

**DUNLOP**  
The undisputed market leader

RANGE AVAILABLE FROM READY STOCK

TRUCK / BUS	TRACTOR	LIGHT TRUCK	4 WHEEL DRIVE	PASSENGER CAR	SCOOTER / MOTORCYCLE

**RAHIMAFROOZ**  
Country's largest tyre distribution network  
Dhaka: 865270-74, 882391, 882351  
Chittagong: 504792

## DOWN TO EARTH

### City's Environmental Perils

By A S M 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. The concerned authorities do not seem to be committed to ensuring proper urban milieu and environmental care in a steady and effective manner.

The city life is subject to a variety of factors causing environmental degradation. First, the problem of smoke pollution from the source of city's motor transportation system is a cause of great concern because a vast number of motor vehicles in many cases operate without fitness certificate regarding poisonous exhausts. With the steady growth of motor traffic on the city roads, the threat of pollution from such poisonous exhausts keeps on increasing at an alarming rate. The prime need of the hour is constant vigilance and commitment of the concerned authorities to tackle smoke pollution for the betterment of environment and the preservation of public health.

The danger of environmental degradation from noise pollution is no less serious. Among the factors responsible for it are: Lack of proper planning in urban growth, existence of noise creating industries and enterprises in areas mostly residential and recreational in character within city limits and absence of awareness among city dwellers of the consequences of constant exposure to noisy environment. In a large city, noise, of course, is a characteristic feature. What is deplorable is the lack of effective enforcement of such measures as are available under the existing law to control or decrease the level of urban noise.

The burgeoning process of urbanisation has claimed, among its victims, the cruel denudation of trees in many areas of the city. This is inevitably leading to environmental degradation. There is, therefore, necessity for intensifying drive for greening city areas as a means of achieving environmental upgradation.

The existing system of garbage disposal in the city contributes substantially to the pollution of city environment.

According to observers, the dumping of garbage must be carried out more carefully and strict procedures need be followed to keep garbages restricted to the confines of the dumps which should be regularly cleared. The carrying of garbage in the city is also a sore point.

Normally, garbages should be carried in covered vans in the late hours of the night or at pre-dawn hours so that the citizens may be spared nauseating sights. Instead we frequently come across obnoxious movement of municipal garbage trucks at peak traffic hours in the morning and high noon through the city's road networks. This is unthinkable in any modern city. The municipal authorities should immediately stop this practice and ensure that the work of collection and carrying of garbage from different points in the city is taken up and completed well ahead of the awakening of city life in the morning.

The sewerage system of the city is also in bad shape in some areas. In the rainy season which is approaching, the city's sewers in some areas, particularly in old Dhaka, make life miserable for the dwellers of those localities. The surface drains of the city present no better picture. They have been equally dilapidated or in a poor state of repairs for long. The extent of environmental pollution resulting from lack of adequate drainage reaches unbearable proportions when there are heavy showers. The miseries are compounded by the absence of adequate scavenging service of the City Corporation.

A dreadful aspect of the city's polluted situation has been lately highlighted in a news report. It states that the Department of Environment has identified dumping of waste in the Buriganga river at 22 points between Mirpur bridge and Paglaghat polluting the river water which has become unfit for human consumption as well as threatening aquatic life.

Giving details of the widespread pollution of the river water, the report states that chromium which is extremely hazardous to health was detected in the river water at

Chadnighat and near Hazari-bagh areas dumped from the tanneries. Other polluting agents included liquid sewage wastes being spilled from Mohammadpur sluice to Rayerbazar sluice gate areas. The pollution scene covers Chadnighat where washers throw into the water mixed soap, soda and bleaching powder. Besides, a fair share of the nation's industries standing on its shores uses its water and return to it thousands of tons of poisonous effluents everyday. Dissolved oxygen contents in the rivers water have declined alarmingly due to such unregulated dumping. The big casualties of this lethal practice are said to be the fish resources of the river.

The main features of the pollution of the river water indicated above show the magnitude of the problem facing the high concentration of population living on the banks of the river. This pollution is not the result of a few years of unconcern but the result of neglect over decades. As a result we are now living on a dead river and soon enough, unless remedial steps are taken urgently, we shall be living on a stinking cesspool.

Similar pollution, though on a smaller scale, afflicts the water of Dhanmandi lake located in the posh residential area. According to a survey by the Department of Environment, a lake that was created to enhance the scenic beauty and environmental wholesomeness of the area has now become a threat to public health and survival of aquatic life. The water of the lake now stinks as a result of indiscriminate dumping of waste materials and its contiguous use as reservoir for cleaning everything dirty including buses and trucks and cattle of all descriptions.

The cleaning up of Buriganga and Dhanmandi lake has become a task which cannot wait for long. To help in this task, short-term and long-term plans need be explored on priority basis with foreign assistance, if necessary.

The environmental problems outlined above should be tackled in a planned manner in order to check urban decay in a city poised on the threshold of rapid growth.



Cairo-based PLO negotiator Jamil Tarifi (L), PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud Abbas (Abu Mazen) and Hanan Ashrawi (R) attending the first meeting of members of the future Palestinian government of the newly-autonomous territories of the Gaza Strip and Jericho held at the PLO headquarters in Tunis Thursday. — AFP photo

## South Yemeni warplanes pound North's forces

ADEN, May 27: Southern Yemeni warplanes pounded northern forces today, trying to regain control of the main approach route to Aden, reports Reuters.

"We absorbed their attack, and they are now on the defensive," said a southern major near Al-Anad army base 60 km north of the city.

Warplanes, rockets and artillery struck repeatedly at northern positions at the foot of Kursh mountains and at Dhalea junction just north of Al-Anad, which commands the main road.

Southern reservists were

meanwhile reported to be preparing counter-attacks in an oil producing region further the east.

For much of the three-week civil war president Ali Abdullah Saleh's northern forces have been trying to form a semi-circle enclosing Aden, a port city of 350,000 people which has been declared capital of the breakaway south.

But southern forces repelled a big attack on Aden from the west this week while northern units have so far failed to break through from the east.

## BNP may agree to

From Page 1 Col 7

taker government to conduct the next general elections.

At any such dialogue, the ruling party would most likely place specific measures it deems necessary to ensure free and fair parliamentary elections following the completion of the present government's five-year tenure, a cabinet member told this correspondent.

Meanwhile, Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim told The Daily Star last night that they had already reached a point of no return on the question of an interim government.

"We cannot return to the House until the government agrees to move a bill seeking constitutional provision for a caretaker government," Nasim said yet again.

Suranjit Sengupta of the Ganatantri Party, however, told this correspondent late last night that the entire opposition was ready to have a dialogue with the BNP to make Parliament effective and evolve ways for ensuring free and fair national elections.

"But the ruling party has to

## Solzhenitsyn

From Page 1 Col 5

writer, stooped and touched the ground with both hands after emerging from the Alaska Airlines plane that brought him from the United States.

"I am so overwhelmed with so many different kinds of emotions," he said.

Solzhenitsyn paid homage to the multitudes who perished in labour camps in the region, the symbolic heart of the Soviet penal camp system. Magadan is in the Kolyma region, where an estimated three million inmates alone died in the camps from exposure and exhaustion.

"I come to bow to the Kolyma land where many hundreds of thousands of our countrymen, who were executed, are buried," said Solzhenitsyn, who served in labour camps in other regions.

"Today, in this period with so much political change, people easily forget these millions of victims," he said in a voice throbbing with emotion.

The 75-year-old writer was presented with break and salt in a traditional Russian greeting by city officials. Buffeted by strong winds, he kissed the bread and repeatedly crossed himself as he stood on the airport tarmac with his wife Natalia.

The writer, who chronicled the sufferings of camp inmates, touched the ground several times. He was embraced by another ex-inmate of the camps, Miron Otlif, who sobbed with emotion.

Solzhenitsyn, who hopes to serve as an inspiration to Russia as it wrestles with the transition from communism, blamed the oppression of the Stalin era for many of Russia's problems.

## Bosnian warring factions resume talks June 6

SARAJEVO, May 27: Bosnia's warring factions will resume talks in France on June 6 and 7 on dividing up the former Yugoslav republic, government controlled Bosnian radio said today, reports Reuters.

Negotiators from the Muslim-led Bosnian government, their Croat allies and Bosnian Serbs held two days of talks in the French Alpine resort of Tignes that ended on Thursday without agreement.

The Muslim-Croat alliance indicated at those talks they were ready to modify their territorial demands and "partly accepted" a proposal by international mediators giving them 51 per cent of the country.

## 20 shops looted in Rauzan

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 27: Armed terrorists last night looted about 20 shops in Rauzan and goods worth six lakh from at least 20 shops in Jagannath area of Dabua under Rauzan thana.

The armed men opened indiscriminate fire and blasted cocktails at Dabua bazar at 9 pm yesterday before looting the cash and kind from the shops, sources said.

About ten persons were reportedly injured when they attempted to resist the terrorists' attack.

During the rampage the panic stricken shopkeepers and other members of the public began running for safety, witnesses said.

Later, a contingent of police from Chikidai outpost, located near the place of occurrence, rushed to the spot and rounded up four suspects.

District police officials, however, said efforts were underway to arrest the looters.

## Jerusalem

From Page 1 Col 7

The document appears to integrate PLO policies into the government. The president "exercises functions given him by the statutes of the Palestine Liberation Organization... as well as functions given him by law," it said.

Legislative power is to be exercised by a national authority council during the transition period, with elections pending.

The constitution forbids racial discrimination concerning international treaties and conventions. Everyone has the right to life and men and women are equal. Freedom of the press is guaranteed; censorship is forbidden.

It guarantees private property, the right to work and education and assistance to the handicapped.

Another report adds: PLO chief Yasser Arafat plans to visit the Palestinian autonomy zones of Gaza and Jericho for three days, starting June 12, Israel radio reported Thursday.

## Russian troops capture kidnappers, free hostages

MOSCOW, May 27: Elite troops captured a gang of kidnappers and freed their four hostages unharmed Friday in southern Russia, only hours after the gunmen had fled aboard a helicopter with millions of dollars in ransom, police said, reports AP.

There were conflicting reports about the fate of at least one of the four kidnappers and the size of the ransom.

Some officials and news agencies said one of the men was killed in a shootout as he tried to flee.

## Four muggers arrested in city

Police arrested four muggers from Sialbari in Mirpur section 2 in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The arrested are: Bachcu, 23, Zafar, 24, Chan Mia, 25, and Mojibor, 21.

Police said they robbed Helaluddin and two others of Tk 1.20 lakh from in front of the Housing Office in Mirpur on May 22. The victims were returning home by an auto rickshaw after selling their cattle at Nayabazar.

Helal had lodged a complaint with Mirpur police.

The arrested confessed their involvement in the mugging and police recovered Tk 6,500 from their possession. They also snatched Tk 11,000 from one Rousan Alam on May 2 from the same place.

## 3 held on charge of looting in Lauhajang

By Staff Correspondent

Lauhajang police late Wednesday night arrested three people on charge of looting a medicine shop and beating up its owner Dr A K M Jasimuddin.

The three people are Julhash Master, Sanker Das and Abdur Rob. The principal accused of the incident, Delwar Hossain Hiro, is still at large, according to police.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Lauhajang Police Station, Shamsul Kabir, and a Sub-Inspector of Police Abdul Majid Bhuiyan in raid arrested the three alleged culprits from Kaima village under Lauhajang Police Station in Munshiganj.

A group of local bullies Tuesday looted medicine worth about Tk 50,000 and another Tk 47,000 in cash from the medicine shop at Kaima bazar and beat up its owner who was also the vice president of the local BNP unit.

## The Midnight File

### 30 die in Colombian plane crash

BOGOTA, May 27: An airplane with 30 people on board crashed minutes after take off in eastern Colombia today, the Caracol radio network reported. Caracol said the plane crashed about 12 minutes after leaving the town of Villa Vicente in Meta Province. It said rescue workers who were searching through the wreckage for survivors feared that up to 20 people had died, reports Reuters.

### Rocket attack on Kabul, 4 killed

ISLAMABAD, May 27: At least four people were killed and two injured as forces opposed to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani launched a rocket attack on the capital Kabul today, radio Kabul reported. The broadcast monitored here blamed the attack on troops loyal to Rabbani's rival, Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, and his military ally General Abdul Rashid Dostam, reports AFP.

### DPRK continues to discharge used fuel rods from reactor

UNITED NATIONS, May 27: North Korea is continuing to discharge used fuel rods from a reactor in Yongbyon, worsening the controversy over Pyongyang's nuclear programme, diplomatic sources said today, reports AFP.

## Jute: Common strategy

From Page 1 Col 7

feel that the latest attack on jute was initiated by the strong synthetic lobby in the west.

Germany last year had objected to the export of goods in jute packing. But later this objection was withdrawn after the Bangladesh commerce minister convinced Bonn about the environment friendly nature of jute.

Meanwhile, to tone down the objection, the jute growing countries are now negotiating with the EAUJG and have offered to lower the level of chemicals in the processing of jute products.

In another positive devel-

## JS team off to Tel Aviv

Star Report

A two-member parliamentary delegation left Dhaka yesterday for Tel Aviv.

The team members are Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad and Barrister Ziaur Rahman MP of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

During their 10-day visit, the two parliamentarians will exchange views with the leaders of different component organisations of the PLO on democratic transition of societies. Samad Azad told The Daily Star, Democrats from different parts of the world will also take part in the programme, sponsored by the Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI). Samad added.

The parliamentarians will visit West Bank, Jericho and other places that got autonomy from the Israeli authorities recently and visit Jerusalem also.

## Pak proposal

From Page 1 Col 7

Thursday began two days of talks in Washington.

Pakistan's controversial nuclear programme has caused strain between Washington and Islamabad, with the United States in 1990 cut off more than 500 million dollars worth of military and economic assistance to Pakistan.

Washington also stopped delivery of 38 F-16 jets, following reports that Pakistan was pursuing a weapons-oriented nuclear programme, a charge which Islamabad has denied.

In April Washington asked Islamabad to agree to a "verifiable cap" on production of missile materials in exchange for a one-time waiver of the embargo imposed against it under the 1990 Pressler Amendment.

Although the proposal was discussed during Talbot's visit, no immediate agreement was reported.

Benazir said she wanted to see an improvement in relations between the two nations, adding that she wanted to visit the United States later this year.

Pakistan shared with the US its concern over nuclear non-proliferation, she said, but added that she saw the Pressler Amendment as a "veto" in the hands of Pakistan's traditional rival, India.

She said India applied this veto "on every single proposal made by Pakistan for regional non-proliferation."

Islamabad wants a "non-discriminatory" application of the legislation, forced India, which exploded a nuclear device 20 years ago, to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

"If Pakistan and the US are to proceed on a common goal of non-proliferation in the region, then it is important that the Indian veto through Pressler be removed or waived," she stressed.

oment, an Amsterdam-based organisation, the Common Fund for Commodity (CFC), has told the IJO that it would fund any commercially viable project for diversification of jute products with soft term loans.

"This is a good opportunity for a comeback in the lost jute market," another IJO expert said. Till now, no Bangladeshi private sector entrepreneurs has come up with any project proposals. Diversification of jute is now being seen as the most essential strategies to carve out a share in the western market.

The world production of raw jute in 1993-94 is forecast to decline, for the third consecutive year, by six per cent, to about 2.9 million tons from the 1992-93 level of 3.19 million tons. Production in Bangladesh is estimated to be 783,000 tons, 11.6 per cent lower than the 1992-93 level. Exports from Bangladesh rose marginally by 2.3 per cent during 1992-93 to 282,200 tons.

Bangladesh's export to the western Europe still remains undented despite the campaign against the golden fibre. Dhaka's share in the US, Japanese and Australian markets had declined marginally, sources said.

## Bodies of Hajis

From Page 1 Col 4

The majority of the pilgrims were rushing to throw the pebbles or turning back, racing against time. Many were carrying their belongings on their backs, and the immense overcrowding led to their falling and stumbling," the statement said.

The announcement said the government was releasing an official count "to correct exaggerations and incorrect information" reported by some media.

The largest single group of pilgrims who died were 44 Pakistanis. Other victims included Indians, Egyptians, Saudis, Indonesians, Sudanese, Yemenis, Algerians, Moroccans, Turks, Nigerians, Bangladeshis, Jordanians, Iranians, Ghanaians, Afghans, Mauritians and Lebanese.

## Hanoi

From Page 1 Col 4

would provide legal framework and guidelines for expanding the relations.

In reply to a question on US-Vietnam relations, he said "We are in the process of normalisation of relations" and both sides have discussed setting up liaison offices in the two capitals. "Lifting of embargo by the Clinton administration is a major development in the process of normalisation of our relations," added.

Cam also said that the relations with China had become normal since 1991 and the two countries are now in close contact to resolve the outstanding land and sea border dispute.

About ASEAN, Cam said Vietnam now awaits full membership of the regional body after two years of observer status. In reply to another question, he rejected the allegation that Hanoi had deviated from Ho Chi Minh's economic doctrine.

"We are implementing Ho Chi Minh's principles and we are determined to implement those," Cam said adding "There is no contradiction between market economy and socialism."

The Vietnamese Foreign Minister also denied charges of violation of human rights in his country saying that restoration of human rights was one of the objectives of their struggle for independence.

## Zillur on PM's gifts

From Page 1 Col 8

Referring to the Prime Minister's gifts for the Leader of the Opposition, Rahman said that the *Jahnamaz* (prayer mat) and *Tasbeih* (rosary) sent through the Prime Minister's PS and received by the PS to the Leader of the Opposition Thursday had no link with politics and did not deserve to be reported in the press media.

But the publication of the news on this "religious matter" by some newspapers with wide coverage had created confusion, he said.

The AL General Secretary said the BNP was not sincere to resolve the crisis. It has been continuing its old tactics to shift the blame for the crisis created by itself to the Opposition.

He said since its inception the BNP has introduced the "politics of stunts" to bluff the people. The party is still maintaining that trend and the publication of such unrealistic and false news bears evidence to this, he argued.

Rahman said there was no

## China, Russia

From Page 1 Col 8

which hit a record of \$175.68 billion last year, still is far short of the potential.

Chernomyrdin later held what he characterize as "fulfilling and extremely interesting" talks with Chinese President Jiang Zemin. He said they discussed economic and trade cooperation; international issues and the differing economic reforms adopted in China and Russia.

"Over many aspects and with regard to many international issues, we are building a partnership to take us into the 21st century," Chernomyrdin told reporters.

## BNP nomination seekers asked to collect forms

Persons interested to become BNP candidate in the Bogra-4 parliamentary by-election have been requested to collect prescribed form from the party's central office at 28/1 Naya Paltan and submit those by June 2 in the same office. The forms can be obtained from May 28 to June 2, 1994 from 10 am to 5 pm paying a fee of Taka 300, reports BSS.

## US expels senior Iraqi diplomat

WASHINGTON, May 27: The United States has expelled Iraq's senior diplomat in Washington for violating the agreement that allowed Iraq to maintain a diplomatic presence in the United States, the State Department said Thursday, reports Reuters.

Spokesman Mick McCurry told reporters that Adnan Malik, who was supposed to handle only government-to-government relations and consular matters, was told to leave after he ignored State Department warnings not to perform political work.

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam