# SAVE DEAKA

Not long ago, baton-wielding policemen of Dhaka could be seen chasing sheepish-looking fellows sitting in rows and urinating in public places, particularly at the Gulistan, Farmgate and Azimpur areas.

Newspapers often displayed prominently the predicaments of those poor creatures running off the spots during police swoop, sometimes with their call of nature unheeded!

Though for a brief period of time, these crowded areas enjoyed an atmosphere free of the sickening stench from the open-air urination, but the acute problem of public toilets in Dhaka city still remains unresolved.

The public toilets in our capital, in a way, symbolise the authoritarian attitude of the city fathers to their humble tax-payers for whom restrooms outside their residences are usually a bizarre experience.

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has so far installed only 16 public toilets across the capital.

The figure is extremely insufficient compared to the needs of thousands of people who have to relieve themselves every day while they are on the streets.

The total population of the city is nearly four million while the total area is about 445 square-kilometer.

Besides, there are thousands who come from outside the city for the day's work.

'facilities' often vow not to return there ever after.

gle... I mean the city." grumbled Mir Aminul Islam, a resi dent of Rampura.

"Yet, unlike the jungle, you vacv," he said

mostly dark inside, the floors wet and slippery, the urinals a yellowish brown and slimy for lack of cleaning for a long for using the urinal pans and The pipes that drain down

the human wastes are often non-existent, leaving unaware citizens with wet shoes. However, the leaseholders

of these public toilets who charge a fee for the privilege of using the facilities sometimes are often kind enough to place a few bricks amid pools of urine to facilitate the passage.

For water, you have to use your own tissue paper or carry your own thrown away condensed milk cans.

Toilet pans are overflowing because there are some problems in the flush or in the

Warrant of arrest

against ex-JP MP

By Court Correspondent

issued against Rafigul Islam

Rony, a former MP of the

Jativa Party, for his alleged

false, baseless and defamatory

remarks against a high official.

Metropolitan Magistrate

(CMM), Dhaka, issued the war-

rant on Tuesday upon a peti-

tion filed by Dr Mohiuddin Kh

an Alamgir, Secretary, Ministry

petition that the accused had

tarnished his image before the

government and the people by

making false remarks at a

press conference on March 23

the petition on behalf of Dr

Prayers for rain

From Page I

Maulana Emdadul Haq led the

prayers followed my munajat at

throughout the country have

been requested to hold

Ishtishkar prayers to seek

many districts has severely af-

fected standing crops while

temperatures in the northern

districts have soared up to 43

Budget

Import duty, during the

last three fiscal years, has

been reduced by about 36 per

cent on average on all imports

and the number of tariff slabs

operative import duty has to-

date come down to 60 per

cent from 100 per cent in

1990-91, the average tariff

rate now stands at 28 per cent.

age tariff has been brought

down to 22 per cent during

the first half of the current fis-

cal from 24 per cent last year

(VAT), according to a source in

the National Board of Revenue

(NBR), the coming budget

would only focus on strength-

ening of VAT administration.

As for the Value Added Tax

(1993-94).

And again, weighted aver-

While the highest rate of

From Page 1

up of the import regime.

reduced from 12 to 5.

The current drought in

blessings of the Almighty.

Authorities of all mosques

Advocate Badrul Hag moved

at the Jativa Press Club.

Alamgir.

about 10:15 am.

degrees Celsius.

The plaintiff stated in his

of Science and Technology.

The court of the Chief

A warrant of arrest has been

URBANISATION & HOUSING: PART - 5

### Better not to use them at all

By Masud Hasan Khan



— Star photo

A so-called public toilet near Gulistan. sewage lines.

Relieving becomes even more difficult at night. Most of Those who are forced to the toilets lack any light bulbs enjoy a trip inside these civic and you don't know where you

May be, in the darkened "It has become a big jun- corner you have chosen, there is another innocent soul relieving himself, completely unaware of your intrusion.

Those who own the leasedo not have the minimum pri- holds of these public amenities are very smart in collecting The public toilets are the charges but absolutely lazy when the question of maintenance comes up.

Usually, the rate is 50 paisa taka one for the latrines.

"We are doing our best. commented a sweeper at the New Market public toilet. "But we cannot buy toilet fittings or disinfectants from our own pockets if the leaseholder does not provide for them."

This particular toilet facilitiy pays nearly Taka 10 lakh to the exchequer ever year, according to the DCC.

Monitoring the regular servicing of these public totlets rests on the DCC. However, Corporation officials claim that they do it regularly.

A senior DCC official, who declined to be named, said

NEW DELHI, May 3: Indian

and Sri Lankan leaders are

working on a plan to contain a

separatist uprising in Sri

Lanka, diplomats said today,

although the two countries

maintained official secrecy

over the talks, reports Reuter.

"This is a very grave situa-

tion and confidentiality is of

paramount importance." Sri

Lankan Foreign Minister Lak-

shman Kadirgamar told Reu-

ters when asked whether the

two countries had discussed a

possible role for India in the

further on Tuesday's talks be-

tween Sri Lankan President

Chandrika Bandaranaike Ku-

maratunga and Indian Prime

leaders had discussed a likely

logistical role for India in Sri

Lanka's battle against intensi-

fied attacks by the Liberation

Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

Sri Lankan President asked

Rao to what extent he could

get involved," one diplomat

said. The Indian position is

yet to be spelt out but the re-

LTTE last week raised the in-

tensity of its 12-year-old

guerilla war by downing two air

force planes, killing 94 people.

Manju

From Page

nent: "Release Ershad and

give fair elections to allow the

people to choose their party

and leader to run the country."

He said Ershad had won all

the five seats in 1991 election

which the JP contested against

adverse conditions. "The peo-

ple gave him and 34 others JP

leaders their mandate in the

for destroying the administra-

tive decentralisation intro-

duced by Ershad. "It is not fair

to say that everything the pre-

vious government did was bad.

This attitude would not bring

welfare to the nation and the

He blamed the government

polls," he added.

country, he said

Diplomats said India might

The talks came after the

sponse was positive."

"Our information is that the

But diplomats said the two

Minister P V Narasimha Rao.

He declined to comment

conflict.

guerillas.

that the monitoring ceases be cause of the intense palmgreasing that takes place between the leaseholders of the public toilets and the moni

DCC sources informed this correspondent that some of the toilets are never leased out because no one competes in the annual bidding. This happens because a

section of City Corporation officials run these toilets, either in pseudonyms or in the name of their relatives, they said. The toilets in the marketplaces are run by those who

have strong economic ties with the management committees of the markets. So they run these toilets without really caring for the convenience of the people."

said one source.

India, Lanka working

on plan to curb LTTE

The lack of adequate toilet facilities has also put a big question mark on the responsibilities of the owners of public facilities such as marketplaces, shopping arcades and cinema halls.

The owners of private markets like Noor Mansion. Chandni Chawk, Gausia, Ramna Bhaban and smaller shopping

be reluctant to send troops

into action against the Tigers

after its failed effort to crush

the Tamil rebellion when

former Indian Prime Minister

Rajiv Gandhi sent in troops in

ing 60,000 at their peak, even-

tually pulled out in March

1990, after two and a half

years of indecisive warfare in

which some 1,100 Indians

were killed. At one point

former Sri Lankan President

Ranasinghe Premadasa was so

keen to see the back of the

Indians that he was arming the

mats in Sri Lanka said India

could help with a naval

blockade and logistical sup-

port, adding that it was un-

likely to commit troops to the

with Indian help," a western

diplomat told Reuters on

Tuesday. India could mount a

sea blockade for a start (to cut

do not know how much Sri

Lanka is ready to ask for and

how much India is prepared to

Declaration

India, which exploded a mi-

clear device in 1974, refuses

to sign the Nuclear Non-prolif-

eration Treaty saying it is dis-

criminatory and accuses

Pakistan of developing a bomb.

a charge denied by Pakistan

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

upon developing countries not

to impose new trade barriers

such as the proposed social.

clause. Carpets and other ex-

ports from India and Pakistan

have been affected by such

The news agency said the

seven members also approved

a comprehensive strategy to

fight poverty in one of the

world's poorest regions, home

to one-fifth of the global popu-

lation and prone to natural dis-

plan to 'eradicate' poverty by

SAARC members say they

legislation in Europe.

asters.

the year 2002.

The declaration also called

From Page

"As for active measures, !

off Tamil rebel supplies).

"Sri Lanka surely could do

Defence analysts and diplo-

LTTE to fight them.

island again.

The Indian troops, number-

places hardly care for the convenience of their customers. even though business worth lakhs of taka are transacted at these places everyday.

Usually, each of these marketplaces has one toilet, but these are either closed or their conditions are abominable.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK) officials said that they could not force the private owners to install toilets, because there were no

Talking to The Daily Star.

"What would be the number of toilets in one factory rests completely on the owner," said Zakir Hossain, Chief Town Planner of RAJUK. For the ladies, the problem

is even more excruciating and very often they are forced to seek the key from the shop owners to use their private toi-

Under the circumstances men can but helplessly use the public totlets without looking at other's eyes but the lack of minimum provisions for the women puts on trial the civic tastes of our city fathers.

Hot spell to

continue

has been sweeping the country

for the last few weeks will con-

tinue for some more days, the

Storm Warning Centre said in

the city yesterday, reports

likely to rise further by one to

two degrees Celsius over the

Hasina asks PM

From Page 1

advocate Matiur Rahman,

Mirza Azam and Abdul Kalam

Hasina also addressed a

meeting at Melandah Pilot

High School ground commem-

orating the death of Kabir

Hossain who was killed during

a fertiliser agitation there on

Addressing the meeting,

Hasina blamed the Prime

Minister for the fertiliser cri-

sis and said BNP men were

given dealerships of the much

needed agri-input at her

(PM's) instruction. She con-

demned the government for

what she alleged killing 18

farmers and 17 workers dur-

Accusing the BNP men of

making illegal money to the

tune of Tk 400 crore exploit-

ing the fertiliser crisis, Hasina

ridiculed the Prime Minister

for trying to blame the

The Awami League chief

said if her party returns to

power, it will provide subsidy

to agricultural sector and give

priority to the agro-based in-

Parliament and the govern-

ment have "become illegal

with the Opposition resigna-

tion." She demanded resigna-

tion of the Prime Minister 90

days ahead of general elections

and handover power to a neu-

tral caretaker government to

Hasina addressed several way-

side rallies, including at

Hatubhanga, Banshtatl, Taktar-

chal, Shakhipur, Deolabari and

were erected on the rout as

About 100 welcome arches

On her way to Jamalpur,

conduct the polls.

Madhupur.

Hasina said the present

dustries.

Opposition for the situation.

ing their recent movement.

March 30.

country during this period.

Day temperatures are also

The hot and dry spell that

In most cases, it's better not to use the so-called public toilets if one can help it.

#### Rahman - was deferred till May 21 following a petition submitted by their lawyers who

From Page 1

there would be no scope for Latif to tamper with the evidence or investigation of the

Assistant Commissioner Baktiar Hossain Bhuiyan, who represented the prosecution, argued that Latif's involvement in the murder of Manzur was revealed in his voluntary confessional statement, recorded earlier by a magistrate in Dhaka.

Besides, sufficient evidence has already been gathered and more would soon be unearthed about Latif's involvement in the murder of General Abul Manzur in 1981, the AC (prosecution) said.

He also said that even the dead body of Manzur was not handed over to his relatives in a bid to suppress the incident. Public prosecutor Abu Saleh

### School teacher's ex-husband again placed on

band of a city school teacher. who was held for four days in the Dhaka Central Jail on a fake conviction order, was placed on police remand yesinterrogation.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM). Dhaka, Shahiduddin Ahmed, rejected the bail petition of the accused.

four-day police remand.

granted a four-day remand. Hosne Ara Shelly, the

Court, Rangpur.

CMM's Court. Dhaka, on April 27 following an enquiry.

### 3 die in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent Three persons including a

woman were killed in separate incidents in the city yesterday A share trader Nizamuddin, 35, was killed at Mirpur when a speedy truck hit his motorbike near West Monipur at about 11 am. Family sources said that

certificates worth Taka 55 thousand and cash Taka 25 thousand. Police seized the truck

while its driver, however. managed to escape.

Meanwhile, an unknown female aged about 55 succumbed to her injuries on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. She received serious injuries as a bus hit her near Bangla Motor crossing in the morning.

In another incident a businessman Kazi Nuruddin Khorail crossing in the afternoon.

always been a staunch champion of regional cooperation and played a pioneering role in establishing the South Asian Association for Regional

Cooperation (SAARC). Strongly pleading for steady flow of Official Develop ment Assistance (ODA), for combating poverty in South

meeting is being attended by

the representatives of 52

member countries, interna-

tional agencies and financial

Saifur said Bangladesh has

institutions, and NGOs.

### For details see Page 6

Asia and some other transitional economies of Asia, Saifur regretted that 75 per cent of the world's poor receive only 25 per cent of the ODA.

Due to political considera tions, he said, 40 per cent of aid is earmarked for strateginual meeting of the Board of a cally important countries and twice as much as the ODA per capita goes to high military spenders compared to coun-tries with moderate military budget.

> The finance minister said aid as a percentage of the Gross National Product (GNP) of the traditional donors has remained at less than 0.35 per cent, half of the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of the GNP. Flow of concessional funds from the ODA and ADB is also plummeting.

said they could not yet meet

their clients to collect ade-

quate information for moving

Judge barred pressmen from

recording the proceedings of

the court on their cassette

recorders and ordered the

seizure of two micro cassette

recorders. But those were re-

Second phase of

DU Senate

polls held

By Staff Correspondent

of the 25 registered graduates'

election to the Dhaka Univer-

sity Senate was held on the

was held in 12 centres outside

of some 5400 cast their votes

from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm yes

terdays at the Teachers'

Students' Centre (TSC) of the

ballots was continuing till fil-

ing of this report last night

sources said. The official results of the

polls will be declared at 3:00

Sandhani office at

SSMC ransacked

By SSMCH Correspondent

edly belonging to the Jati-

vatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)

ransacked the office of the Sir

Salimullah Medical College

unit of Sandhani yesterday

the agitating youths attacked

the office following a conflict

between the JCD and the pro-

visited the spot and expressed

deployed in different spots of

the college yesterday. Tension

The president and the sec

retary general of the Sandhani

Eye Donation Society con

demned the incident.

was prevailing on the campus.

concern over the incident.

, Awami League Chhatra League.

Campus sources said that

The Principal of the college

Meanwhile, police were

A group of youths report-

Meanwhile, the counting of

The first phase of the polls

As many as 3481 voters out

campus yesterday.

Dhaka Sunday last.

university.

pni on May 6

The second and final phase

leased after the day's hearing.

Meanwhile, the Sessions

the bail petitions.

### Manzur murder case Major Emdad and Col Shamsur

Saifur at ADB seminar in Auckland

Closer regional ties must

for economic growth

Finance Minister M Saifur

Rahman yesterday said, con-

tinued regional cooperation is

a key factor in maintaining sta-

bility in Asia, much needed for

sustained economic growth

and promotion of trade, in-

vestment and technology

conducive framework within

which military expenditure

may be drastically reduced in

favour of urgent development

priorities, Saifur said at a sem-

inar on the Asia's development

agenda in the New Zealand city

way to harness common re-

sources to mutual advantage

and increase the volume of in-

Zealand James Bolger inaugu-

rated the seminar organised in

connection with the 28th an-

Governors of the Asian

Development Bank that will

conclude on May 5, according

to a message received in

Minister was one of the key-note speakers along with the

Deputy Prime Minister of New

Zealand, the Deputy Prime

Minister of Thailand and the

Minister of New Zealand and

Chairman of the Board of

Governors Bill Birch, the ADB

Presided over by Finance

Finance Minister of Australia.

The Bangladesh Finance

He said it is also the only

Prime Minister of New

Such egoperation provides

transfer, reports UNB.

of Auckland.

Dhaka.

tra-regional trade.

argued that at this stage of investigations, it was not fit to consider any ball for the ac-

The hearing of the bail prayers for Latif's co-accused —

## police remand

By Court Correspondent

Mostafa Miah, former husterday for another four days for

Mostafa, arrested on April 27. was produced in the CMM's court yesterday after a

Police yesterday prayed for a 10-day remand but the court

school teacher, was arrested from her Shahjahanpur residence in the city on the night of April 23 by police on a fake conviction order for murder issued in the name of the District and Sessions Judge's

She was set free by the

#### Search for coal From Page 1 Birampur, Fulbari and Nawab-

ganj thanas of Dinajpur and Mithapukur, Peergani and Badarganj thanas of Rangpur Sources said that BHP is

expected to invest about 400 million US dollars for the project with the Bangladesh government having no financial involvement The government will get

annual leasing fees for the land Nizamuddin was carrying share during the exploration period while the company will also pay royalty for any coal extracted. BHP is likely to complete

the seismic tests by next month and go for drilling early next winter. The entire exploration work is being done with the company's own equipment and machinery.

### The Midnight Kile

BONN May 3: The Dalai Larna was received Wednesday as an official guest in Germany and appealed to his hosts to intercede with China for more autonomy for his Tibetan homeland. The Nobel Peace Prize-winner is to hold talks on Thursday with Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and will meet

### Water talks today

any subversive activities. Replying to another question from an Indian newsman whether the matter of 'illegal migration came up in the discussions between the two prime ministers, Rahman said no such issue was raised. He told another questioner

that no transit' issue figured in the talks between the prime

Meanwhile, the SAAR leaders were holding a day long retreat at the hill resort of Shimla today to discuss regional political differences and other issues. Officials said the six leaders

would use the informal occasion to discuss contentious issues. The SAARC charter bans raising such issues at its formal meetings, says Reuter.

SAARC officials said Sri Lankañ presjdent Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga flew home this morning, cut ting short her stay to confront an upsurge in Sri Lanka's war with Tamil rebeis.

Diplomats said she discussed the situation with Judian Prime Minister P V Narasunha Rao. But they did not say whether the two countries had talked about the possibility of jointly meeting the challenge by Sri Lanka's separatist Tamil militants

#### Oil exploration From Page 1

sources told The Daily Star, it is expected to be okayed by the last week of this month,

The PSC for Chittagong and some parts of the hill tracts known as Block 15 — has been formulated in line with the PSC for Block-16 submitted by the same companies. The PSC for Block-16 was

approved in May last year, allowing the two companies to begin seismic survey in the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Cox's Bazar-Sandwip region from January this year. On November 15 last year,

the companies initialled the PSC for Block-15 which covers the Semutang gas filed. This unutilised gas field has a reserve of about 100 billion cubic feet of gas and the companies proposed to supply gas to the national grid through the Chittagong-Bakhrabad line by developing the reserve.

If the cabinet okays the PSC, it would be sent to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) for vetting and the Petrobangla would invite representatives of Cairn Ple and Holland Sea Search for signing the linal agreement.

Meanwhilet the setsmic survey data of Block-16, which covers 1900 kms in straight measurement, has been processed completely for assimilation and analysis.

The survey was completed in March last.

The first meeting of the Joint Review Committee of US oil company Occidental and the Petrobangla was held a few days ago. Occidental, which was permitted to explore hydrocarbon reserves in Sylhet and Netrokona regions under Blocks-12, 13 and 14 about two months ago, is expected to begin seismic survey by next month, sources said.

### ADP fund From Page 1

and Family Planning Services Project (PP: 1991-97), 24 packages have been taken up so far for implementation. Only Taka 30,68 crore or 19.08 per cent of the total project cost of Taka 160.88 crore was spent during the first three years while another Taka 15.14 crore was spent during the first eight months of the current fiscal. Out of Taka 49 crore, ADP

allocation for EPI or the Expanded Programme of Immunisation (PP: 1993-95), Taka 21.65 crore or 44.20 per cent was utilised during the same period of this fiscal.

expected to be involved in bilateral discussions with Pakistan's president Farooq Leghari and Bangladeshi

Leghari and Rao met for 40

ral ceremony. Leghari said SAARC could not become an effective forum without more open dialogue at its meetings on mutual political differences.

seeking a regional pact against nuclear weapons, but evoked no public response from Rao. Khaleda obliquely referred

about an Indian dam on the Ganges river, which Dhaka says has created a huge desert in its north. "The Himalayan range is a major source of hydro-electric-

the benefit of all the people of our region. The group's two most impoverished nations are the landlocked kingdoms of Bhutan and Nepal. They are engaged in a dispute over the

Mohan Adhikary said such issues could be discussed at SAARC forums.

From Page 1 resolve the feud, one minister

the coming elections." the BNP attended the conference at the Hare Road office of the Prime Minister for interac-

gearing up party activities ahead of the next elections. The district leaders had expressed the view that the gap between the party central leaders and mid-level leaders had widened. The party might suffer a setback in the next

polls if immediate actions are not taken put an end to such a situation , they warned

### From Page 1

Towhidi, however, adds that the actual date for the handover has not been fixed yet. "We will not accept the plant unless we are fully satisfied. My job is to ensure that

handed over on January 31, equipment.

The company MD notes that the reason the plant had to be shut down a number of times was because certain items of equipment were not performing satisfactorily and repair measures had to be undertaken. Some of the faulty equipment are due to be replaced later in the year at the cost of the contractor, he says.

Towhidi, however, feels that the problems may have been resolved at last. "We believe that the mechanical problems of the recent past are over and that we can look forward to the future with much greater confidence," he

New

messagé

next day,

### WHY TO SWALLOW ANTACIDS WITHOUT KNOWING THE EXACT CAUSE?

disease you have in your Oesophagus, stomach, duodenum etc. Endoscopy is no more a terrible unpleasant procedure. It can be easily done under sedation with video recording of your Gastro intestinal tract in Bangladesh.

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88 02-863035, GPO Box No. 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

### Dalai Lama in Germany 🤲

with leaders of German political parties, reports AP.

prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia over major political differminutes yesterday after the inauguration of the summit meeting in Delhi where both

aired their differences on a bloody dispute over Kashmir. in his speech at the inaugu-

Western nations are worried that the region faces a nuclear threat, saying India and Pakistan are capable of building nuclear weapons fairly quickly.

Leghari raised the issue. to Bangladesh's reservations

ity." she told SAARC leaders. We must consider how much we can share this resource for

treatment of ethnic Nepalis in Bhutan. Nepali prime minister Man

said, adding, "The central leadership would also be careful in nominating candidates in More than 6,000 leaders from 20 political districts of

tion among them and for

KAFCO

KAFCO gets a fair deal." The plant was due to be

1995 with the penalty being due after a two-week grace period from February 15. Since going into trial production for the first time on December 15 last year, the factory had earlier lost nearly two months of production time due to shutdowns caused by some faulty

Endoscopy give you exact diagnosis whatever the

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

#### BHP had been showing interest in coal exploration in **Editor**: Mahfuz Anam Bangladesh since 1986 and submitted specific proposals to the government accordingly. However, it took almost eight years for the authorities to

thousands of people at differkon, 46, was killed when a ent points shouted slogans and train ran over him at Khilgaon come to a decision in this reshowered petals to greet Hasina