DOWN TO EARTH

Tree Plantation in City

By AS M Nurunnabi

competition on how many Dhaka was once a city of verdant beauty, particularly in trees are planted, with utter the Ramna area. The burgeondisregard of the subsequent necessity for proper mainteing process of urbanisation over the past few years has nance. In some cases, the plantation spree continues claimed, among its victims even after the rainy season. In the cruel denudation of trees such circumstances, the fate of in many areas of the city. Exact statistics appear to be lacking, many of the planted trees becomes precarious. but it seems clear that there In most cases, the enthusthas been a substantial depleasm with which tree plantation tion in the tree resources of is embarked upon peters out the city. It has been observed when it comes to the task of that though on the one hand their maintenance. With the trees are planted by one agency in one area, on the result that in most cases no clear record is available as to other hand, such trees in that the number of plants that area are cut down by another manage to survive. It is open to agency for their development

work. Apparently lack of coor-

print and electronic media. In

this flurry of activities, many

lapses take place even at the

sociated with the plantation

ceremonies enter into a sort of

initial stage. The agencies as-

agencies is to blame.

cent of the planted trees mandination among concerned age to survive each year. Recently, an international The current year's tree seminar on urban climate was plantation season is just held in the city. At the semiaround the corner with the nar, the necessity for intensifyonset of the monsoons. Every ing drive for greening urban year during this season, tree areas as a means of achieving plantation programme is environmental upgradation was launched with a lot of fanfare. A high-pitched publicity on the emphasised. benefits of tree plantation is then mounted through the

doubt whether even ten per

It is understood that the Forest Department has drawn up a scheme for tree plantation at five divisional headquarters at a cost of 6 crore taka. The scheme, which is pending for government approval, will cover for the Dhaka metropolis

tree plantation on 24-km flood protection bund as well as main and arterial roads, parks. waste lands and on lands of educational and religious insti tutions, etc. This scheme, when implemented, is ex pected to add considerably to the greening of the city.

The Dhaka City Corporation is another agency responsible for plantation of trees in the city. The corporation sources state that last year 50,000 sapling were planted in the ten zones of the corporation. This year is the period for verification how many of those saplings planted have survived Since private contractors have been given the responsibility, on payment basis, of looking after the planted saplings dur ing the initial two-year period, there is every likelihood of a large percentage of those saplings surviving.

However, observers believe that efforts of the government agencies alone may not suffice. What is also needed is greater ecological awareness, so that the plantation drive may be turned into a mass movement for maintaining ecological bal ance and environmenta upgradation not only of the city but also of the entire country.



Officials further said that

the Australian Jute Woolpack

buyers informed Bangladesh

Jute Sack sellers that they are

facing difficulty in shipping

wools in jute woolpacks as the

German wool buyers are refus-

ing to accept the same because

of legal bindings upon them to

recycle the jute woolpacks or

take them to the source of

Jute Woolpack sellers revealed

that the wool sack has been

broadly and generally used on

some of the articles of the or-

They found the process of

jute packs recycling involves

shredding of the packs in

shredding machine where the

presence of any metal object is

woolpacks cannot be separated

or removed without manual

work. In the case of synthetic

woolpacks, separation of metal

hooks is easy on melting of the

Thus, the officials ex-

plained that the ordinance

promulgated for the protection

of environment adversely af-

fected environment friendly

jute and jute goods and termed

the ordinance a self-contradic-

concession to the agents, some

other tenants might demand

similar facilities. Bangladesh

Biman's Director (Marketing &

Sales) Salauddin Ahmed, who

is negotiating the matter, told

The Daily Star that he would

hold a meeting with the fed-

eration leaders to sort out the

nal authority, I will organise a

meeting between the con-

cerned groups," Ahmed said by

telephone, adding that "I hope

the matter will be solved

Declining to comment on

the Tk 5,000 rent proposal, he

said that the Civil Aviation

Authority have a standard rate

"But we will discuss the

for every tenant.

proposal," he added.

"The Civil Aviation is the fi-

synthetic substance.

Metal hooks used in jute

dinance.

hazardous.

C&Fagents ready

Later on, the Bangladesh

German environment law

From Page 1 Col 7

Besides, they informed, a Bangladesh delegation comprising representatives of both the public and the private sectors has meantime visited the EC nations in an attempt to persuade the buyers.

According to the jute ministry officials, dealing with the issue, the German legislation titled "Ordinance on the Avoidance of Packaging Waste' was promulgated by that country's government through issuing a decree in May 1991.

Part of the decree reads: (1) Packaging shall be manufactured from materials which are environmentally compatible and do not prejudice the active recycling and reuse of the materials. (2) Waste from packaging shall be avoided by ensuring that packaging is restricted in volume and weight to the dimension required to protect the contents of the products and to market it;

- designed in such a way that it may be refilled provided this is technically possible and reasonable and is compatible with the regulations applying to the content of the products

- is actively recycled if the conditions for refilling do not

From Page 1 Col 8

ing Tk 5,000 rent instead of

Tk 18,000 as fixed by the au-

The other proposals in-

cluded withdrawal of cases

filed against their leaders, and

hand over of their papers from

the cargo complex where their

Several hundred C&F

agents went on strike last

Saturday after the Civil Aviation

Authority sealed their tempo-

rary office at ZIA's Cargo

Complex following expiry of an

phone an authoritative source

accused the agents of

"intransigence" and said they

want free accommodation in-

He said that if the Civil

Aviation Authority gave special

side the cargo complex.

When contacted over tele-

office was housed.

ultimatum.

thority.

ICFM meet: Top official to lead

KARACHI, Apr 23: country's delegation to a meeting of Islamic nations as the caretaker government has yet to name a foreign minister, an official spokesman said, reports AFP.

Foreign Ministry secretary general Akram Zaki arrived here from Islamabad ahead of a meeting of officials from the member states of the 51-nation Organization of Islamic Conserence, which is to be held Saturday to finalize an

Auto rickshaw driver stabbed to death

By DMCH Correspondent

A 23-year-old auto-rickshaw driver, Shahidul Islam, was stabbed to death at Mirpur in the city late Thursday night.

Police arrested Shahidul's neighbour Manwara Begum, 35, Friday in connection with the murder and she was remanded in the Mirput Police Station for two days for questioning.

With severe stab injuries, Shahidul was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at around 11:15 pm Thursday and he succumbed to his injuries there after an hour.

Witnesses said that Shahidul was murdered following a previous quarrel with his neighbour.

As a consequence of the quarrel, a group of armedmen all on a sudden attacked Shahidul and repeatedly stabbed him when he returned home at around 10:45 pm Thursday.

The armedmen left him fatally wounded.

Local people said that a row between the two neighbours ensued Wednesday night after Shahidul forced Pappu, a three-year-old child of Manwara Begum, to get down from his auto rickshaw as she was insisting on travelling on his vehicle.

Meanwhile, Manwara Begum was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday. The court granted her two-day remand for questioning by Mirpur police.



UN commander in Bosnia talking to the press expressing its mandate to save Srebrenica - Star TV photo from Serb attack.

Bosnian Serbs 'ready for compromise'

Yugoslav Prime Minister Radoje Kontic today said Bosnian Scrbs were 'ready for compromise,' Tanjug news agency reported, in a first indication that the Bosnian Serbs could abandon their intransigence over the Vance-Owen plan, reports AFP.

The Bosnian Serbs understand our situation and are ready for compromise, Kontic declared, 'signs of compromise are appearing, he

The international community should also show a greater understanding of the Serbian national interest,' he said at the end of a meeting here with Yugoslav businessmen. On Thursday, Bosnian Serb

missed the Vance-Owen peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina as irrelevant, given the Serbs' military supremacy. But Karadzic's Yugoslav ally,

leader Radovan Karadzie dis-

president Dobrica Cosic, meanwhile said the rump Yugoslavia favoured conditional acceptance of the plan.

Karadzic told the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA that he would meet Lord Owen here today despite an earlier refusal to speak to the EC negotiator.

AP adds: Bosnia's Serb leader said Friday that new concessions were needed be-

fore his people could accept a peace plan for war-torn Bosnia.

Radovan Karadzie opened a key session of the Bosnian Scrb assembly asking deputies to support negotiations this weekend with international mediator Lord Owen "to correct the peace plan (so it) is acceptable for the Serbs."

He earlier told reporters that he expected Owen to make new proposals at talks in Belgrade, the Serbian and Yugoslav capital.

But Owen said late Thursday in Athens it was "a very long shot whether or not we can do anything. The assembly last met April

3 and rejected the plan to partition Bosnia into 10 scmiautonomous provinces, saying it denied Bosnian Serbs conliguous territories.

Desiant Serb hardliners have warned that not only were deputies unlikely to back the peace plan, they may flout it by considering formal unification with Serb-held lands in Croatia and Yugoslavia.

The plan would have thwarted plans to unite Scrbheld lands in Bosnia and Croatia with Serbia proper, fulfilling a century-old Serbian dream of creating Greater

If the plan is rejected, additional Western sanctions against Scrbia are likely.

Apr 25 sit-in

From Page 1 Col 3 Golam Azam are virtually engaged in an evil design to try to hide "unpardonable crimes" committed by him (Azam) against the country's independence, democracy and human-

"The High Court gave a judgement yesterday in the face of such a conspiratorial and evil design, " said the resolution.

It said the country's Constitution and laws are to nurture and protect the spirit of independence and liberation war. This cannot be used in destroying the spirit of the independence and liberation

The meeting blamed the government of Ziaur Rahman for taking steps to unsettle the fundamental political issues like independence, liberation war and human rights which were settled during the liberation war and on the street. It said the Zia government scrapped the Collaborators Act.

The meeting, attended by the central leaders of the Five-Party combine, the Patriotic Democratic Front and the Ganatantrik Party, also demanded ban on communal pol-

111 more Rohingyas

go back home

From Our Correspondent

111 Rohingya refugees from

Nayapara and Jummapara tran-

sit camps voluntarily went

back to Myanmar today. This

was the 39th batch of repatria-

of 22,612 Rohingyas returned

present during today's repa-

Amnesty

From Page 1 Col 8

Ministry. Because the agree-

ment was just reached, not

date for the visit has been set,

of allegations that the police in

Bombay took sides in the

communal rioting," Yvonne

Terlingen, a spokeswoman for

Amnesty in London, said in a

Amnesty also has asked

permission to visit Punjab and

Jammu-Kashmir and investi-

gate human rights abuses, she

telephone interview.

"There has been a number

to their homes.

triation.

he said.

With this new batch, a total

The UNIICR officials were

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 23: Some

The DMP restriction came last night ahead of Sunday's planned sit-in demonstration. The Commissioner of Dhaka

Mctropolitan Police (DMP), A N Hussain, in an order issued under Sections 28 and 29 of DMP Ordinance (Ordinance No-III/76] said, "as there is a fear of beaching peace near the Secretariat and its adjacent arcas on Sunday, I proclaimed the ban to maintain law and

The restriction has been imposed in the following areas: North gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque, southern side of the link road between GPO and Battul Mukarram Mosque, the road between Nur Hossain Square and Golapshah Mazar, Osmani Udyan, western side of Abdul Gani Road and northern side of College Road, Old High Court crossing (mazar gate), Star Gate of Ramna Park, entire Park Road from Mintu Road crossing and parts of Seguri Bagicha Road.

Carrying of all kinds of arms, ammunition, explosive and other weapons have also been declared banned, said

Extortionists assault two,

snatch money By DMCH Correspondent

Extortionists assaulted a contractor and a hawker at Kakrail and Dhonia respectively in the city and snatched Tk 18,000 from them Friday. A gang of extortionists beat

up and stabbed Abu Bakar Siddiq, 30, a contractor of the Roads and Highways Department and snatched Tk 15,000 from him at Kakrail at around 6 pm yesterday. Abu Bakar Siddiq was, later

on admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with scrious head injuries.

Witnesses said that when Bakar was standing near Shaheen Hotel near Kakrail, a gang of extortionists who were, earlier, refused tolls attacked him and grabbed the

In another incident, about five extortionists beat up a hawker Abdul Aziz, 30, and snatched Tk. 3000 from him at around 3 pm at Dholairpar, Dhonia, under Demra police station.

Aziz was also admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with broken limbs.

pressed their firm determination to be with the people in the movement for implementing the verdict of the Gano Adalat (people's court), which deemed Golam Azam's offences as punishable by death.

Drama artistes to

back people's

court verdict

By Staff Correspondent

in a joint statement Friday ex-

Ninety two drama artistes

They termed the verdict of the Gano Adalat appropriate and said people were not concerned with the verdict of High Court which restored Golam Azam's citizenship Thursday.

The statement was signed among others by, Nasiruddin Yusuf, Raisul Islam Asad, Pijush Bannerjee, Ferdousi Majumder, Ramendu Majumder, Ali Zaker, Humayun Faridi, Selim al Deen, Mamunur Rashid, Asaduzzaman Noor, Zahir Uddin Piar, Ataur Rahman, Tarck Anam, Mamtazuddin Ahmed, Afroza Banu, Abul Hayat, Jhuna Chowdhury, Jamaluddin Hossain, Raoshan Ara Begum, Nima Rahman Khaled Khan, Zia Haidar, Toukir Ahmed, Bipasha Hayat, Nahid Ferdous Meghna, Jamil Ahmed, Shami Kaisar, Azizul Hakim, S M Solaiman, Rokeya Rafiq Baby, Saberi Alam, Meher Nigar, Rana Firoz, Afsana Mimi Sabina Bari Lucky, Shirin Bakul, Shilpi Sarker Opu, Zahid Hasan Shobhon, Koushik Saha, Shahin Khan, Nazma Anwar, Mannan Hira, M Hamid, K S Firoz, Keramat Maola, Shimul Yusuf and Naresh Bhuiyan.

Khaleda From Page 1 Col 8

strengthening the party to consolidate its base.

The Prime Minister said efforts would be taken to start the construction of a bridge over the river Dhaleshwari as soon as possible to expand the electrification network in Munshigonj district and modernise the Srinagar hospital.

Begum Zia also underlined the need for maintaining congenial academic atmosphere in the education institutions. She congratulated the newly elected office-bearers of dil ferent college student unions.

Deputy Leader of the House Prof. A Q M Badruddoja Chowdhury, Food Minister M Shamsul Islam, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Co operatives Abdul Hye and Hamidullah Khan MP also spoke on the occasion. Meanwhile, Begum Zia said

that her government had laid special emphasis on the expansion and modernisation o technical education to help create self-employment opportunities in the country. She was talking to the rep-

resentatives of the technical institute employees' association who called on her a Sugandha yesterday evening.

Import duty

From Page 1 Col 8 Bangladesh had limited export capability. Increased imports from Bangladesh, he pointed out, would help reduce to some extent the existing trade imbalance between the two

Benazir: Army

From Page 1 Col 5 and Baluchistan - to remove the possibility of electoral rig-

He added that there was "an understanding" within the components of the interim government that the provincial assemblies must be dissolved.

If this was not done, his party would review the situation, Leghari said. "We will then see what is to be done."

Leghari reiterated that holding elections on July 14 was the "primary task" of the interim administration. There is no diversity of views on the date and we intend to stick to

Editorial on Page-4.

Afghans kidnap three European diplomats

QUETTA, Pakistan, Apr 23: Three European diplomats serving as a drug-liaison officers were kidnapped today by armed Afghans during a trip across the border into Alghanistan, a top official said. Pakistan Interior Secretary Javed Burki confirmed in Islamabad that the three diplomats from Britain, Germany and The Netherlands had been abducted after crossing into neighbouring Alghanistan, reports

The Midnight File

US won't intervene in Bosnia without allied support

WASHINGTON, Apr 23: President Bill Clinton said today the United States should not intervene in Bosnia without allied support despite mounting pressure to do something to halt Serbian "ethnic cleansing" against Muslims, reports

> Clinton names Zoe Baird to intelligence board

WASHINGTON, Apr 23: President Clinton has named Zoe Baird, a prominent attorney without experience on intelligence matters, to an intelligence advisory board because "she's competent and qualified," the White House said Friday. Baird, a corporate lawyer, will serve on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, a 12-member panel headed by retired Adm. William J. Crowe, said White House press secretary Dec Dec Myers, reports AP.

Foreign firms allowed

From Page 1 Col 7 industrial units set up in the EPZ area shall now be free to obtain foreign currency loans from abroad. Banks may now at their own option grant local currency loans to joint venture industries in EPZ area upto 100 per cent of short term foreign currency loans received by such industries from abroad.

The high level meeting also decided to make certain relaxations in respect of many other exchange control restrictions.

Authorised dealers have been empowered to open FC accounts in the country in the names of local and joint venture contracting firms cmployed to execute projects financed by foreign donors and also in the names of duty-free

Travel quota entitlement of Bangladeshis has been enhanced from 2000 to 2500 US dollars per year for countries abroad other than the SAARC countries and Myanmar, For SAARC countries and Myanmar, it has been enhanced from 150 to 250 US dollars for travel by land and from 400 to 500 US dollars for travel by air.

The meeting decided that prior permission of Bangladesh Bank will not be required for remitting surplus carnings of foreign airlines, shipping companies and courier services, permission of Bangladesh Bank will also not be required for remittance of current expenses of the foreign offices of Bangladesh Biman and Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, consular fees of the foreign embassies, pre-shipment inspection fees and genuine export claims not exceeding 10 per cent of the export proceeds realised.

Membership fees, annual fees, registration fees of international bodies and examination fees at actuals, cost of medical treatment abroad upto 10,000 US dollars and evaluation fees in connection with immigration. Authorised dealers have also

been empowered to remit cost of ships purchased in the private sector from abroad without prior clearance of Bangladesh Bank. Authorised dealers will also henceforth be free to open foreign currency accounts in the names of the diplomatic missions including their expatriates. Prior permission of Bang-

ladesh Bank has also been dispensed with for payment abroad on account of charter hire and general average. For attending seminars, confer-

ences and workshops arranged by recognised bodies, per dicm allowance at a rate of US 200 dollar for SAARC countries and Myanmar and US 250 dollar for all other countries may

Embankment

From Page 1 Col 7 construction site on time mainly due to late procurement and problems in customs clearance of imported equipment. Delayed procurement is blamed on late provision of advanced mobilisation loan.

The report also found that the contractors of the works need to strengthen their work teams as the ones presently employed cannot cover the entire working area satisfacto-

"Some of the contractors lack experienced key personnel and a very close supervision is required," the report commented.

The Priority Works Programme is part of a comprehensive Flood Action Plan, 1990-95 and involves Tk 176.2 crore.

The investment works are financed under credits provided by the International Development Association (IDA) and Japan.

be allowed by authorised dealers to the participants. Authorised dealers will also

be free to debit the convertible Taka accounts of NGOs and international bodies to government officials and private individuals to undertake educational tours, attend seminars, workshops etc. Bank guarantees may now be issued by authorised dealers on behalf of Bangladeshi exporters favouring foreign buyers without prior approval of Bangladesh Bank in connection with genuinc merchandise exports. To enable the exporters to promote export markets, it has also been decided that exporters may use funds of their retention quota to set up offices abroad. The authorised dealers have also been empowered to accept export procceds at a discount not exceeding 10 per cent in genuine cases of need.

Jamaat From Page 1 Col 2

ment should honour the court verdict and release the Islamic leader who was now detained in Dhaka Central Jail for allegedly violating country's Foreigners' Act.

Saturday's High Court order which declared Azam a Bangladeshi citizen proved that he was held under a wrong charge.

"We think we will not be forced to take to the street to free our leader," Khan said.

The Jamaat's acting chief also demanded release of other ulemas including Maulana Azizul Hug.

Secretary General of the party Matiur Rahman Nizami, MP, also addressed the rally which was followed by a procession.

Jamaat sources claimed that similar programmes were also taken in other parts of the country.

Rallies, processions in support of tomorrow's sit-in

By Staff Correspondent

Different student organisations and opposition party activists held rallies and processions in Dhaka yesterday in favour of opposition sit-in demonstration on April 25 and trial of Jamaat leader Golam

The pro Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) yesterday morning held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club demanding trial of Golam Azam as 'war criminal'. The BCL carlier brought out

procession from the TSC road crossing at the Dhaka University at about 11.45 am.

Meanwhile. Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) president Belal Chowdhury and general secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan in a joint statement yesterday called upon the students community to make success the sit-in demonstration in front of the Secretariat called by the Nirmul Jatiya Samannay

The leaders demanded trial of Golam Azam in a special tri-Leaders of Bangladesher

Committee on April 25.

Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) in a rally demanding the trial of Golam Azam for war crimes Eriday urged all not to be confused by the verdict of the High Court.

ple of Bangladesh gave their final verdict on the war criminals by sacrificing the lives of 30 lakh people and they would never forgive these killers. The rally urged all to make

The speakers said the peo-

the April 25 programme to hold sit in strike in front of the Secretariat a success.

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Pak team Pakistan's top Forcign Ministry civil servant will lead the