DOWN TO EARTH

Problem of The Aged In City

By A.S.M. Nurunnabi

A "Day For The Elderly" is observed every year in this country as elsewhere under UN auspices which provides an occasion for giving some thought to the plight of the elderly and to improve their lot in our country. Modern medicine and improved living conditions have expanded the average life span of our people, which has led to a growing increase in the aged population in our society.

lems of the elderly urbanites are somewhat different from elderly in their daily routine. those in rural areas.

Elderly people living with their families both give and receive emotional and material support. The family's role in ensuring the care and wellbeing of the elderly is important and qualitatively different from that of any caregiving institution. However, urbanisation, industrialisation and modernisation have contributed to the break-up of been split up into a number of funeral rites. small families living in their own apartments, often a long sonal problem as a social one. way apart. As families become Since we have no social secueroded.

blot on our social mores.

country's total population.

Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Ge- looking after elderly parents riatric Medicine, a centre that or grand parents are granted

From Page 1

appointed foreign secretary in

October 1989 by Margaret

porter of the prime minister,

and have already made clear

that I will support him en-

thusiastically in the election

he announced yesterday,"

will be re-elected. I will then

continue to back him in

whatever way I can from out-

he intended to seek re-elec-

tion to the House of Com-

mons in the next national

election, which must be held

secretary from 1984 to 1985

and Home Secretary from

1985 to 1989, in charge of

law and order and immigra-

former diplomat, had lost to

Major in the race to succeed

Thatcher in 1990. He was an

Hurd, a silver-haired

He was Northern Ireland

Hurd did not say whether

side government."

within two years.

tion services.

"I remain a staunch sup-

Thatcher.

thinks for the welfare of some 70 lakh elderly citizens of the country, said, "We have served for all throughout our lives, now we deserve something from others." A senior member of the Association left it to be a national duty to keep the aged people, who are physically and mentally fit, engaged in constructive work so that they can contribute to the country's progress. The bane of old age is

In some respects, the prob- loneliness whatever be the pursuits followed by the Sons and daughters of many families, particularly those from affluent homes, leaving their parents behind, go abroad for study or employment. Their long sojourn abroad creates a sort of void in the life of their elderly parents, who continue to live in this country. An old man, placed in such a situation, was heard to lament that when we die, our bodies are kept in the extended family system. cold storage in hospital Households, formerly com- morgue till our children come prising many families have from abroad to complete the Old age is as much a per-

smaller and women partici- rity system as in the west, life pate in the workforce, the in old age here is subject to support traditionally pro- uncertainties both in ecovided to the elderly is being nomic and health terms. In such a situation, all possible It is said that the way in community support, in the which a nation treats its opinion of many, is called for elderly reflects the level to to extenuate the helplessness which its society has evolved. of old age. As the family is Therefore, whatever be our considered the basic building past good record of care and block of society, schemes service for the elderly, their should be introduced with a neglect wherever it takes view to preserving and place nowadays represents a strengthening the traditional family system to care for the Ageing population is one elderly. Since the elderly of the major social problems prefer to live with their chilin the world but in Bangla- dren, every incentive should desh there is almost none to be given to the families who take care of the aged people, take on the responsibility of comprising six per cent of the looking after old parents. Such a policy is reportedly At a recent press confer- followed in Singapore. Under ence, the president of the this policy, families suffering from financial hardship in

concessions in the matter of

taxation and other facilities. The aged people may be accorded "senior citizenship" status in order to enable them to enjoy special concessions in travel and medical treatment, as is done in some western societies. Well-wishers for the aged feel there should be a separate ministry for aged people, like those of youth and women affairs. The Ministry of Social Welfare at present deals with the ageing population, but there is no separate division or personnel exclusively meant for aged

The elderly consume a disproportionately large amount of health care resources. Consequently, as the number of older people grows, an increasing burden is placed on the families and the concerned government institutions. In Dhaka, the need for their medical care is sought to by met by a non-official body named Probin Hitoisi Sangha situated at Agargaon. Recently, government reportedly allotted Tk. nine crore to that body to set up a 50bed hospital and make housing facilities in Dhaka for elderly citizens. At present with government grant, that body runs a full-fledged medical clinic where treatment is available for old people at concessional charges.

People interested in the welfare of the olderly also recommend that a policy is necessary to keep elderly people physically and mentally fit so that they can maintain their normal daily activities and living arrangements. It is also recommended that education curriculum should be introduced including materials aimed at the traditional family values and teaching the young to love and respect the elderly. A senior citizen's week should be organised annually to promote the status of the elderly and demonstrate the contribution they can make in the community.

Water talks today

From Page 1

they discuss all issues of inter-

Asked if he is optimistic

about the outcome of the

retary said two sides have to

keep addressing all the issues

to their "maximum capacity"

and in a spirit of "unders-

Answering a question if

the water issue is bedevilling

the ties, Haider said relations

between two countries are

good and the process on dis-

cussing the water issue con-

nalist of Bangladesh's raising

of the water issue at the in-

ternational forums, he said

Bangladesh is discussing the

matter with India and his

country is not averse to dis-

Asked if the water issue is

a political one and warrants

political goodwill for its solu-

tion, the Indian Foreign Sec-

retary said friendly relations

exists between the two coun-

tries and that "there is no

Haider to Bangladesh as the

foreign secretary of India. He

was in Dhaka earlier on a

couple of occasions in other

tary will have talks with Sob-

han today spread over two

tomorrow morning prior to

his departure for home in the

One policeman

From Page 1

average around 110 police

personnel in a thana are avail-

able for checking crime and

ensuring security. The rest 75

are kept engaged in various

sometimes very difficult to

investigate crime incidents as

the manpower is limited. Be-

sides, the DMP is also suffer-

ing from inadequate logistic

support such as vehicles, arms

and communication equip-

quality of service, the DMP

has taken a drive codenamed

mobile squad, 'Speed En-

forcement', to prevent crimes on city streets. Plans are there

to introduce 'community

policing', advanced training

and modern communication

equipment for policemen, and

'Agrajatra' and introduced a

However, to develop the

The official said that it is

The Indian Foreign Secre-

He may have talks again

This is the first visit of

shortage of goodwill.

Asked by an Indian jour-

tanding and cooperation.

talks, the Indian Foreign Sec-

est", he said.

tinues.

cussions.

capacities.

sessions.

afternoon.

official duties.

ment, he said.

research.

Students burn an effigy of Jamaat Amir Golam Azam in

front of the National Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

Indian col among 12 killed in violence

House-to-house search to flush out Kashmiri rebels

SRINAGAR (India), June 23: A colonel and three sol diers were among 12 people killed overnight in separatistlinked violence in the northern Indian state of Kashmir, police said here today, reports

The men died late Thursday in a landmine explosion in the southern district of Anantnag, they said. The town was later sealed and house-to-house raids were being conducted to flush out suspected Muslim militants.

Four Muslim separatists died in a fierce gunbattle with security forces in the Aloochabag district of Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir, on Thursday evening, police said, reporting four other deaths in separate firefights

AP adds: Politicians, religious leaders and human rights activists on Friday welcomed India's decision to allow the Red Cross to visit detention centres in Kashmir, saying it could stop Indian soldiers from torturing suspected militants.

nounced Thursday that it will allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to regularly visit detainees and restore contact between them and their families.

At least 11,600 people have died in Kashmir since a battle for independence by Muslim militants escalated in 1989 Kashmiris often say that men and boys disappear from their families when soldiers search their towns and villages for guerillas.

Kashmiri human rights activists estimate that Indian soldiers are holding 11,000 suspected militants in jails, interrogation centres and detention camps. International human rights groups often

have accused the military of torturing some of them and discarding their bodies at

Jammu-Kashmir is the only state with a Muslim majority in predominantly Hindu India, and the militants are fighting for independence, reportedly with the help of Islamic Pakistan. Guerilla groups also have

been accused of capturing and torturing Kashmiris who fail to support their cause.

The Red Cross will be the first international relief agency allowed into Jammu-Kashmir during the guerilla war on a regular basis. India and Pakistan have fought two wars over the territory, which have left it divided between

Rally for water From Page 1

jured in the clashes, police

Activists of Haryana's main opposition Socialist Party had called a day-long general strike to protest state Chief Minister Bhajan Lal's The government an- decision this month to provide more water to the federal capital New Delhi and the neighbouring desert state of Raiasthan.

A month-long heat wave that kept temperatures above 45 degrees Celsius killed nearly 600 people in northern and central India. New Delhi was on the verge of going dry because the Yamuna river that flows through Haryana didn't have enough water.

After appeals by federal officials, Lal agreed to release some of the Yamuna water that Haryana farmers were using to irrigate their fields. But farmers complained that the diversion of water from irrigation canals was affecting their crops.

Miss World Aishwarya Rai from India gets out of a car at the entrance to the Lanka Oberoi Hotel, shortly after her arrival in Colombo yesterday. She is on a three-day fund-- AFP photo raising visit.

Ceasefire in Chechnya extended

MOSCOW, June 23: Russian and Chechen negotiators announced today the extension of a ceasefire in Chechnva even as fighting continued in the war-ravaged Caucasus republic, reports AFP.

Russian first Deputy Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhailov told Itar-Tass news agency that both sides had agreed to extend the ceasefire, which had been due to expire Friday night.

The moratorium on military operations in Chechnya will be extended after" Friday, Mikhailov said, adding that a formal accord would be announced later in the day.

The Chechen delegation head. Usman Imavev. was quoted by Itar-Tass as saying his military commanders had instructed fighters "to extend the moratorium on fighting until further orders."

But Imayev also accused Moscow of not respecting the current truce, citing Russian military operation in the Chechen villages of Pervomaiskaya and Samashki.

Imayev said the Russian at tacks were aimed at rooting out the Chechen commandos who took around 1,500 hostages in the southern Russian town of Budennovsk last week, and whose demands forced Russia to the negotiating table.

The commander of Russian forces in Chechnya, Anatoly Kulikov, was earlier quoted by Interfax as saying Chechen separatists opened fire several times on Russian troops in the capital

According to Kulikov fighting also broke out in the south of the small Caucasian republic near the Kharami pass where Russian troops and some 60 rebels were locked in combat for two hours before the separatists dispersed.

Father kills daughter

CHITTAGONG, June 23: One minor girl was beaten to death allegedly by her father at Dabowa under Raojan thana here this morning, repots BSS.

According to district police, one Anwar Hossain, a day labourer of Dabowa rubber plantation, took his child to the nearby garden and beat up as a result, the victim Runa Akhter, 5, succumbed to her injuries.

A dispute between Anwar Hossain and his first wife prompted him to beat up the child, the sources said. The body was sent for autopsy.

Police arrested Anwar Hossain. A case was filed with Raojan police.

Flood

Chhatak and one in Doarabazar thana of Sunamganj in the last two days.

In Sunamgani district, 106 medical teams have been sent to flood-hit areas to check further spread of the disease.

Official sources said, precautionary measures have been taken to check postflood diseases. Medical teams are already operating in some

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reported that road communication between the town and other parts of the northern region was disrupted yesterday as a bridge in the New Bogra Road collapsed in the morning.

The Jamuna fell by 8 cm in Sirajganj but some 24,000 people remained marooned in waters in Kazipur Chowhali and Sahjadpur thanas. Standing crops including aus, aman and ground-nut on about 21,000 hectares of land have been damaged. Our Manikgani Corre-

spondent reported that flood waters gushing through breached Jamuna embankments inundated fresh areas in five more thanas in the district. The affected thanas one - Daulatpur, Horirampur, Shibalaya, Dohar and Nagarpur. The Jamuna has devoured at least 20,000 acres of crop land in the areas where the worst-hit people have taken shelter on the protection embankflood ments.

DUTA

From Page 1

test, according to sources concerned.

The VC, in his June 20 order, gave them permission to be admitted on special consideration. Another student was also given permis-

Meanwhile, the pro Awami League Chhatra League also resented the VC's order.

The order was issued in violation of university rules, it said in a press release.

The Chhatra League demanded immediate withdrawal of the order.

The Midnight Rile

EU mediator holds talks with Bosnian president

SARAJEVO, June 23: The European Union's new mediator on former Yugoslavia, Carl Bildt, met Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic for almost two hours of talks on the Bosnia crisis here today. "Peace can only be brought to this country by the people here... what we can do is perhaps help, facilitate and provide the help and assistance of the outside world, that's all," Bildt said as he left the talks, reports AFP.

Hasina: 25-yr treaty

Farakka problem as well as realising the country's just share of the Ganges water if it goes to power.

"The BNP has no headache to solve problems of the people, it is busy with protecting its own interest and in making money," the Awami League chief told the meeting. Hasina accused the minis-

ters and MPs of plundering national wealth and relief fund. They misappropriated Tk 25 lakh given from the Prime Minister's fund, she alleged. The ruling party members also misused 60,000 metric tons of wheat sent as

About the Jamuna Multipurpose bridge, she said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman first planned to construct the bridge and an agreement was signed with lapan in this connection.

The Japanese government sent a team for feasibility study and worked for two vears, but the Zia government shelved the plan and used the fund for BNP, she alleged. In 1991, Hasina said the

World Bank had sent a letter to her saying that it would provide fund for the bridge to the government to be elected.

Referring to the fertiliser scandal, the Awami League president said that the ruling party had created the crisis to extract money from the poor farmers and it managed Tk 400 crore by creating the cri-

She said the BNP government had killed many farmers, workers, students, policemen, Ansars and businessmen during its four and a half years' rule. It spread terrorism and corruption in every sphere of national life, she

The ruling party has killed the hard earned democracy which is the precondition for economic emancipation of the people, she said.

The BNP wants to stay in

Karachi violence From Page 1

shooting in the air to intimi date people in Korangi, virtually paralysed for the past three days, residents said.

Running gun-battles were also reported between the MQM and its rival faction known as the MQM-Haqiqi.

The MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking migrants from India who came here after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, split in 1992. In recent weeks, the mainstream MQM has been at loggerheads with the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Relations worsened Thursday after the MQM accused some members of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP of gang-raping the sister of an MQM militant in her home on Tuesday. The MQM said the PPF

men were accompanied by members of the MQM-Haqiqi faction. The party has named the

alleged rapists and said they if they are not arrested within 24 hours, the party would observe two days of 'mourning' a term by and large accepted by city residents as an unofficial strike.

More than 700 people have been killed in ethnic and political violence in Karachi this year.

Manzur murder From Page 1 Court Inspector Moham-

mad Shajahan told the CMM court that Col Kamal, along with his accomplices had killed Gen. Manzur on June 1 1981, as part of their plot. "The accused was involved in the killing Protesting the pleas for

fresh remand, Col Kamal's lawyer Golum Sarwar claimed his client was tortured physically and mentally by the CID police during the detention.

Failing to get confessional statement from Col. Kamal the police investigators again sought remand which might cause harm to the life of his

City Magistrate Abdur Rahman chaired the court yesterday.

client, Sarnan said.

Three other retired army officers Maj. Gen (retd) Abdul Latif, Let Col (retd), Shamsur Rahman and Major (retd) Kazi Emdadul Huq - have been detained in connection with the case since March 1

Gen Manzur was killed in Chittagong circuit house in failed coup in which President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated in May 30, 1981.

power by rigging elections and using the administration for party purposes. So we have started the movement to bring in a change ... we demanded elections under a neutral non-party caretaker

government Presided over by thana Awami League president Md Shafiqul Islam, the meeting was addressed, among others by Abdul Jalil, Siddique Hos-sain, Abdur Rouf, Nurul Islam, Abdul Malek and Iqbalur

Nazmul Huda From Page

the conditions as prescribed by relevant Rules of Procedures of the Parliament.

The former Information Minister said the Speaker has no 'authority' to reject his application, saying it is the authority of the House to consider or reject his application for leave.

As per rule, the Speaker will just place the application before the House for consideration or put it on vote. But without doing that, he said the Speaker rejected the application which he cannot do under Rule 179. "The Speaker has virtually

usurped the power of the House," Barrister Huda said. Huda said he is aggrieved

by the Speaker's ruling and he wants to seek constitutional and legal interpretation from the Supreme Court. Asked if he has got permis-

sion from his party to go to court against the Speaker, Barrister Huda said the Speaker is not partisan, he is a neutral person. So every member has the right to seek Constitutional and legal interpretation.

Barge with 10 thousand bags of cement sinks

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, June 23: A cargo barge "M V Paban-1" carrying ten thousand bags of cement imported from China sank in the Panguchi river this morning.

The barge, which was bound for Dhaka, sank when it developed some cracks.

Yeltsin From Page 1

the men in charge of the army and the security forces.

Both Yeltsin and his power ministers are under fire for their handling of a hostage crisis in southern Russia that claimed more than 120 lives.

Earlier this week the Duma overwhelmingly passed a nonbinding vote of no confidence in Yeltsin's government. The president promptly dared them to make it binding - a move that would allow him to disband parliament.

Lawmakers agreed Friday to vote on the binding confidence vote on July 1.

Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin told lawmakers that Yeltsin was expected to make some Cabinet changes after his Security Council meets June 29 and it seemed likely at least one of the power ministers might go.

Yeltsin himself admitted on Thursday that mistakes were made in both the handling of the hostage crisis and the war in Chechnya that set the stage for the incident.

Serb shells

From Page 1

govic, after having held talks in Belgrade with Serbia's influential President Slobodan Milosevic, which ended Thursday. There were no details on the talks. While in Sarajevo, they

were no meet as well with the UN military commander for Bosnia, British Lt Gen Rupert Smith, said UN spokeswoman Therese Gastaut in Geneva.

To reach Sarajevo, the envovs had to skirt an area west of the city that has seen heavy fighting in the past week. Thousands of Bosnian army soldiers attacked west and north of Sarajevo in what appeared to be part of an overall government bid to

Fighting was reported in the area on Friday UN spokeswoman Maj Myriam Sochazki reported "very heavy' fighting around Kisel jak, about 20 kilometers (12 miles north of Tarcin. Battles also were reported around Visoko and the Nisici plateau, rimming the Sarajevo area to the north a 'east.

break the siege of Sarajevo.

Pairs at Dhaka Zoo Shahidullah, the zoo's veteri-

nary doctor.

'young daughter Munmun' for

caught by fishermen in the pool of the zoo recently.

The deputy curator of the

not be saved The cause of the turtle's death was recorded as "head

The zoo officials further

everywhere warning the visi-

tors not to poke the animals,

"People threw stones and it received a bad head injury, species of raptiles. and it died," the deputy curator said.

stressed that one of the biggest problems lay with a zoo is now changing all over section of visitors who threw stones at the animals and the world. poked them in different ways. "We have hung signboards

but that hardly works," said **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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open agenda" and two sides will take up any issue that paternalistic, benign, center they consider of their interest. left wing of the party that When two friends meet

Mrs. Thatcher overthrew in The son and grandson of Conservative members o Parliament, Hurd was educated at Eton and Cambridge, where he received a first-class

honours degree in history. Hurd, who is fluent in "I have no doubt that he Mandarin Chinese, joined the diplomatic service in 1952. He served in Beijing from 1954 to 1956.

While posted in Rome, he

wrote his first thriller. He has had five more published since, and co-authored two others. At the age of 36, he quit a fast-moving diplomatic career for politics. For six years he was political secretary to

former Prime Minister Edward Hurd and his second wife, ludith, his former secretary whom he married after a 1982

divorce, have two small chil-There are three adult sons by Hurd's first marriage.

The clouded leopard

(gecho bagh) died recently

after 16 years of solitary life

in the zoo. The authorities

had earlier tried in vain to get

a partner for this endangered

dermy skin can be seen at the

animals in the zoo is on the

increase. Giraffe, zebra, red

panda from Nepal, austrich

and cashssowary bird are all

passing solitary life in their

The 212-acre zoo has a to-

Animal Museum of the zoo.

Now the animal's taxi-

The number of pairless

species of the country.

old-fashioned Tory from the

Douglas Hurd resigns

Gipsy, the mother chimp, had to wait for years before getting her partner from London. Previously, she had shared her pen with her

The 161 kg sea turtle, Bay of Bengal in December 1994, died in the knee-deep

zoo said that despite efforts by experts, the turtle could

> tal of 74 species of mammals, 106 species of avis and 15 A total of 1411 species has

been kept in different pens and moats of the zoo. The officials pointed out that the very conception of

Instead of confining the animals in the cages, they are accommodated in the moats in a more natural surround-