

# DOWN TO EARTH

## Persistent Mosquito Menace in City

By A S M Nurunnabi

The mosquito in the city has continued to prove intractable. In some areas it has assumed distressing proportions.

The citizens ask helplessly if they have to resign themselves till the misery it causes comes to a natural end. The hope for natural end to the menace arises because mosquitoes are said to have a short life-span — about 30 days in all — 15 days in larval stage and 15 days at adult stage. November to February is their breeding season.

Unfortunately the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has an unsatisfactory past record in mosquito control. The DCC, however, raised high hopes of effective mosquito control after the last mayoral election when the new mayor made high promises to eradicate the menace. But so far no sign of its effective control in the city appears to be in evidence. The Deputy Leader of our Parliament lately expressed concern over the consequences of mosquito bite saying that it helped resurgence of malaria world-wide. He further warned that it causes a deadly disease like cerebral malaria and as such the mosquito menace should be taken seriously.

The DCC has launched a massive drive against the mosquito menace as part of a crash programme. The current drive is the second phase of the DCC's mosquito management programme aimed at destroying 90 per cent of the breeding sites.

The third and last phase of the crash programme which includes damaging of the mosquito larvae and spraying of insecticides with 200 machines and three mounted vehicles. It is hoped that completion of the three-phase programme will eradicate more than 70 per cent of the mosquitoes and ensure a continuous effective control.

The City Corporation sources said that the first cycle of the Corporation's crash programme has been completed in all 90 wards of the capital. The first phase comprised identification and cleaning of breeding areas and releasing huge quantity of gappi fish in city drains which controls mosquito larvae. It also included mixture of anti-malarial oil, diesel and wooden dust which creates a film on the stagnant waterbodies and check mosquito breeding.

Fogging and releasing of more gappi fish will be part of the third and last phase of the massive crash programme. Nearly 1.5 crore gappi fish will be released in the city drains, a management system effectively developed in Calcutta.

DCC complained of shortage of funds for its inability to procure 450 machines for the 90 wards. It blames the Finance Ministry for not providing support and holding Tk 3.7 crore Japanese yen fund provided for environment protection and mosquito control of the metropolises.

Two kinds of insecticides are used: Scifoxing as adulticide and pyrofox as larvaecide. The strategy of aerial spraying as a means of mosquito control is understood to have been abandoned owing to its far-reaching adverse environmental impact. At present the

fighting tools largely consist of power and hand sprayers, vehicle and fogger sprayers. The Corporation sources, however, stress the important factor that its programme for mosquito control can hope for success if it is supplemented with the efforts of its citizens to keep their immediate neighbourhoods clean.

Sustained efforts are also necessary by those who may be owning the low-lying areas within the city limits and outside it. Otherwise, the efforts for eradication made in some areas are likely to be nullified by the existence of the vast areas of mosquito breeding grounds which are beyond the reach of the spraying squads. In this context, it may be remembered that an adult mosquito can fly nearly two kilometres against the wind.

A factor that poses a big challenge to the efforts of the City Corporation is the existence of vast expanse of hyacinth-filled water areas of the city; for example, on the east side of Motijheel and Rampura and Bashabo neighbourhoods. Besides, there are thousands of ditches, derelict ponds, marshlands, and networks of big drains and nullahs which are safe havens for mosquito breeding as most of them are beyond the reach of insecticide spraying squads. Some of them are not even under the control of the City Corporation. If the control efforts are not geared up to the full by all means available during the breeding season, the citizens of Dhaka will be exposed to continuing bout of suffering from the mosquito menace.

Only four countries backed the protocol Thursday during a meeting of CIS foreign and defence ministers: Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The others said they preferred a Ukrainian version calling for coordination of countries efforts in the defence of their frontiers rather than a straight forward commitment to a common defence.

But even that version failed to win any backing today by the 12 heads of state.

The idea of an external border is only favourable to Russia," said Thursday a member of the Uzbekistan delegation opposed to the protocol. He added that with Russia unable to use radar systems installed in the former Soviet republics, "its nuclear capability is now blind and deaf."

A new proposal on a common defence strategy is to be submitted at the next CIS summit to be held in Minsk on May 26.



Poet Sofia Kamal (C) being conducted by artist Shahabuddin (L) to one of his paintings at the Shilpangan in the city yesterday.

## Russia suffers setback at CIS summit

ALMA-ATA, Feb 10: Russia has suffered a stinging setback at the summit of CIS leaders with none of its neighbours backing Moscow's proposals for a common defence strategy, members of the Russian delegation said today, reports AFP.

"Russia tried to prove that the 12 members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) needed an accord stipulating the idea of an external border they should commonly defend, but it failed in convincing its partners," a member of the delegation said after the CIS heads of state held their one-day meeting here in the Kazakh capital.

The Russian protocol called for CIS countries to approve the idea of a common external border and to commit themselves to a common defence system, particularly in air space.

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## Organ transplantation

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practice of purchasing organ with money.

An 'Organ Donation Act' should be enacted immediately, added Dr Harun-Ur-Rashid, a kidney specialist.

This act will encourage the people to donate their organs like kidney, heart, lung, liver and cornea for transplantation in the bodies of others people.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will inaugurate the two-day workshop at Sonargaon Hotel at 10 am tomorrow. It will be jointly organised by the Bangladesh Renal Association, Beximco Pharmaceuticals and Sandhani of the Dhaka Medical College.

Prof Bradley told the press conference at the National Press Club that organ transplantation is a miracle in the medical science and thousands of lives are being saved every year with this technique.

"Cadaveric organ transplantation should be permitted in legislation and encouraged to save millions of lives," he said.

Awareness to donate organs can create an environment for the donation which will benefit at least 10,000 people in Bangladesh every year, he added.

Bradley suggested three main steps: First, back up facilities for organ transplantation, secondly, a supportive law for cadaveric donation and thirdly, discouraging the unethical

practice of purchasing organ with money.

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## Medicine

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When contacted President of Aushadh Shilpa Samity Salman F Rahman declined to comment on the conflicts regarding Rhone Poulenc and increase of commission for drug dealers saying, "since the minister has invited us to a meeting, I am optimistic about a solution to the present crisis in the drug market. I would not comment further."

The Aushadh Shilpa Samity has stopped providing us with drugs but it will not be able to compel us to sell the Rhone-Poulenc medicines. The Mitford wholesale market has got a stock big enough to meet the drug requirement of the capital for the next two months," Munir Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Actually, the conflict over marketing of products of a multinational is only the manifestation of a two-year old tussle between us and the Aushadh Shilpa Samity," he said. The BCDS had been asking the Shilpa Samity for an enhanced commission for the drug dealers, he added.

The present percentage of commission for drug dealers as fixed by the government is 16. The BCDS demands this percentage be enhanced to 20. "In reality, we do not get more than 5 to 6 per cent commission from the big drug companies as they exercise strong influence in the market and upon the government," Munir added.

Meanwhile reports received from different parts of Sylhet, Chittagong and Dhaka indicated that there has been a slight increase in the prices of medicines produced and supplied by major pharmaceutical companies.

## Indian SC

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appointed committee that includes private citizens, Sibal said in an interview.

Promises by previous governments to unshackle Door-darshan and All India Radio have gone unfulfilled. The news on the government channels often report little more than official functions.

"What the government wanted to do all these years is now being carried out through a court order," Sibal said.

Satellite and cable television opened new vistas to many viewers. The Hong Kong-based Star TV network beams western soap operas, British news and international sports to more than 20 million Indian homes.

The court directive is a good one and reduces government control," said BG Verghese, a media analyst. "But much depends on how the government interprets the court order."

## Govt, mill owners

From Page 1 Col 7

The workers' leaders alleged that the ministers were resorting to time-killing tactic in the name of dialogue and were speaking in favour of the owners.

The meeting demanded immediate implementation of wages commission award in the private sector mills and called upon the workers to make the 96-hour programme a success.

Chaired by M A Aziz, the meeting was addressed by, among others, Abul Bashir, Iqbal Majumder, Mozammel Haq, Bachchu Mia, Kabir Ahmed and Gias Uddin.

## Kashmir issue concerns Islamic world: Benazir

ISLAMABAD, Feb 10: Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said her country's dispute with India over the Himalayan Kashmir region was an issue that concerns the entire Islamic world, the official APP news agency said today, reports Reuters.

"Sooner or later, they (Kashmiri Muslims) will have to be delivered from the living hell that India has created for them," APP quoted Bhutto as telling Islamabad-based Muslim diplomats in a Thursday night speech.

"Please remind your governments of this moral obligation. It is an issue like that of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which concerns the entire Islamic world," she was quoted as telling a religious iftar dinner after the day-long Ramadan fast.

"As we observe this Ramadan (month of fasting), let us not forget the terrible sufferings of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters," she said, referring to New Delhi's crackdown on the five-year old separatist revolt by Muslim militants in the Indian-ruled part of the former princely state.

New Delhi says Kashmir is an integral part of India. Islamabad wants the predominantly Muslim Kashmiris to decide in a UN-mandated plebiscite whether to join Islamic Pakistan or secular, but Hindu-majority, India.

Some militant groups want to reunite Kashmir into an independent state. Bhutto told her audience Pakistan was ready to hold "purposeful negotiations with India if the core issues are addressed with a view to resolving them," but rejected New Delhi's moves for elections as a solution, APP reported.

"India is once again trying to throw a smokescreen on its crimes in Kashmir by talking vaguely of some cosmetic measures — elections and a dialogue with Pakistan," she said.

The entire world knows that it is impossible to hold a representative election in the present situation prevailing there. Half a million troops and a terrible law called the Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act have combined to become a licence for murder and rape," APP quoted her as saying.

Bhutto said it was not possible for Pakistan to cease its moral and diplomatic support for the Kashmiris 'sacred cause'.

She said it was also important for international institutions like the UN Human Rights Commission to "do their best to persuade India to scale down its grave violations of human rights" in the troubled region.

## JMB: Rehabilitation

From Page 1 Col 4

the nearby Nalchhaya Char acquired by the JMBA. Toyeb also could not say what was his plan for a permanent residence but opposed the idea of living at the resettlement site saying his family members would not feel free to live there.

Amrunnessa, a housewife of one of the three families residing at rehabilitation site, told this correspondent they were feeling insecure and isolated since they now did not have any neighbours, unlike where they lived earlier. "We the poor people are now bound to live here until a better place is found for living," she regretted.

This correspondent talked to a cross section of people including those affected and gathered that the inhabitants of the char areas were disliking the idea of living at the resettlement site because they thought they would lose life style they were accustomed to since long. Besides, they were not sure about the type of social bondage to be built up in a society where people from different localities and occupations and varying backgrounds would be living together.

Moreover, they thought living in a congested area lacking enough space would be difficult for them.

It was learnt from the local people that most of the PAPs had already bought larger plots of land in the areas of their choice. Others invested in a variety of business the money they got as compensation for their lands and houses.

A section of the affected people also bought lands adjacent to the JMBA acquired area and invested the money in new structures with the hope of making undue profit if those are acquired.

The Resettlement Unit (RU) of the JMBA had also planned to expand the rehabilitation area of Sirajkandi by acquiring more lands. But the plan now seems not feasible because of the PAPs reluctance to live there.

Many of the PAP are showing unwillingness to be permanently settled in that area and prefer areas which are safe from erosion and are not likely to be acquired by the government at a later stage, said an official of the RU office at Bhuapur, adding "they are just awaiting more benefits".

In her condolence message, the State Minister recalled Arjumand Banu's outstanding contributions to art and culture.

The officers and employees of the Shilpakala Academy also expressed their deep grief. In a condolence message they said that the death of this artist would cause an irreparable loss to the field of culture.

## BCUTA demands another time-scale

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh College University Teachers Association (BCUTA) yesterday described the sanctioning of time-scale for the teachers of non-government schools and colleges as a partial implementation of a Prime Minister's pledge.

In a joint statement, president of the BCUTA Dr M Akhtaruzzaman and general secretary Prof Shaiful Alam demanded another time-scale for non-government college teachers who have completed 12 years of continuous service.

## Rushdie must die: Iran

NICOSIA, Feb 10: A senior Iranian official said that Tehran's death edict against Salman Rushdie remains in force and that the writer must be killed, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported, says AP.

The statement by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi drew a harsh reaction from Denmark, which he said was reneging on statements he made this week in Copenhagen.

## Arjumand Banu

From Page 1 Col 8

Leila's early professional training was in classical music under the guidance of Ustad Gul Mohammad. Her versatile talent encompassed Nazrul Geeti, Rabindra Sangeet, modern folk and gazal songs. Apart from Bangla and Urdu songs, her repertoire included songs in Persian and Turkish.

After early schooling at Eden School, she studied Persian and Philosophy at Dhaka University. She received the "Pride of Performance" award in 1969 by the President of Pakistan, and the "Coronation Gold Medal" by the Shah of Iran following her tour of Iran in 1968. She performed in many cities, including Tehran, Calcutta, Istanbul, Moscow, and London.

Leila Banu was an honorary principal of the Dhaka Music College between 1977 to 1986. Trustee of Dhaka Museum, and represented the country in many cultural visits abroad.

She leaves behind her husband Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, their only daughter Shahnaz and grand-daughter Maisha, many relatives and friends to mourn her death.

Her quikhwani will be held on Tuesday after Asr prayers at 7 Eskaton Gardens, family sources said.

BSS adds: State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahannara Begum expressed her shock at the death of Leila Arjumand Banu.

# The Midnight File

## Fighting erupts in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Feb 10: Fighting between Bosnians and Bosnian Serb forces erupted today on the southern edge of a UN security zone surrounding the northwest Bosnian town of Bihać, a United Nations spokesman said. The fighting breached a ceasefire in force since the start of the year, reports AFP.

## Zulu chiefs meet Inkatha leaders

ULUNDI (South Africa), Feb 10: More than 200 Zulu chiefs met Friday with leaders of the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party in defiance of an order by the Zulu king to cancel the gathering. The meeting showed that Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi has the support of most of the 300 chiefs in his power struggle with King Goodwill Zwelithini, traditional leader of the nation's 7 million Zulus, reports AP.

## Passengers of 20 rickshaws robbed

Passengers of about 20 rickshaws were robbed of their cash by muggers near the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University early yesterday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a group of ten teenagers waylaid the passengers and vegetable vendors for half an hour from 6 am and took away their money at dagger-point.

They searched everybody during the 30-minute operation near the police control room and disappeared with the booties on the university campus, said a victim on condition of anonymity.

## Singapore air chief leaves Dhaka

The chief of the Republic of Singapore Air Force, Major General, Bey Soo Khian, and the members of his entourage left Dhaka yesterday, ending his three-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury saw them off at the BAF Kurmitola tarmac. Principal staff officers and senior officers of the Bangladesh Air Force were also present at the Kurmitola tarmac to bid them farewell, an ISPR press release said.

## Pilot-passenger

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Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB). The flight with 250 passengers aboard was scheduled to take off at 9:40 am, but the departure was rescheduled for 1 am today.

Witnesses said the pilot asked Leena to leave the aircraft following exchange of hot words between her and the crew.

At this stage the airport security intervened and asked the pilot to give in writing the reason for off-loading her.

Officials of the Kuwait Embassy rushed to the airport and allegedly assaulted a Civil Aviation official during an altercation with the CAAB men.

A US Embassy official later arranged a ticket for Leena to fly to the US on a Biman flight today.

Leena told UNB that she was harassed and kept confined till 5 pm. "I will take up the matter with authorities concerned in America and lodge a complaint with the Cantonment police here."

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পত্রিকা এজেন্টদের প্রতি নোটিশ

দি ডেইলী স্টার পত্রিকার যে সমস্ত এজেন্টশপ ডিসেম্বর '৯৪ মাসের বিল এবং এর পূর্বের বকেয়া টাকা পরিশোধ করেন নাই, তাদেরকে সম্পূর্ণ বকেয়া টাকা ২৫শে ফেব্রুয়ারি, ১৯৯৫-এর মধ্যে পরিশোধ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে। অনাধ্যায় বার্থ এজেন্টদের এজেন্টিতে পত্রিকা সরবরাহ বন্ধ এবং বকেয়া টাকা আদায়ের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ  
দি ডেইলী স্টার  
ফোনঃ ৫০০০৯১ (সরাসরি)  
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