

# DOWN TO EARTH

## Not much space for eternal rest

By A S M Nurunnabi

In Dhaka city, the available space in the existing graveyards is rapidly running out. This is due mainly to two factors — the growing pressure of city population and the predilection of people to reserve grave space. If the present trend continues, it is apprehended that in the next five years, scarcity of space for burial will figure as a critical issue.

There are at present five principal graveyards in the city. They are located at Azimpur, Mirpur, Banani, Jurain and Uttara. There are also some small graveyards at Shahjahanpur and other areas. From concerned sources it is learnt that at these graveyards, a daily average of 83 dead bodies brought by the relatives are interred. Besides these, a large number of unclaimed dead bodies brought by Anjuman-e-Mafidul Islam are buried at these places. The available space in these graveyards is considered inadequate in view of the growing requirement.

According to one source, in the last ten years the population of the city has increased to the extent of 20 lakh. With such rapid increase in population, the death rate has also increased. But, besides the small graveyard at Uttara, there has been no increase in the number of graveyards in the city. Practically there has been also no extension in the existing graveyards. In these circumstances, on account of the rise in death rate in the city, the available space in the existing graveyards has come under extreme pressure. In this context, according to the Mayor of the City Corporation, the city will face critical situation in the next five years if no new graveyard is opened or the existing ones are extended.

In each of the graveyards, there is provision for reservation of space for burial on payment of cost for each plot of land. The cost varies in each graveyard for current burial

and for reservation of plot for future burial. Such costs are not uniform for all the graveyards.

On account of land problem in the existing graveyards, the system of reservation of space has been discontinued in the Azimpur graveyard with rare exceptions. In the newly-opened graveyard at Uttara, there is no provision for reservation of grave space. In the Banani graveyard, the charge for reservation of space has been doubled. Till October last year, the charge for current reservation was Tk 40 thousand. Now this has been raised to Tk 60 thousand and the charge for advance reservation has been raised to Tk 1 lakh 20 thousand from the previous rate of Tk 60 thousand. In the Mirpur and Jurain graveyards, the charge for current reservation and advance reservation is fixed at Tk 25 thousand and Tk 35 thousand respectively.

Even though the City Corporation attempts to discourage reservation of grave space, it has little effect as citizens prefer to reserve grave space for their parents, and near and dear ones. Thus the system of reservation of grave space is on the rise.

In each graveyard, there is a separate general area which is earmarked for burial free of cost. In this general area, graves are dug up one year after burial to make room for further burials. Although pits in the general area are available free, burial in that area involves a good amount of expenditure for the relatives of the less privileged. This is due to the rising prices of burial materials. To relieve it somewhat, it is felt by observers that the concerned authority can write off the registration fee charged at the gates of graveyards and there should be a strict control on the prices charged for a shroud and required bamboo frame. It is apprehended in some quarters that if the present trend in rise in prices continues, the poor would be reduced to seri-

ous straits to have a relative buried.

### Manhole covers

The city life is faced with a danger of unusual nature, namely missing manhole covers. In the city there is perhaps no area where manhole covers have not been stolen. It is estimated that 1000 manhole covers are stolen every year from the streets and lanes, causing an estimated loss of Tk one million to the Dhaka WASA and the Dhaka City Corporation. These coverless manholes are each a potential death trap or a dire threat to thousands of road users, if not death, at least of serious injury. It is learnt that in the last couple of months, several people including two children died falling into the open manholes.

The way manhole cover thefts has increased all over the city seems to indicate that there may be organised gangs operating in the matter. There is therefore an urgent need to institute a probe in order to take effective steps to halt the operations of these organised groups.

A question may arise whether it is beyond available technology to develop a pilfer-proof manhole cover. As cast iron cover as presently used encourages thefts, can't we experiment with some sort of concrete blocks in their place? If the investigating agencies are more active, it is not perhaps impossible to track down the unscrupulous foundry owners who deal in such stolen manhole covers.

Sources close to Dhaka WASA and Dhaka City Corporation say that round the clock guarding the manholes is not practicable and as such public awareness was cited as the only insurance against the thefts. In the opinion of keen observers, this attitude betrays lack of due seriousness on the part of the relevant quarters. Rather it betrays the mind of the concerned agencies trying to pass the buck.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the Mayor and Ward Commissioners of Rajshahi City Corporation at her Hare Road Office in Dhaka yesterday. —PID photo

## Waste disposal project for hospitals being worked out

By Reaz Ahmad

The Directorate of Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO) are jointly working out an integrated waste disposal management project to ensure a hygienic condition in hospitals.

Sources in the Directorate told The Daily Star that experts in the local WHO office were now analysing the data collected from a random survey, styled 'Hospitals' Waste Disposal', conducted recently.

The survey was aimed at gathering information about the methods and management of waste disposal in different hospitals. Twenty hospitals in the city and adjoining areas and a few randomly selected hospitals in the country came under the survey.

To conduct the survey, copies of a questionnaire were sent to the hospitals and the answers were compiled at the Health Directorate.

However, a high official of the Health Directorate, preferring anonymity, said that a few of the hospitals concerned were yet to come up with information about their waste disposal methods. The bulk of the information about the procedures of waste disposal, already gathered, was handed over to the WHO for early analysis, the official said.

After studying all the cases, an integrated waste disposal system will be recommended. Once the recommendation is approved, a project with WHO funding will be launched, the source further said.

Against the backdrop of frequent allegations from patients about unhealthy conditions in hospitals, the survey was conducted with fund provided by the WHO.

However, a high official of the Health Directorate, preferring anonymity, said that a few of the hospitals concerned were yet to come up with information about their waste disposal methods.

The bulk of the information about the procedures of waste disposal, already gathered, was handed over to the WHO for early analysis, the official said.

After studying all the cases, an integrated waste disposal system will be recommended. Once the recommendation is approved, a project with WHO funding will be launched, the source further said.

Against the backdrop of frequent allegations from patients about unhealthy conditions in hospitals, the survey was conducted with fund provided by the WHO.

## Khaleda

From Page 1

development of the country and for addressing the problems of common man. It has also ensured a balanced development throughout the country, she said.

The RCC representatives sought the Prime Minister's intervention in resolving the problems of the Rajshahi city, including the electricity problem.

Begum Zia told them that the government had signed agreements with some foreign firms for power generation in the private sector. She hoped that more foreign institutions would come forward to this regard.

## Oklahoma

From Page 1

rescuers looking for survivors found another dozen corpses inside before they stopped counting.

Officials said earlier that 36 people were confirmed dead, including 12 children. The toll of 52 would make it the deadliest bomb attack on US soil, surpassing an incident in 1927 when a man blew up a school and killed 38 children and seven adults.

Reuter reports from Washington, the US government on Thursday offered a 2 million dollars reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the bombing. US Attorney General Janet Reno said at a news conference.

She said the reward offer was being circulated worldwide along with composite sketches of two suspects, both white males, released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) a short time earlier.

"The men are considered armed and dangerous and citizens should not attempt to take action against them but call the FBI," Reno said. She added that the Bureau was in contact with law enforcement agencies abroad as well as around the United States and added: "We are going to pursue every lead."

She, however, refused to comment on whether authorities suspected the bombers to be foreigners or Americans, and offered no specific information on the two suspects whose sketches had been developed by FBI artists.

# The Midnight File

## Gaddafi urges Iraq to violate UN sanctions

CAIRO, Apr 21: Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi has urged Iraq to follow his example and violate UN sanctions by flying its citizens to Saudi Arabia for the Muslim pilgrimage to Makka. The Libyan leader made the statement in a speech at Ghadames, a town on the border with Algeria, when he returned from a visit to the neighbouring country Thursday night. Libya's official JANA news agency reported Friday, says AP.

## Nine killed, 35 injured in road accidents

Nine people were killed and 35 others injured in separate road accidents in five districts yesterday, reports UNB. At least two people were killed and 25 others were injured when a bus fell into a roadside ditch near Rugganj on the Dhaka-Narshingdi road yesterday, police sources said.

The deceased were identified as Mohidul, 26, and Alam, 22. The bus turned turtle and fell into the roadside ditch when a truck hit the bus near Bolta under Rugganj thana at 7 am.

In Sherpur, three people were killed in two road accidents at Satmyri in Sadar thana on Nakhla-Sherpur road and Tetultala in Sadar thana yesterday.

## Share price

From Page 1

The Shine Pukur Holding sold over 60 thousand shares during the two weeks. Its shares with a face value of Tk 100 each were being sold at Tk 101.51 Thursday. Two weeks ago these were sold at Tk 105.79 each.

Other volume leaders of the two weeks included Bengal Foods which sold 39295 shares Monday last.

Market operators said that until 'real big players' operated in the DSE and new issues were released, the market would continue to be somewhat stagnant.

## Libyan flight

From Page 1

State Department officials in Washington said the United States would ask Saudi Arabia to explain why it allowed the plane to land at Jeddah and return to Tripoli on Thursday instead of impounding the aircraft.

However, western diplomats said the violation placed Washington in a different position, torn between its resolve to maintain a tough line against Tripoli and its desire to keep ties with key ally Riyadh on a secure footing.

Gaddafi, who has thanked King Fahd for allowing the Libyan plane to land, spoke by telephone with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak after returning from a visit to Algeria, the official Libyan news agency Jana said today.

It gave no details of their discussion, following the Libyan flight which passed through Egyptian airspace on its way to Jeddah.

The first two Egyptian planes carrying Libyan pilgrims, under a temporary exemption to the embargo granted by the UN sanctions committee, arrived in Jeddah overnight Thursday-Friday.

## Garments sector

From Page 1

and all factory owners were informed accordingly. At that stage, some international and non-government organisations like UNICEF, ILO, GSS and UCEP suggested that the BGMEA should not eliminate the remaining child labour at a time within the stipulated date. Acting upon their request, the BGMEA changed its decision through a news release and accepted the phased elimination of child labour. The aforesaid organisations were also assured that no further employment of child labour would be made.

The US Ambassador to Bangladesh David N Merrill organised a number of meetings with the ILO, UNICEF and BGMEA to set up schools to extend educational facilities to the working children in the garments sector for phased elimination of child labour. The BGMEA, as part of its commitment, set up three schools, one at their own cost and two under BGMEA-ILO collaboration.

The President of BGMEA said that after long-drawn out negotiations with the US Ambassador in Bangladesh and US officials, along with representatives of international organisations and NGOs, a memorandum of understanding has been drafted. The MOU contains comprehensive provisions for survey, education and monitoring programmes for elimination of child labour in Bangladesh.

The BGMEA chief said that the draft will be circulated among the general members of the association for final consideration in the next extraordinary general meeting, scheduled to be held on May 18.

While the finalisation of the draft was underway in consultation with the US Ambassador and all others concerned, it was categorically assured by the US Ambassador that no negative campaign would start in the USA against sales of Bangladeshi garments until the EGM is over," the press release noted.

Pointing out that all exports to the US carry 'Child Labour Free certificates' because not a single piece of garment exported to the US is a product of child labour, the President of the BGMEA requested that the Child Labour Coalition of the US should refrain from any negative propaganda.

The President of BGMEA said that after long-drawn out negotiations with the US Ambassador in Bangladesh and US officials, along with representatives of international organisations and NGOs, a memorandum of understanding has been drafted. The MOU contains comprehensive provisions for survey, education and monitoring programmes for elimination of child labour in Bangladesh.

The BGMEA chief said that the draft will be circulated among the general members of the association for final consideration in the next extraordinary general meeting, scheduled to be held on May 18.

While the finalisation of the draft was underway in consultation with the US Ambassador and all others concerned, it was categorically assured by the US Ambassador that no negative campaign would start in the USA against sales of Bangladeshi garments until the EGM is over," the press release noted.

Pointing out that all exports to the US carry 'Child Labour Free certificates' because not a single piece of garment exported to the US is a product of child labour, the President of the BGMEA requested that the Child Labour Coalition of the US should refrain from any negative propaganda.

The President of BGMEA said that after long-drawn out negotiations with the US Ambassador in Bangladesh and US officials, along with representatives of international organisations and NGOs, a memorandum of understanding has been drafted. The MOU contains comprehensive provisions for survey, education and monitoring programmes for elimination of child labour in Bangladesh.

and all factory owners were informed accordingly. At that stage, some international and non-government organisations like UNICEF, ILO, GSS and UCEP suggested that the BGMEA should not eliminate the remaining child labour at a time within the stipulated date. Acting upon their request, the BGMEA changed its decision through a news release and accepted the phased elimination of child labour. The aforesaid organisations were also assured that no further employment of child labour would be made.

The US Ambassador to Bangladesh David N Merrill organised a number of meetings with the ILO, UNICEF and BGMEA to set up schools to extend educational facilities to the working children in the garments sector for phased elimination of child labour. The BGMEA, as part of its commitment, set up three schools, one at their own cost and two under BGMEA-ILO collaboration.

The President of BGMEA said that after long-drawn out negotiations with the US Ambassador in Bangladesh and US officials, along with representatives of international organisations and NGOs, a memorandum of understanding has been drafted. The MOU contains comprehensive provisions for survey, education and monitoring programmes for elimination of child labour in Bangladesh.

The BGMEA chief said that the draft will be circulated among the general members of the association for final consideration in the next extraordinary general meeting, scheduled to be held on May 18.

While the finalisation of the draft was underway in consultation with the US Ambassador and all others concerned, it was categorically assured by the US Ambassador that no negative campaign would start in the USA against sales of Bangladeshi garments until the EGM is over," the press release noted.

Pointing out that all exports to the US carry 'Child Labour Free certificates' because not a single piece of garment exported to the US is a product of child labour, the President of the BGMEA requested that the Child Labour Coalition of the US should refrain from any negative propaganda.

The President of BGMEA said that after long-drawn out negotiations with the US Ambassador in Bangladesh and US officials, along with representatives of international organisations and NGOs, a memorandum of understanding has been drafted. The MOU contains comprehensive provisions for survey, education and monitoring programmes for elimination of child labour in Bangladesh.

The BGMEA chief said that the draft will be circulated among the general members of the association for final consideration in the next extraordinary general meeting, scheduled to be held on May 18.

While the finalisation of the draft was underway in consultation with the US Ambassador and all others concerned, it was categorically assured by the US Ambassador that no negative campaign would start in the USA against sales of Bangladeshi garments until the EGM is over," the press release noted.

Pointing out that all exports to the US carry 'Child Labour Free certificates' because not a single piece of garment exported to the US is a product of child labour, the President of the BGMEA requested that the Child Labour Coalition of the US should refrain from any negative propaganda.

The President of BGMEA said that after long-drawn out negotiations with the US Ambassador in Bangladesh and US officials, along with representatives of international organisations and NGOs, a memorandum of understanding has been drafted. The MOU contains comprehensive provisions for survey, education and monitoring programmes for elimination of child labour in Bangladesh.

The BGMEA chief said that the draft will be circulated among the general members of the association for final consideration in the next extraordinary general meeting, scheduled to be held on May 18.

## Businessmen's conference in Rajshahi today

RAJSHAHI, Apr 21: A conference of traders and industrialists of Rajshahi division will be held at the local stadium tomorrow, reports BSS.

Organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the conference, first of its kind, will discuss various problems faced by the traders and industrialists of the country, particularly in the northern region.

Salman F Rahman, President, FBCCI, will attend the function as chief guest. Besides, several chamber leaders will also address the conference.

Meanwhile, a press conference was held at the Rajshahi Chamber Bhaban today with chamber president Mohammad Ali Sarkar in the chair.

## Tea production

From Page 1

tea producing company, which has 20 gardens, said that all those gardens were affected by the drought. "Initially my company estimated the crop-loss at 12 per cent, but now it appears that it may go higher by the end of the season," he said.

Bangladesh has set a tea production target of 54 million kg for 1995, most of which earmarked for exports, officials said. Last year, Bangladesh produced 52 million kg of tea, an increase of two million kg, compared with that of previous years. Since 1990, annual tea production crossed 45 million kg and has been maintaining an upward trend, official reports said.

Bangladesh tea faced this blow of drought at the time when steps were taken to raise yields to minimise cost of production, officials pointed out. Average per hectare yield of tea reached a record of 1057 kg in 1993, up from 844 kg in 1989, official reports said. The country exported 23.73 million kg of tea from July to March of 94-95 fiscal as against 23.48 million kg during the same period in 93-94 fiscal, the report added.

But due to downward trend in price, the earning against tea export from July to March of 94-95 fell to Taka 109 crore from Taka 130 crore during the corresponding period of 93-94 fiscal, reports said. Export price of tea in current fiscal fell to Taka 46 from Taka 55 per kg in the previous year.

Bangladesh exports tea to 25 countries. The per capita consumption in the country is 200 gram.



Lady Diana makes a funny face after Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten (L) shows her the direction of the press group covering her arrival in Hong Kong on a three-day visit yesterday. —AFP photo

## Six die in incidents

From Page 1

terday morning. The injured were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where Mohammad Alam, 22, and Mohammad Shahidul, 26, were declared dead by the attending doctors.

The injured admitted to the DMCH are Saleh Mohammad, Nazrul, Shafikul, Sharbesh, Abdul Ahad, Jahannara, Morgina, Anwara, Laylee, Sufia, Sahana, Hajera, Nargis, Saleha, Rekha, Lipi, Sajeda, Jhamrani, Jahannara and another who could not be immediately identified.

In another incident, a student of Nawabganj Adarsa Madrasah drowned in a canal at Kamrangirchar while going for bath yesterday at about 1 pm. The victim identified as Mohammad Abu Shahin, 8, was son of one Araj Ali Bepary.

A 40-year-old Mohammad Abdur Rahim was electrocuted while making a house at Purana Palton yesterday afternoon. A pedestrian was run over by a speeding truck at Tejaon area in the city Thursday afternoon.

The victim Shahinoor, 7, son of one Idris Ali died after admission to the DMCH. A signal man of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) reportedly committed suicide at Pilkhana in the city Thursday night.

The signal man Dharendra Nath Paul, 30, son of Santosh Paul killed himself by hanging with a rope at the servants' quarter of Major Moshir Rahman's residence. Paul was an employee at the Signal Training School at Pilkhana. Police recovered his

body and sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

A student of Class Three of the CNB Primary School was injured when two groups of musclemen clashed at Dholaiapur in the city yesterday afternoon.

The victim Monir, 10, was admitted to the DMCH with bullet injuries in his throat. In another incident, one Iskander, 24, received hand bomb injuries at Moghbazar while he was crossing the road at about 12:30 pm yesterday. Iskander was admitted to the DMCH.

## Tamils kill 5 policemen

COLOMBO, Apr 21: Tamil rebels killed five policemen as the navy destroyed two rebel boats and shelled their bases in the first offensive since guerrillas broke off peace talks two days ago, officials said today, reports AP.

At least 23 people have been killed in the resumed hostility, officials said.

## Queen Aishwarya's heel fractured

KATHMANDU, Apr 21: Queen Aishwarya of Nepal fractured her heel after a fall this morning at the royal family's private resort at Narayanghat, south of here, a hospital source said, reports AFP.

She was flown back to Kathmandu and admitted to the Birendra Military Hospital around 2:30 pm (local time). No further details were available on her condition.

## ঢাকা ওয়াসা বিজ্ঞপ্তি

(পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হোন, বাড়িতে নির্দিষ্ট মাপের জলাধার নির্মাণ করুন)

লক্ষ্য করা গেছে, আধুনিক পয়ঃনিষ্কাশনের ব্যবস্থা চালু থাকা সত্ত্বেও নগরীতে বিশেষ করে পুরাতন ঢাকার অনেক হোন্ডিংয়ে স্বাস্থ্যসম্মত পয়ঃসংযোগ গ্রহণ না করে অবৈধভাবে রাস্তার পাশের খোলা ডেনের সাথে কাঁচা পায়খানার সংযোগ দেয়া হয়েছে। এতে সংশ্লিষ্ট এলাকার পরিবেশ মারাত্মকভাবে দূষিত হচ্ছে।

পরিবেশ দূষণমুক্ত রাখার তথা সার্বিক জনস্বাস্থ্যের স্বার্থে অবিলম্বে উপরোক্ত অবৈধ কার্যকলাপ বন্ধ করতঃ হোন্ডিংয়ে স্বাস্থ্যসম্মত পয়ঃসংযোগ গ্রহণের জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট হোন্ডিংয়ের মালিকগণকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

সুষ্ঠু ও স্বাভাবিক পয়ঃনিষ্কাশন ব্যবস্থা নিশ্চিতকরণের স্বার্থে পয়ঃমানহোল বা পয়ঃপিটের ভিতর গৃহস্থালীর আবর্জনা না ফেলা এবং পয়ঃলাইনের সাথে অবৈধভাবে বাড়ির বা রাস্তার পাশের সারফেস ডেনের সংযোগ না দেয়ার জন্যও সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে সর্বিশেষ অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

ইদানিং মহানগরীতে ম্যানহোলের ঢাকনা চুরির প্রবণতা ব্যাপকভাবে বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে যা জনসাধারণের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা ব্যতীত রোধ করা সম্ভব নয়। তাই পয়ঃলাইনের ম্যানহোলের ঢাকনা চুরি রোধে ঢাকা ওয়াসা জনসাধারণের সক্রিয় সহযোগিতা কামনা করছে।

আপনাদের সেবায় নিয়োজিত

ওয়াসা-জঃতঃ ১২৩/৯৫

D-401

গণনা

ঢাকা ওয়াসা

**Protein Vitamins iron-rich health food SPIRULINA**

Cultivated under BCSIR Supervision available in Dhaka.

Dolce Vita, Banani

Civic Point Pharmacy (Science Labs, Police Box.)

Lazz Pharma

Jobaida S. Market.

United Drug Stores (Near P. G. Hospital)

BANGLADESH SPIRULINA Co. Ltd