DOWN TO EARTH

Guest Birds On Annual Visit

With the advent of winter. a number of migratory arrive in this country colder climes in Siberia Europe. Their arrival reaches its peak in January-February. They start returning to their original habitats from

According to ornithologists. a total of 632 species of birds are found in Bangladesh of which nearly 200 are migratory. Of these migratory birds. nearly 25 species are ducks that fall prey to the poachers the most. The other duck species are pintail, brahminy. bare headed shovelior, com mon pocard, common ruddy.

shell topted and lag goose. The ornithologists have identified the impulse that drives the migration of birds of many species. According to them, most species of birds, because of their high metabolic rate require a fich, abundant supply of food at frequent intervals. Such a situation does not prevail throughout the year in any given region. Birds have means for travelling swiftly economy of energy

specific routes sometimes well defined over long distances. The speed of migratory birds depends largely on the species and the type of terrain covered. Most migrations occur at relatively low altitudes. Most birds are gregarious durdisplay a fierce individualism suggesting that some mea-

By ASM Nurunnabi fliers, they are very sensitive

take offensive so easily remember the dangers of a clime and communicate it to following generations. In this context, it may be mentioned that the guest birds normally face disturbance from largescale hunting in the haor areas which these birds choose as their temporary abode. The Hakaloki haor in Sylhet shelters the highest number of guest birds. Srimangal is another place of their concentra-

There are good and bad effects of the huge influx of the guest birds. The good effects mainly relate to their environmental impact. The droppings of such large number of birds in the water areas turn into planktons which serve as lood for different kinds of fish in water areas. As for those species of birds which are land based, the droppings serve to enhance the fertility of the soil and enrich the vegetation. thus evolved a highly efficient. They also play a helpful role in pest control inasmuch as they over long distances with great feed on different kinds of The migration flights follow mice and rodents etc.

Among the bad effects may be cited the damage they cause to corn fields when they swoop down on them. No one, however, has yet given us a true picture as to the extent of damage done to our crops by the guest birds. In this reing migration, even those that spect, some go the extent of at all other times. Birds of sim- sures be taken to contain the ilar habits sometimes travel damage done by the guest birds to our crops in the fields It was estimated by some and consume fish from our ornithologists that the volume rivers, beels and haors every of their arrival last year was 40 year. One redeeming feature in per cent less as compared this respect is said to be that with the previous year. The some of the bird species do position of their influx during not feed on corns. Another rethis year is yet to be finally es- deeming feature is said to be timated but it may be re- that in April when boro padmembered that these birds are dies are ripe for harvesting, it not only good intercontinental is time for most of the species

of guest birds to leave. According to some ornithologists, the good effects tip the scale. On the whole, their influence on the ecology of the regions where they temporarily settle is held to be beneficial. outweighing whatever evil effects their presence brings

about. Poaching and selling of guest birds continue despite government's directive to enforce strictly the law prohibiting the hunting of winter birds. Netted mostly in the haor areas, the birds are shipped to the capital and other major cities where buyers can afford the prices demanded by the sellers. In this city, however, the birds find comparatively safe resting places. The main locations of their concentration in the city are the lakes in the BDR HQ at Peelkhana, Mirpur Zoo, Bangabhaban and the beels and water areas around the city.

The duck species are mostly found on sale in the city in the peak season of migration at such places as Elephant Road. Manik Mia Avenue. Panthapath, Baily Road, Mirpur Road. Mouchak Market areas.

The Wild Life Society is understood to be campaigning for years to protect the winter birds from the hunters but their appeal so far has fallen on deaf ears, as is felt by some wild life experts. Some, however, suggest that in order to help our people to have a reasonable view about the guest birds, a survey may be made about the number of guest birds normally sold each year in Dhaka streets, the approximate number of guest birds that visit Bangladesh each year, the extent of damage done each year to our crops the amount of fish wealth eaten up by the guest birds and the extent of fertility which enriches our soil from the droppings of the guest birds every year.

Berlusconi caretaker PM of Italy

ROME Dec 23: Silvio Berlusconi, now caretaker prem ier, kept up his press for early elections Friday and asserted he was the best choice to lead the country to the vote.

Berlusconi, who submitted his resignation to President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro on Thursday, insisted that only he could lead Italy in this time of scandals, political change and reform. But on Friday he did admit that someone else could conceivably replace him.

don't believe I'm the only premier possible." he told a year-end news conference when asked if he'd be willing to let someone else be premier in order to save his conservative coalition

But he added: "I made it clear (to Scalfaro) that I retain it would be an error to change the composition of this government for the brief period that separates us from the necessary elections.

If Scalfaro dissolves parliament, elections could come as early as late March - the oneyear anniversary of Berlusconi's sweep into power. But many analysis have seen the possibil-

SEOUL, Dec 23: South Ko-

rean President Kim Young-Sam

today made a sweeping cabinet

reshuffle, replacing Foreign

Minister Han Sung-Joo and a

dozen other members, a pres-

Gong Ro-Myung, a career

diplomat who is now ambas-

Han will be replaced by

Deputy Prime Minister

Hong J Ae-Hyong, who is also

the Economic Planning Minis-

ter, will head the powerful Fi-

nance and Economics Board.

This was created by the

merger of the finance ministry

and economic planning board

under a government reorgani-

deputy prime minister.

of Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Hong will remain as the

Those dropped from the

cabinet included Defence

Minister Rhee Byoung-Tae,

Trade Minister Kim Chul-Su

and Interior Minister Choi

Hyung-Woo, the spokesman

will be Lee Yang-Ho, Chairman

South Korea's cabinet minis-

ters except the Prime Minister

resigned en masse today ahead

of a scheduled cabinet reshuf-

fle by President Kim Young-

Sam later in the day, a gov-

Prime Minister Lee Hong-

Koo, who gathered resigna-

tions in a cabinet meeting, was

due to go to the presidential

ernment spokesman said.

The new Defence Minister

An earlier reports said: All

idential spokesman said.

sador to Japan.

sation plan.

its of a interim government to deal with important legislation

and allow the political atmo-

sphere to cool Berlusconi also said plans are under way to sever his ties with his giant media and retail conglomerate. He said "a very important company of the group" could be sold in coming days. He did not name the company, but Italian media has said he was trying to sell his Standa department stores, Italy's biggest retail chain.

Scalfaro, however, opposes early elections. Berlusconi said and indicated the president might insist on political negotiations which could go on for

Scalfaro began consultations Friday with political leaders on whether to call new elections or try to mediate Italy's 54th government since 1945.

His first major appointment was scheduled for late afternoon, when he meets Francesco Cossiga, the former premier and ex-head of state who has been touted by some as a possible choice for premier, at least until elections are held.

blue house to present the res-

members was expected

shortly, the spokesman said.

The list of new cabinet

The shake-up had been ex-

pected since early this month

when Kim proposed a bill to

merge and streamline major

government ministries and cut

passed the government reor-

ganisation bill, paving the way

minister until last week, was

named premier last Saturday

jail for mourning the death of

North Korean leader Kim Il-

Sung, officials said today, re-

Young-Kyu, 23, a student

leader of a provincial univer-

violating the national security

sity, was jatled on Thursday for

The official said Lee was

found guilty of taking part in a

secret memorial service at the

university with 10 other stu-

dents and of leading illegal

anti-government protests.

A court official said Lee

ports Reuter.

for the cabinet changes.

to herald the reshuffle.

Parliament earlier today

Lee. who was deputy prime

dozens of hight-ranking posts.

ignations formally to Kim.

Cabinet reshuffle in

South Korea

From Page 1 Col 3

BNP leaders

unless their demand was met. This source sounded quite confident that the new BNP plan would be acceptable to all three major opposition parties - the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami.

When pressed to elaborate, the source would only say that the new ruling party plan would not mean a total capitulation to the Opposition. Although it may express the BNP's readiness to concede to the demand for a caretaker government to conduct future national elections after the expiry of the tenure of the Fifth Parliament, it would also lav down its own conditions for such an amendment to the

Constitution. Party Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar, however, told this correspondent that there had been no change yet in the official party position regarding

the Opposition demand. The BNP standing committee, the highest policy-planning organ of the party, is scheduled to meet Monday. December 26 to discuss the

latest political situation. Meanwhile, Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim told The Daily Star last night that the threatened resignation seems inevitable because the ruling party has taken rigid stance against the Opposition

He said the leaders of the major opposition parties would meet Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at the Sangsad Bhaban this evening.

He said that meeting would finalise the next course of ac-

Opposition sources also said they might call a countrywide hartal for three consecutive days from January 2.

Mizan warns of oust-govt agitation

CHANDPUR, Dec 23: Jatiya Party acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury today urged the ruling party to accept the demand for a caretaker government before the December 27 deadline and avert political crisis, reports

Student jailed for mourning Addressing a public meeting at the Baburhat High Kim's death School ground in the afternoon, the JP leader said still SEOUL, Dec 23: A South there is time to accept the Korean court has sentenced a demand by showing respect to college student to two years in

> the people's will. otherwise, he warned, the oust-government agitation would begin with the opposition MPs resigning en masse from parliament on December

Mizan Chowdhury alleged repression on opposition workers, corruption and nepotism by the BNP government.

He said that after assuming power, the prime minister could not fulfil any commitments made to the people.

Kamal again urges Khaleda, Hasina for understanding

President of the Gano Forum. Dr Kamal Hossain, said people had voted for democracy, rule of law and development and not for creating such a situation in parliament, reports BSS.

Speaking at a two-day central council meeting of the Forum. Dr Kamal said people were suffering from fear and despair centering on the threat of resignation announcement by the members of the opposition parties from Sangsad on December 28.

Dr. Kamai Hossain reiterated his call to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition to reach an understanding in the interest of the nation and the people

Member of the council of presidents Advocate Zahirul Islam submitted report on polit ical situation obtaining in the country and organisational activities in the meeting.

Non-stop action after Dec 27, says Zillur

Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman urged the people to take all-out preparation for oust-government agitation after December 28. reports UNB. .

Addressing a rally at Gulshan Natun Bazar premises vesterday afternoon, he blamed the government's stubbornness and autocratic mentality for the present political crisis.

If the BNP fails to meet the demand for a caretaker government by December 27. non-stop action programmes will be announced to pull down this government and establish rights to vote and food, he said.

Presided over by local AL leader Labiuddin, the rally was addressed by Shahara Khatun. Laisuzzaman, Abbasullah Sikdar and Dr Shahjahan.

DCC action

From Page 1 Col 7 however, said they evicted some 700 hawkers from in and around the New Market last month. But many of them have returned to their places by how, he admitted.

He said it was tough to go for a massive action programme against the illegal occupants. "It would be like a 'battle' if we go for stern action since the illegal occupants are organised and in some cases they have connection with different political groups," he

The DCC has no force of its own to fight against them, he said adding, "even sometimes we have to abandon our regular operation due to lack of adequate police force."

Political turmoil and instability also barred the corporation from taking any strong action which, according to him, 'may have impact on political atmosphere since the Mayor is a political figure.

The DCC Mayor could not be contacted for his com-

Talking to this correspondent chief revenue officer of DCC Solaiman Mallick admitted that the response to the notice for vacating occupied shops and spaces was rather

But he claimed eviction drives in the New Market and Ahsan Manzil areas had helped recover most of the illegally occupied shops. He, however, could not give an exact figure of such shops.

"We are continuing our eviction drive although sometime we are delayed because of a lack of adequate police force," he said. "We are also going to invite applications for allotment of the recovered shops." He contradicted a state-

ment by one of his colleague that political influence could hamper the corporation's eviction programme.

2 murdered

From Page 1 Col 7 the scene

Tomal was also living in the same area. He was also an unemployed, local people said. Subujbagh police went to

the spot after the murder and recovered two unused bullets from the spot. Ramna police took up the investigation into the murder

of Selim while Sabujbagh po-Asia Division. lice was to investigate into the Tomal murder-case. They, according to police, interrogated several persons regarding the

Prof Azharul Islam dead

Prof Azharul Islam, a former member of the provincial assembly of the then East Pakistan and also a member of the Public Service Commission, died of a heart attack at his Azimpur residence in the city last night, family sources said. He was 72, reports BSS. He left behind his wife,

three daughters He will be buried today at his family graveyard at Kuralia village in Madhupur, Tangail.



Khassavyurt at the Chechen-Daghestan border yesterday as they wait for instructions to storm Grozny, the capital of

Ceasefire in Bosnia takes effect today

SARAJEVO, Dec 23: The Muslim-led Bosnian government today signed a ceasefire agreement with Bosnian Serbs to take effect from noon 1100 GMT) tomorrow, the UN said, report Reuter, AP.

A text agreed by UN envoy Yasushi Akashi with the Serbs earlier in the day was approved at the Bosnian presidency, allowing the ceasefire negotiated by former US President Jimmy Carter to take effect a day late.

The ceasefire was delayed because Akashi was still discussing the terms with Serbs when this noon deadline agreed by Carter was reached.

The text was simplified to prevent obstacles becoming sticking points in UN efforts to secure an immediate end to almost 33 months of fighting. Quoted Bosnian Serb leader

Radovan Karadzic as saying that even before the agreement formally goes into effect, his troops would hold their fire until fired upon. Remaining differences prevented a ceasefire from taking

effect at noon (1100 GMT) today, as agreed by both sides with Carter earlier this week. The White House Thursday warmed up its praise of Carter's peace mission to

Bosnia, saying it "may have

helped. Spokeswoman Dee Dee My ers said the United States remained sceptical of Bosnian Serb intentions under a cease-

fire deal brokered by Carter. But it appears that President Carter may have helped move the Bosnian Serbs closer to returning to the negotiating table and I think that's certainly a good thing and we're grateful, she said.

ceasefire, two shells slammed into a Sarajevo marketplace, killing two people and injuring seven others. UN officials did not say

On the eve of the planned

who was to blame for the shelling. There was more violence

Thursday throughout the warring republic, where 200,000 people are dead or missing because of fighting that started in April 1992. Another person was killed

and five more were wounded in shelling of the northwest town of Bihac, a UN-declared "safe area." Bihac has been under attack by Serbs from Bosnia and Croatia for weeks.

The violence underscored the difficulty facing any cease fire in the 32-month war in Bosnia.

'Artery forcep' removed from Khalique's belly

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Dec 23: A team of surgeons removed the "artery forcep" from inside the belly of one Abdul Khalique in the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital this afternoon Resident surgeon Moshta-

que Ahmed and assistant professor Atique Rahman of the Department of Surgery performed the operation. The patient was said to be improving, hospital sources claimed. The artery forcep was left

inside the belly of the patient by mistake when he underwent an operation in the hospital about a month ago. According to an official source, the operation was

scheduled to be done tomorrow (Saturday) but due to worsening of the patient's condition the operation was performed today. Meanwhile, the director of

the hospital. Colonel Fahim Ahmed Chowdhury, said the three-member enquiry committee would start its work from tomorrow (Saturday).

India, Russia fail to reach accord on N-plant

NEW DELHI, Dec 23: India and Russia signed sweeping accords today to reinforce military, space and trade relations but failed to reach agreement on Russian help for nuclear power plants here, officials said, reports AFP.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and his Indian counterpart PV Narasimha Rao signed eight agreements after pledging to further strengthen Indo-Russian relations.

The two sides put on hold a pact on the avoidance of double taxation, but took a step towards settling the thorny issue of India's huge debt to Russia, said Yuri Kotov, chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry's

Chernomyrdin and Rao signed an accord on military and technical cooperation between the two nations until the year 2000, and another on space cooperation, he said. "The agreement between

Russia and the Indian space research organisation is for peaceful purposes," Kotov said without elaborating. India purchased cryogenic

rocket engines from Russia last year but a deal to also supply the technology needed to build the engines was called off under US pressure, which argued that they could be used to launch ballistic missiles.

Chernomyrdin, whose arrival here was delayed one day by his brother's death, said earlier today he would discuss

the delivery of Russian rocket and space technology to India, which launched a satellite launch rocket in October.

"I hope our talks will be fruitful," the Russian leader said before his meeting with the Indian premier.

A spokesman for Rao said the two sides signed an agreement on the promotion and mutual protection of investments but put back the signing of the accord on avoidance of double taxation to a future date.

Diplomatic sources said they also put on hold an agreement on Russian help for the setting up of nuclear power plants in India and described the talks on the key issue as "continuing."

india enjoyed close ties with the former Soviet Union, its main supplier of military hardware, but relations between New Delhi and Moscow cooled after the new Russian Federation insisted on hard currency payments for equipment.

India hopes to bag licences to assemble Russian Mig-29 jets. T-72 tanks and other hardware which it previously received from the former Soviet Union.

New Delhi also wants to buy 36 Mig-29s worth round 780 million dollars. Moscow has offered 30, Su-30 fighterbombers to India on credit and proposed granting a licence for production of the aircraft.

The Midnight Eile

9 killed as building collapses in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD. Dec 23: Nine people were killed today when a dilapidated building collapsed at Faisalabad in Punjab province officials said The building collapsed when a wall caved in and roof debris buried the people inside. The dead were all from the same family, reports AFP.

Yeltsin fires mayor of Vladivostok

MOSCOW. Dec 23: President Baris Yeltsin fired Vladivostok's first democratically elected mayor Friday, nine months after federal riot police in the port city forcefully removed him from office on corruption charges. Vicktor Cherepkov, a former submarine captain who was elected last year, had not tried to return to the job since the storming of city hall last March 17, reports AP.

Japanese troupe enthrals audience at Shilpakala

The visiting Japanese troupe presented a colourful programme highlighting their traditional culture at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the city yesterday, reports

Jointly organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Embassy of Japan and Japan Foundation, the cultural teams presented eight items. including folk-song, folk-song with dance and music on Tsugaru-Shamisen and Shaku

Main attractions of the function were colourful dance with umbrella and hand-fan music played on Tsugaru-Shamisen, a three-string instrument like Sorod and vocal songs related to wedding-cer-

Audiences were charmed at the performance of Japanese

Karens kill 15 Myanmar troops

BANGKOK, Dec 23: Fifteen Myanmar government troops were killed when a Karen rebel mortar hit an ammuni tion dump, a rebel source said today, reports AFP.

The incident happened on Thursday after the Karens fought off an assault on a rebel position at Wanghkha,

Gas network

From Page 1 Col 4 Field Limited (SGFL) at Kailastila here today

Under the project, he said three new wells at Rashidpur in Sylhet will be drilled and Ashuganj-Bakhrabad gas transmission line will be completed along with installing system control and data acquisition (SCADA). SCADA is the central control computer system.

The energy minister was informed that the Mulicular Sibe Tarbo Expander (MSTE) plant of the SGFL, first of its kind in Asia. will be commissioned by the end of January next. The plant, being implemented with the financial assistance of ODA, will process the natural gas liquified (NGL) produced in the SGFL and thereby will augment the country's gas production from the present capacity of 680 million cubic feet to 730 million cubic feet.

The minister was further informed that SGFL, a gas producing company in the country, has taken up the appraisal work of Kailastila new gas well No. 4 at a cost of Tk 25 crore. The work of the project, being implemented with the own resources of SGFL is now nearing completion. The energy minister also visited the MSTE

team wearing traditional dress - females with Kimono and males with Monski. Particularly, cultural heritage of the regions of Kyoto, Hokkaido, Aomori and Akita were

Earlier, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman addressed the function as chief guest. It was also addressed by Ambassador of Japan Shigeo Takenaka and Director General of Bangladesh Silpakala Academy Mobarak Hossain Khan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Foreign Minister said Bangladesh has an excellent bilateral relationship with Japan and our cultural agreement with Japan reflect significant progress in this field.

He also lauded Japan's effort towards maintenance of the cultural heritage and expressed Bangladesh's determination to preserve its traditional cuiture.

Baby killed From Page 1 Col 5

fighter squad said, they rescued another middle-aged woman and another baby from the slum and sent them to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with burn injuries. They could not be identifled immediately.

Fire men rushed to the spot and took almost two hours to douse the smouldering debris, according to a Fire Service spokesman.

Fire Service officials say, the blaze at the cotton processing factory and its godown at Senpara. Mirpur originated from a short-circuit. However. the matter is still under investigations,' an officer said.

Most of the machinery of the factory and the processed and raw cotton in the godown were gutted. The loss could not be estimated immediately and no casualties were reported.

Rao: Opposition From Page 1. Col 4

Prime Minister is corrupt." the MPs chanted non-stop. Rao, who was meeting

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, was not present in the House. But furious opposition deputies demanded that he come and answer their Proceedings in the House

recess but finding the members unrelenting. Speaker Shivraj Patil adjourned the House sine die at 1600 hours. In the Rajya Sabha, similar

were suspended till the lunch

acrimonious scenes prevailed with the vociferous opposition members saying the resignations had made it clear the Prime Minister was 'corrupt.'

ঢাকা ওয়াসা বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা মহানগরীর পানি সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থার উনুয়ন সাধনের লক্ষ্যে তথা পানির লাইনের লিকেজ নির্ণয় ও অপচয় রোধ সম্পর্কিত কর্মসূচী বাস্তবায়নের জন্য ঢাকা ওয়াসা কর্তৃক নিয়োজিত উপদেষ্টা ফার্ম মেসার্স বেটস—আভান্তি জয়েন্টভেনচার প্রথমিক পর্যায়ে মডস্ জোন-৩ এর অধীন সাত মসজিদ রোড ও ধানমন্ডি লেক সংলগ্ন এলাকায় এবং মডস্ জোন-২ এর অধীন শেখ সাহেব বাজার রোড ও লালবাগ এলাকায় এক ব্যাপক জরিপ কাজ ওরু করেছে। জরিপ কাজ পরিচালনা কালে উক্ত উপদেষ্টা ফার্মের কর্মরত ব্যক্তি সরেজমিনে প্রতিটি হোন্ডিং এর মালিকের সাথে যোগাযোগ করে সংশ্লিষ্ট এলাকায় পানি সরবরাহ, পানির চাপ, পানি ব্যবহারের পরিমাণ এবং আনুসার্থণিক বিষয়ে তথ্য সংগ্রহ করবেন।উল্লেখা যে, উল্লেখিত প্রক্রিয়ায় সংগৃহীত তথ্যাদি সংশ্লিষ্ট এলাকায় পানি সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থার উনুয়নে বিশেষ সহায়ক হবে।

সার্বিক জনস্বার্থে সরেজমিনে কর্তব্যরত ঢাকা ওয়াসার উক্ত উপদেষ্টা ফার্মের কর্মীবৃন্দকে প্রয়োজনীয় সহায়তা ও সহযোগিতা প্রদানের জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট এলাকারাসীকৈ অন্রোধ করা গেলো।

ঢাকা ওয়াসা उपाना ওয়াসা-জংতঃ-৪৫১/৯৪

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