SAWE DHAKA

Random parking of vehicles on busy streets, unauthorised bus stops and encroachment of the footpaths by hawkers have narrowed down most of the city's main roads, contributing to traffic congestion.

Commercial areas like Motifheel. Dilkusha, New Market, Gausia. Mirpur Road, Elephant Road, Green Road North-South Road, Mitford Road, the Gulistan-crossing Bangabandhu Avenue, Mouc hak. Maghbazar and Farmgate areas daily witness a jungle of cars during the daytime. Most of these roads are crowded with vehicles parked in a haphazard manner.

Hundreds of trucks occupy the road from Siddig Bazar to Mitford, Fulbaria to Chankhar-

The number of markets is increasing everyday, but most of them have no parking space of their own. Most multi-storied buildings in Motifheel have no proper space to accommodate vehicles, as a resuit of which cars remain parked on the roads.

The City Corporation (DCC) has 90 markets including 22 supermarkets. Almost all of them have no parking place. Hundreds of vehicles remain parked in front of Gausia. Mouchak, the Century Arcade. Farmview market. Green Supermarket. Dhanmondi Hawk ers Market Gulshan Supermarket and Eastern Plaza.

The Deputy Commissioner of Traffic Mushtag Hossain Khan said, the markets have been constructed in an unplanned way. The Rajdhani Unnavan - Kartripakkha (RAJUK) did not give enough consideration to the need for car parking while giving its approval for building markets.

"There must be a concrete plan for a city having over six million people. Open spaces for parking must be there to maintain free flow of vehicular traffic," Mushtaq said.

At Motifheel, the otherwise wide road virtually becomes a single lane path with hundreds of cars parked on either side. Buses of different commercial houses also occupy a considerable portion of the road.

Important city thorough fares have gone under the oc cupation of bus and truck own ers for parking their vehicles which has led to serious traffic iams in most areas

Several unauthorised bus terminals have also cropped up in the busy Gulistan, Fulbaria, Fakirerpool and Jatrabari areas. Yet the authorities have taken no effective steps to re-

Many people, even the bus drivers themselves do not know that the Fulbaria bus stand is not an authorised

3 killed, 23 hurt

KHULNA, May 15: Three

in road accidents

people were killed and four

others injured when an au-

torickshaw collided head-on

with a bus carrying newspa-

pers today on Khulna-Jessore

highway near the Phultala

health complex. 16 kilometres

eve-witnesses, drivers of both

the bus and the autorickshaw

lost control over their vehicles

The antorickshaw was totally

Zaman, 45, died on the spot.

Sony. Russel, Naimul and

Hasan were admitted to the

Phultala health complex and

KNM health complex with in-

its driver managed to escape.

eteen persons were wounded

seriously in two separate road

accidents on the Dhaka-Chitta

gong highway near Comilla

morning seven persons were

wounded when two passenger

buses collided head-on at

Beltoli, four kilometres south

the afternoon 12 persons were

wounded when the driver of a

Dhaka-Sonaimori bus lost con-

trol and turned turtle at

Korpai, 12 kilometres west of

admitted to the local hospital.

The wounded persons were

IRBD report

From Page 1

World Bank. Finance Secretary

Nasimuddin Ahmed and advi-

sor of the National Board of

Revenue (NBR) Dr Zaidi Sattar.

They will dwell on macro-

will be held which will be par-

ticipated by politicians, par-

liamentarians, officials and

donor agencies' representa-

sions will be held on industries

and external sector, agricul-

ture sector, health, population

and education sector and

poverty alleviation.

On the second day, discus-

Later, a general discussion

economy and fiscal sectors.

In the second accident in

In the first accident in the

Police seized the bus, but

BSS adds from Comilla: Nin-

Babu, 20, Mintu, 25, and

According to police and

away from city.

smashed.

town today.

of the town.

Comilla town.

move these impediments.

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT: Part - 2 When roads become lanes

By Krishna P Roy



This big pothole in the city's Khilgaon Sipahibagh Road has been left unrepaired for quite - Star photo

terminal. Bus 'owners and drivers are of the opinion that they have been compelled to set up a terminal at Fulbaria since there is no central downtown terminal for vehicles operating on the town

area has been of necessity turned into a terminal for the town service buses. There are, however, four authorised terminals in the city, for use by

Over the past years, a bus stand has also emerged at inner Circular Road (Fakirer pool) for particular use by the big airconditioned Dhaka-Chittagong buses.

erators have set up their of-

An office-bearer of the AC Bus-Coach Owners' Association. Mohammad Ali, defended the parking of their vehicles on the roads by saying that there is no alternative option.

"We have called upon the government to provide us with a suitable place. If the government obliges, we shall leave the roads," he said matter-of-

He said. "Crores of taka are involved in our business. We do not want to keep our valuable buses on the roads."

In this connection he said

housed the Hardeo Glass Factory in Hatkhola could be provided for the luxurious buses. Such costly buses cannot be parked in the existing terminals due to security problem.

He further said the police are benefiting from this illegal" parking of buses on the roads.

Hawkers, street vendors and even the established businessmen have occupied almost 60 per cent of the 163 kms of footpaths of the capital city. barring those on the VIP

Not only the footpaths, the vendors now have extended their reach to streets also particularly in the Gulistan Motifheel. Sadarghat areas and the older parts of city. as well as Mirpur Sections 1 and 10, thus contributing to a reduction of road space for vehicular movement. One can buy almost everything from these hawkers.

In the Kataban area, there is no space for pedestrians fon the footpaths because the businessmen of the University Market occupy the pavements with their business items.

Prof Nazrul Islam of the USP said both the poor and the rich capture the pavements for their personal interests. The offence of the established businessmen is more serious than that of the poor

hawkers, he said.

Absence of a comprehensive plan would create indiscipline everywhere, Prof Nazru said, adding that the planners must first define the criteria of land use.

The DC (Traffic) said his men could not go for action against the hawkers because the DCC is silent about the encroachment of the footpaths and roads.

A DCC official, however, said they are looking for alter native places for the rehabilitation of hawkers. "The problem could not be solved overnight. There are many factors," he said without elaborat-

known for his liking of sports suggested that the Gulistan Park, the Gandaria-Dhupkhola ground and the Dhanmondi Club ground could be possible alternative places for hawkers markets. He also talked about underground markets. However, he could not say for certain if the hawkers would give up the streets once alternative rehabilitation was found for

BNP proposes dialogue

government.

Opposition.

ences.

tions under a neutral caretaker

the opposition MPs resigning

en bloc on December 28 after

dialogue with the government

failed to resolve the dispute

and the ruling party didn't

come up with an announce-

ment fulfilling their demand

within the deadline set by the

Minister offered to resign 30

days before elections. In the

latest development, she of-

fered a "summit" with the

Leader of the Opposition to

settle the remaining differ-

willingness to sit for such

talks but insists on a direct

proposal from the PM accept-

ing the idea of a neutral care-

taker government conducting

the next parliamentary elec-

Dhaka condemns

From Page 1

in Kashmir." said a spokesman

for the Foreign Ministry at a

"It condemns strongly the

weekly regular press briefing.

regrettable destruction last

week of a revered shrine and a

mosque in Charar-e-Sharif

considered very holy by the

Muslims not only of Kashmir in

India but also the world over."

the government deeply regret-

ted the loss of lives which re-

Indian government would take

all necessary measures to bring

the perpetrators of this hei-

nous act to task and protect

and preserve the sanctity of

desh will continue to follow

the situation closely," he added.

drawn to the OIC Secretary

General's statement, holding

the Indian military operation

responsible for the tragic inci-

dent, the spokesman said. It's

Secretary General's statement.

"The government of Bangla-

When his attention was

The spokesman also said

Dhaka hoped that the

he told newsmen.

sulted from this act.

the holy places.

tions, due early next year.

Hasina also has expressed

Later on, the Prime

The crisis deepened with

Commonwealth-brokered

From Page 1 especially with the Leader of the parliamentary Opposition, to end the impasse and pave the way for the next general elections.

"On this point the Prime Minister is very clear and candid and she is always ready to sit for talks.

Asked about a possible meeting soon between Begum Zia and Sheikh Hasina, Barrister Talukdar, who is also the minister for local government and cooperatives, said such a meeting may take place provided the groundwork is done properly.

The two leaders cannot just suddenly decide to sit across the table and achieve a result unless the spadework has been done."

In reply to another query, the BNP secretary said efforts should be made so that the two sides could start discussions before the next session of Parliament. The budget session is due early next month.

"We should move cautiously since, you know, there areoften a lot of hurdles to be crossed for doing something good ."

About the Opposition's anguish over the "unilateral" appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner, he said the appointment was made according to constitutional provisions and by the proper authority.

Barrister Talukdar also said the budget session might commence from the first week of June.

Regarding the Opposition MPs absence for 90 consecutive days from Parliament, he said the concerned member should first vacate his seat for the clause regarding 90 days' absence to become operational. "The constitutional provision is very clear and there is no alternative to it. "However," he said, "many people have come up with arguments on the question of their absence."

The Opposition lagislators have been absent from the House for 88 working days since the start of their boycott

in Lankan of Parliament in March last year to press for fresh elec-

COLOMBO, May 15: At least 39 people, including three civilians and 13 soldiers, were killed in fighting between Tamil rebels and government Lanka, the military said today. reports AP.

rebels in the attack.

troops in northeastern Sri

The soldiers were killed early Monday morning in Tiriyai in Trincomalee district, a military statement said.

39 more killed

when rebels ambushed them Troops retaliated and killed 16

meeting Cabinet to map out a protest strategy. The Cabinet agreed to declare Friday a 'black day', fly

the flag at half mast, hold protest rallies and offer funeral prayers for the Muslim militants who died in the attack on the mosque. On Thursday

Bhutto will address the nation on television.

Pakistan also will send en voys to Muslim and European countries to drum up opposi tion to India's military attempts to crush the violent separatist movement in its only Muslim-dominated state of Jammu and Kashmir.

US immigrant visas

From Page 1 tions of corruption. We have discovered that there have been allegations of photo substitution in passports and taking children repeatedly."

He emphasised that there were no allegations of complicity of embassy officials and suggested that any sort of complaints of wrongdoing should be reported.

Dreher admitted that Bangladesh has been classified as a "High Fraud High Risk" (HFHR) country by the concerned department because of largescale visa complications. He, however, refused to name what other countries, if any, have been given this label.

Replying to a question on eligibility under the different DV programmes, Dreher said that perhaps half the people who applied did not meet the basic requirements, including not having education upto 12th grade and two years' work experience. He said, the rules were made clear before the DV programmes were announced and there was no scope for any misunderstanding.

/ "We discourage the ineligibles even from applying so as not to lose money.

David R Dreher, a former academic, informed that US law allows seven lakh people to emigrate annually, although the number reaches nearly a million, including refugees.

"The United States admits

The journalists were later

more legal immigrants than

any other nation in the world."

section where they found four officers at four windows interviewing visa applicants. Applicants were asked a number of questions to convince the concerned official whether they had sufficient reasons to return after expiry of a tourist visa. Nearly half of the applicants provided convincing grounds by their verbal replies and written documents. Each applicant was interviewed for. between three to five minutes. There were some rejections while nearly half appearing during the presence of the pressmen were asked to return after 3 pm to collect their visas. Those rejected were given explanations for their lack of eligibility. They were told they could try again if they met the required criteria.

taken on a tour of the consular

The embassy officials were seen filing all records in a central computer mainframe connected with Washington. As an interviewee appeared, his name flashed on the computer terminal besides a Visa Officer displaying previous records of visits and applications and other coded data. Later R's (Rejected) were punched against those who were refused and I's (Issued) punched for those who were found eligible to be granted visas. In the short time that the newsmen were there, at least two applicants who had R's recorded on the screen had shose changed

to a capital !

nine years of autocratic regime. Begum Zia said the corruption and misappropriation during the past regime pushed the country into reonomic disaster.

Don't be misled by false

commitments: PM

Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia vesterday urged

the people not to be mislead

by false commitments and as-

surances of the opposition po-

Sheikh Hasina's assurance that

she will waive taxes on 25 big-

has land, the Prime Minister

reminded that the present

BNP government had already

done that soon after coming to

Pointing at the Awami

League leader's assurance to

give subsidy on agriculture

Begum Zia said the BNP gov

subsidy to this sector.

last night.

ernment is already providing

gathering of newcomers to her

workers of the Awami League.

Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami

and CPB as well as union

parishad chairmen and mem-

bers from Mithapukur thana of

Rangpur district formally

Welcoming the newcomers.

she said that the BNP is the

party of the common people.

ing that with emotions running

high over the shrine's destruc-

tion, the timing was not right.

Kashmir, Vaipavee said.

officials said.

officials said.

"There is no conducive sit-

Meanwhile, hundreds of

uation for polls in Jammu and

protestors today attempted to

march to the shrine in

Kashnur and threw stones at

paramilitary lorces and at-

tacked government buildings.

reported as an indefinite cur-

few was relaxed from three to

five hours in various towns and

villages in Kashmir valley to

help people stock up on food.

beat up the demonstrators

with sticks, injuring 45 peo-

ple, officials said. At least a

dozen government offices and

private homes were set ablaze

an effigy of Prime Minister Rao

near Lal Chowk, Srinagar's

main shopping centre, blaming

him for the destruction of the

Minister Benazir Bhutto de-

clared next Friday a national

day of mourning for the de-

ing war phobia in the region,

but we will not allow them to

do so." Bhutto was quoted in

the English-language daily.

On Sunday Bhutto called a

"Hindu fanatics are promot-

Islamabad. Prime

mosque, police said.

stroyed shrine.

the News

Angry agitators also burnt

by the protestors in the state.

Police fired tear gas and

At least 50 incidents were

joined the BNP vesterday.

party at her Hare Road office

About 2,000 leaders and

Begum Zia was addressing a

in an oblique reference to

litical parties, reports UNB.

Referring to the development efforts of her govern ment. Begum Zia asked the local leaders to ensure speedy implementation of the development programmes.

Former leader of the local Awami League Prof Fazlul Huq Monju. Jativa Party leaders Mohammad Farazuddin Miah Abu Wares Miah. Dulari Begum. Tajui Islam of Jamaat, Communist Party worker Mohammad Sadequl Bari, UP chairman Mohammad Khalilur Rahman and member Mohammad Abdul Ghani were among the newcomers who spoke on the occasion.

Former Awami League leader Motiur Rahman who recently joined the BNP alleged that the activities and politics of Sheikh Hasina were aimed at destroying the country's economy and democracy.

Food Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuivan, Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali were present at the Recalling the misrule of the function.

Delimitation Kashmir From Page 1

Panchagarli 2 - Boda and The opposition pilloried the Debigant thana of Panchagarh government for planning to district hold elections in the state, say-

Thakurgaon 1 - Thakur gaon Sadar thana of Thakurgaoti district. Thakurgaon 2 -Baliadanghi thana of Thakurgaon district. Dharmagar and Kashipur union of Ranisangkail thana and Haripur thana of the district. Thakurgaon-3 Pirgani thana and Ranisangkail thana excluding Dharmagar and Kashipur union of Thakurgaon district.

Dinajpur-1 Birganj and Kaharoi thana of Dinajpur district. Dinajpur-2 Bochagani and Birol thana of Dinajpur district. Dinajpur-3 Dinajpur Sadar thana. Dinajpur-4 Khansama and Chirir bandar thanas of Dinajpur district Dinajpur-5 Parbatipur and Fulbari thanas of Dinajpur district, Dinajpur-6 Nababganj, Birampur, Hakimpur and Ghoraghat thanas of Dinajpur

Nilphamari—1 Domar and Dimla thanas of Nilphamari district. Nilphamari -2 Nilphamari Sadar thana Nilphamari-3 Jaldhaka thana and Ranachandi, Borovita and Putimari unions under Kishoreganj thana of Nilphamari district. Nilphamari-4 Syedpur thana and Kishoregan thana excluding Ranachandi. Borovita and Putimari unions of Nilphamari district.

The hearing on delimitations of the constituencies of Rangpur, Kurigram and Gaibanda districts will be held today, while the hearing on the districts of Meherpur, Kushtia. Chuadanga and Jessore will be held tomorrow.

Raphel From Page 1

Raphel remarked that the United Nations peacekeeping operations have given US and the world a chance to appreciate the professionalism and courage of South Asian soldiers. Nepal. Bangladesh Pakistan and India have all made significant contributions to the world's efforts to bring peace to many troubled places. "Such efforts will be a bridge, we hope, to expanded cooper ation in the whole range of multilateral diplomacy" ...

She also pointed out that South Asian countries worked closely with the US and others to assure the indefinite extension of the non-proliferation treaty, an effort which culminated today in consensus support for this position.

The US official said the US remains engaged in dialogue with both India and Pakistan, seeking ways to ensure that their legitimate security interests are met without relying on nuclear deterrence or ballistic missiles.

Saudi team From Page 1

Sulaiman Al-Areifi and Engineer Sulaiman Al-Dakhil.

Saudi Arabia is one of the top donors in the Muslim world helping Bangladesh with substantial development assistance in the form of grants and soft loans since its indepen-According to one statistics,

total Saudi official assistance reached 864 million US dollars by the end of 1994. Thus Saudi Arabia has become the biggest donor among the member-states of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

Saudi assistance represents nearly 72 per cent of the total aid that OAPEC members extended to Bangladesh from 1972 till 1993.

Apart from this, Saudi Arabia had also decided at a meeting of Saudi-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission held in Dhaka in June 1992 to provide another amount of 528 million US dollars to finance development programmes in Bangladesh.

The Midnight File

US regrets China's N-test

WASHINGTON, May 15: The United States regrets China's latest nuclear test and urges Beijing to follow other nuclear powers in observing a moratorium. US officials said today China conducted the underground test earlier today, its first since last October. The blast came just days after China and more than 170 other countries agreed to indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, reports Reuter.

Pak envoy leaves for Nepal

ISLAMABAD. May 15: A special envoy of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto left for Kathmandu today for talks with Nepalese leaders, officials said. The emissary, Khalid Ahmed Khan Kharal, Information Minister in Benazir's government, told reporters before leaving that his talks in Kathmandu would cover different issues, including the situation in Kashmir, reports AFP. .

Hasina pledges to set up agro-based industries

KUAKATA, May 15: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today said if voted to power the Awami League will set up export oriented agro-based industries and run the local administration with elected representatives for the real benefit of the people, reports UNB.

The Awami League Presi-

dent who is now on a tour of

southern districts told a public

meeting at Kuakata Mahipur

ground that her party would

reopen closed mills and arra-

nge new employments without

one primary school at each of

68 thousand villages, one

health complex at every union

as well as thana level hospitals.

administration ofor the com-

mon people, the Awami League

chief said, she would introduce

administrative system with

people's elected representa-

tives at union, thana, district

She told the crowds that

DCCI demands

To ensure services from

She promised to establish

retrenching workers.

Thus, the Gulistan-Fulbaria

the inter-district buses.

Some 20 different bus op-

fices in this area.

the BRTC depot in Kamalapur or the vacant place which once

He also blamed the town planners for not considering the traffic problem while making their plans. A city cannotbe built in a proper way without good planning, he added.

The DC (Traffic), not

From Page 1 The DCCI suggested that

and division.

difference in rate of duties between imported raw material and finished goods should be at least 40 per cent. Khan also emphasised the need for further reduction in corporate tax

Trade imbalance with India VAT anomalies, procedural problems for filing appeal at the appellate tribunal, bottlenecks to get refund of the deposited tax and other related issues were also discussed in the meeting.

60 killed From Page 1

Safety would conduct an inquiry into the accident, the minister added

The drivers of both trains were among the 60 people killed in the accident.

Rescuers were continuing to pull bodies from the wreckage of the trains this afternoon and Railway Minister Sharief was personally supervising the rescue operation, PTI said.

Mystery fumes

From Page 1 been on alert since sarin nerve gas was released into the Tokyo subway system on March 20 killing 12 people and injuring 5,000. Doctors at a Yokohama

hospital where two men and a woman were taken said the victims were not in serious condition. The fumes were concen-

trated near the entrance to the New Yokohama Station and broke out at about 9.10 pm (1210 GMT).

steps would be taken to make Knakata a modern tourist spot. if necessary, an airport will be constructed there. The opposition leader re-

jected the government party's claim for tide of development', saying unfed people in the remote coastal areas have not seen the so-called development of the Prime Minister.

Earlier. Hasina reached here defying inclement weather marked by tidal waves. gusty wind and rains. People attended her rally braving heavy downpour.

"I have lost everything and have nothing to gain ... My only mission is to bring smile to each house of the country, as dreamt by my father," Hasina said in an emotion-charged

Imran-Jemima From Page 1

The Daily Mirror took a more in-depth approach, hunting down, interviewing and photographing a London woman, identified as Bashira Rosser-Owen. "One of the thousands of British women

who have converted to Islam." Rosser-Owen is pictured in a headscarf and very somber clothing covering everything but her face and hands, which are out stretched, plams-up. She does not, in this particular photo, appear to be overjoyed about her conversion.

Next to her is a photo of the ever-grinning Goldsmith. flaxen locks tumbling over naked shoulders, in a little white number whose neckline reaches to around kidney level. Can a party girl like Imran's new love give up champagne and versace, then pray to Allah like me?" Rosser-

Owen inquires in the Daily Mirror headline. Goldsmith's life, says the accompanying text, is a giddy whirl of parties, champagne and revealing designer dresses, an endless round of

chic night spots and glitzy, star-studded gatherings. Rosser-Owens' life, one inters from the text, is none of those things.

The more serious Times informs that "Pakistanis would like to know what, in Allah's name: Imran is doing marrying a westerner, the daughter of a half-Jewish, half-Catholic millionaire financier?"

The Times offers the Pakistanis no answer to this question, but does supply some telling quotes.

ideals in life." The Daily Mirror

Bride-to-be: "I am so happy." Bridegroom-to be: "I have found someone who shares my

warns, she will never be able to drink champagne again."

ঢাকা ওয়াসা বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বকেয়া পরিশোধের নিমিত্ত রেডিও, টি, ভি, এবং সংবাদপত্তে তাগিদ দেয়া সত্ত্বেও বকেয়া পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ বিশেষ অভিযান পরিচালনার মাধ্যমে তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্যুত করা হচ্ছে। বকেয়া অনাদায়ের কারণে গত দুই দিনে বিভিন্ন এলাকায় ৫৪টি হোন্ডিংয়ের পানি সংযোগ বিচ্যুত করা হয়েছে। তনাধ্যে মোটা অংকের খেলাপি গ্রাহকদের হোল্ডিংগুলো হচ্ছে-১৫/৪/৫ও ১৭, হাটখোলা রোড, ২২, জয় চন্দ্র ঘোষ লেন, ১৫/১২ ও ২৬/ ১৩, শেরশাহসুরী রোড, ৬-সি, ৪/১৫, মিরপুর, ৩৫/বি, ব্লক-জি, রোড-৭, বনানী, ২৬০/সি, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ৪, চৌধুরীপাড়া (পঃ হাজি পাড়া) এবং ৩৩, কাওরান বাজার। উল্লেখ্য যে, খেলাপি গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্যুতকরণের জন্য বিশেষ অভিযানের কার্যক্রম জোরদার করা হয়েছে।

সংযোগ বিচ্যুতিসহ মামলার বিড়ম্বনা এড়ানোর জন্য আজই বকেয়াসই হালনাগাদ পানি ও প্যঃ অভিকর পরিশোধ করুন।

क्यामा-बहर १७२/७०



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