Operation Bazra Shapath.

vering commitment to the principles and purposes of the UN charter, she said.

Each succeeding year since its inception the United Nations has sought to promote the quest for a more just, free, equitable and peaceful world order. Slowly but surely the United Nations has moved towards realisation of the cherished human values of attaining dignity, basic human rights and a better standard of life in larger freedom.

Today with 179 member states the United Nations is moving closer to its goal of universality. The great objectives of the United Nations to promote peace, disarmament, development, justice and the rule of law have now assumed a new sense of urgency especially as the UN prepares to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its founding three years from now.

BSS adds: Awami League chief and leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for stopping armament race and self-destructive conflicts in countries with a view to putting in all-out efforts to the welfare of the mankind.

In a message on the occasion she said the money saved by stopping production of arms be channelised for the welfare of distressed humanity including women and children.

"We want peace not war," the leader of the Opposition said expressing her belief that the United Nations would play a special role in establishing world peace under the prevailing new context.

Sheikh Hasina expressed the hope that the United Nations would play a positive role for the flourishing of small and poor nations of the world.

She said it was desired that the United Nations would play a pioneering role in upholding human rights and world peace besides making its contribution in preserving world environment.

(Programmes on Metro Page)

Two killed in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Two persons, one of them a housewife, were killed and two others wounded in four separate incidents in the capital yesterday.

A housewife, Maqsooda Begum, 30, reportedly committed suicide by hanging at her Dhalpur, Demra, residence early Friday.

Demra police recovered the body and sent it to the Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death (UD) case was lodged with Demra police in this connection.

A worker of a printing press, Kadam Ali, 37, was electrocuted at his Tejgaon Begunbari residence Friday morning.

When Kadam Ali was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) doctors on duty declared him dead.

A final year student of English Department of Dhaka University, Golam Mostafa, was severely beaten up by a group of unidentified men at Shahbagh at 5 pm yesterday. Mostafa was admitted to DMCH.

A businessman, Mohammad Shawkat Ali, 35, was stabbed and robbed of his wrist watch and a gold chain at 2:30 pm Friday at Gopibagh.

Muggers immediately escaped and the wounded businessman was admitted to DMCH.

"We want peace not war," the leader of the Opposition said expressing her belief that the United Nations would play a special role in establishing world peace under the prevailing new context.

(Programmes on Metro Page)

BCL activist assaulted

An activist of pro-Awami League Chhatra League at Dhaka University was roughed up by a group of armed miscreants near PG Hospital yesterday, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Golam Mostafa (24), a final year student of English and resident of Zahurul Huq Hall, was attacked at hit by the miscreants with revolvers at about 5 pm.

He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The Midnight File

Kohl proposes tax-hike by '95

BERLIN, Oct 23: Chancellor Helmut Kohl put out word on Friday that taxes need to be raised in 1995, and immediately ran into protests from political allies and business leaders. Government spokesman Dieter Vogel told a news conference in Bonn that massive debts from the unification with East Germany require budget restructuring and spending cuts that would hold the problem in line through 1993 and 1994, but tax increases "will be necessary" in 1995, reports AP.

Indian police demonstrate for trade union right

NEW DELHI, Oct 23: The Indian army has been alerted in the northeastern state of Tripura after hundreds of police staff deserted their duties to demonstrate for trade union rights, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said today. Hundreds of police personnel deserted duty and were holding a meeting in Tripura's capital Agartala, on Friday to draw up plans to intensify the campaign, which was launched eight days ago, PTI said, reports AFP.

Indo-Pak forces

From Page 1 Col 7 tries to cross. We know that 100 per cent.

Twelve political parties are organizing Saturday's march across the rugged Himalayas to show solidarity with the Muslim militants fighting for the secession of Indian Kashmir.

JKDA sources say thousands of volunteers have been massing at five camps set up round Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-controlled Azad (Free) Kashmir, and hundreds more have gathered at nearby towns.

Stirring war songs blared from jeeps fitted with loudspeakers. Kashmiri leaders called for mass participation in Saturday's march, while others erected posters and banners condemning India.

Saturday's march will be the third this year. In February, troops fired on hundreds of demonstrators near the ceasefire line separating Kashmir from Islamic Pakistan and predominantly Hindu India. At least 16 marchers were killed and more than 200 injured.

A month later, the government arrested top Kashmiri political leaders, set off land-slides, erected roadblocks and dismantled bridges to stop the marchers.

Pakistan and India both claim Kashmir, a former princely state divided following the 1947 partition that

ended British colonial rule of the subcontinent. The two countries went to war in 1948 and again in 1965 over Kashmir.

India routinely accuses Pakistan of arming, training and financing Muslim militants and their secessionist movement in Indian Kashmir that has left more than 5,000 people dead since January 1990.

Pakistan denies the charges, saying it supports the Kashmiris right to self-determination, and accuses Indian forces of widespread atrocities.

The Jammu-Kashmir Democratic Alliance plans to try to cross the porous border from five different places. Hussein said hundreds of troops would be deployed along the route to stop the marchers.

"If someone is taking the law into their own hand, we have to take action. We will shoot only as a last resort," he said.

20 injured in Magura clash

MAGURA, Oct 23: At least 20 people were injured, eight of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of people at village Laskarpur in Jagdal union under sadar thana of the district today (Friday). The clash was a sequel of past enmity between the supporters of Iramat Hossain (40) and Moktar Ali (26), reports UNB.

'দি ডেইলী স্টার' পত্রিকার সম্মানিত এজেন্টদের প্রতি আবেদন

আমরা অত্যন্ত দুঃখের সঙ্গে লক্ষ্য করছি যে, উপর্যুপরি তাপাদা সেলার পরগণা আমাদের কোন কোন সম্মানিত এজেন্ট অদ্যাবধি বকেয়া বিল পরিশোধ করেননি।

এমতাবস্থায় পুনরায় তাদের সকলকে আগামী ৩১ শে অক্টোবর, '৯২ তারিখ পর্যন্ত বকেয়া বিল পরিশোধের শেষ সুযোগ দেয়া হচ্ছে। অন্যথায় ১শা নভেম্বর, '৯২ হতে সেইসব এজেন্টের পত্রিকা সরবরাহ করতে কর্তৃপক্ষ বাধ্য নয়।

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—কর্তৃপক্ষ
দি ডেইলী স্টার

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