Preserve heritage

My Morshed Ali Khan

Dhaka in 1610, made it the city, 'not only disappeared capital of Bengal. It remained over the years, we have also so until 1713. By the time the failed to keep any records of Mughals left Dhaka, the city those, Dr Mamoon said. "Our had a network of canals for cultural heritage has never

The Mughals had always ments," he added found a potentiality in developing canal routes wherever historical importance were let they ruled, especially in this to be destroyed and effaced region, because of its riverine from the map slowly. and deltaic situation.

This not only helped it also served as a natural sewerage. The canals kept the city clean by flushing the wastes away.

city looked like Venice.

During the period, a number of pools and bridges were built in different parts of the city — one of those is the now demolished Chan Khar

tory of the capital city was given by Prof Dr Muntassir Mamoon of History Department, Dhaka University at Daily Star-BUET Roundtable on 'Save Dhaka' held recently.

sorrow at the way the city has been treated as regards its his-

The canals, which once

The Mughals, on arrival in communication routes in the been an issue to the govern-

Many sites with immense

In 1860, there was a public stage near the Jaggannath establish a smooth trans- Hall. Now there is no trace of portation system in the city, it. An ancient Hindu temple at Tipu Sultan Road 'vanished' over the years, said Dr Mamoon

One of the most beautiful In the rainy season, all buildings of the 19th century these canals and the river Dhaka, belonging to one Rup Buriganga overflowed and the Lal Shaha in Farashgani, is slowly getting destroyed. A wholesale market occupies the building now. Talking to The Daily Star

Dr Mamoon said, "Up to now the National Museum did not have a qualified professional This description of the his- to look after it."

"How can you expect a professional job if you don't have a qualified professional?"
Dr Mamoon asked.

Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif said at the Roundtable a 'Dhaka City Dr Mamoon expressed his Museum' has been planned to be set up in the Dhaka City Corporation Bhavan.

"We have planned to use a were the most important room in the Bhavan as the

Dhaka City Museum," said the Mayor. In the future the museum will have a much

larger space. Historians and experts feel that the old part of the city still has a large number of buildings - mosques, temples and places - to be saved from destruction.

The government should take immediate steps to identify and preserve those, some of them suggested. The existing laws regarding preservation historical sites must be strictly implemented, they

Dr Mamoon emphasised that "The premises of the Dhaka central jail, which is planned to be shifted to a new location, should be turned into a 'Political Museum' cum a open green space. This site must not be turned into a totally commercial area."

Experts and historians also said that to encourage healthy living, tourism and entertainment, the launch terminal at Sadar ghat must be shifted to a new location. This will not only rid the area of traffic congestion but also change the face of the old city, they

The "Buckland Bund" a beautiful promenade built in the 19th century in the Sadarghat area, can be revived to promote tourism, they



The Kohinoor Opera staged a jatra - Aapon Dulal - at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday as part of the folk-drama festival of the Academy.

jail authorities to allow Kamal

Uddin's brother Igbal Uddin

Bhuiyan and one of his

lawyers to meet him in the

jail for obtaining signature on

to Kamaluddin in response to

a petition submitted today by

Golam Mohammad Kader and

some relatives of the four

other accused turned up in

Kushwant Singh's

remarks on

Tagore are 'vulgar'

AGARTALA, July 1: Not-

ed columnist, Khushwant Sin-

s's recent remarks about

Rabindranath Tagore have

sparked off a controversy in

Tripura with whom the poet

had a special relationship, re-

Singh in a literary work-

shop in Shillong had said that

Tagore's literary works did

not merit the accolades they

had been showered with. He

even wondered why Bengalis

based vulgar literature and

who himself is a worshipper of

female flesh has no right to

comment on Tagore," he said

that Singh was reduced to a

silly commodity in the hands

minister and a writer, said

that Singh obviously knew

very little about Tagore. "His

comments are motivated."

Brajagopal Roy, the food

of anti-India foreigners.

had to rave about Tagore.

The court granted division

Ershad's younger brother

the 'Ukalatnama.'

the court today.

Ershad not produced

Malek - were dropped because they are dead.

Besides Ershad, the other chargesheeted accused are Major General Abdul Latif. Lt. Col. Shamsur Rahman, Lt. Col. Kamal Uddin Ahmed and Major Kazi Emdadul Hug all retired.

The CMM, however, ordered sending a copy of today's fresh directives to the IGP to ensure escort force for the accused for bringing them to the court here.

Meanwhile, the authorities here withdrew the additional riot police deployed around Chittagong jail and the court building to provide security if Ershad was brought here.

The supporters of Jatiya Party here organised a rally in front of the court to protest implication of Ershad in the Manzur murder case. *

A number of lawyers including former state minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury turned up to defend Ershad.

The lawyers for the four other accused prayed for certified copies of all the case documents including chargesheet, 164 statements, sketch map and autopsy re-

The CMM in his order said certified copies of only public documents, except copies of 164 confessional statements could be issued. He also said, "I have examined the chargesheet after receiving it on lune 28 and I do hereby accept it today."

No bail petition was moved for Ershad and Kamal Uddin as the lawyers could not obtain signatures of their

The CMM also gave a directive to the Dhaka central

Int'l Cooperatives Day observed

Cooperatives was observed in the country as elsewhere in the world yesterday, reports

To mark the 73rd International Day of Cooperatives, Bangladesh National Cooperatives Union organised a discussion at the Motifheel Cooperative Union auditorium.

From Page 1

would be simplified soon.

the benefit of the tax payers.

Earlier, DCCI President R Maksud Khan, raising anomalies in VAT registration, complained that registration sometimes takes more then a month. He strongly recommended a simplified registration procedure by issuing a VAT number immediately on

The states' education minapplications. ister and a famous poet in his Responding, NBR member own right, Anil Sarkar, fumed (VAT) Saiful Islam Khan said that Singh's comments were the VAT registration was soon going to be computerized to Singh, who writes sex-

The DCCI chief appreciated duty cut on raw materials, but sounded a caution that certain imported raw materials which may be the finished products of some industries could hamper the interest of the local manufacturers.

He suggested counterveiling duty on "relatively" low quality finished products. The Chamber leader also supported the Anti-Dumping Act as proposed in the budget.

R Maksud Khan also recommended a guideline to determine the discretionary powers of the tax officials to remove confusions between the officials and the tax pay-

Warrant for arrest of Asian 'biscuit king'

The Paily Star

NEW DILHI, July 1: An Indian court today issued a non-bailable warrant for the arrest of former Asian 'Biscuit king Rajan Pillai who is fighting extradition to Singapore where he was convicted of fraud, reports AFP

Judge ML Mehta in a specially appointed court hearing Pillai's case, issued an order for the Indian-born magnate's arrest, a spokesman for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), said here.

The spokesman said Pillai had to appear before the court by July 15 failing which further legal action would be taken against him for contempt of court

The High Court of Kerala Pillai's home province, had on June 22 cancelled bail granted by a lower court on the grounds that the lower court could not grant bail as it had not ordered Pillai's arrest in the first place. The 47-year-old Pillai is in

hiding after he failed to secure bail from the Bombay High Court despite his plea that the judicial system in Singapore was slanted and would work against him.

Pillai earned the name "biscuit king" when he bought the Asian operations of the RIR-Nabisco conglomerate in 1989 for 180 million US dol-

FBUTA meets PM From Page 1

lined the need for updating the 1973 University Ordinance to ensure better academic atmosphere and suggested that the teachers should be involved in the process of updating the ordi-

The president of the federation said the ordinance should be made timely.

The delegation also discussed some of their demands with the Prime Minister including introduction of 1973 ordinance in the Bangladesh Agriculture University Bangladesh University o Engineering and Technology Islami University, Shahjalal Science and Technology University and Khulna Univer-

They also urged the Prime Minister to fix the ceiling of the salary for all professor at Taka 10,000. The Prime Minister said

the government would work out a policy to remove discrepancies in salary structure among the professors.

While discussing on the present situation on the university campus the Prime Minister expressed her dissatisfaction over the stand of some teachers about the admission of 20 meritorious students. She said, it was not right to do politics with the 20 meritorious students.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar was present on the occasion.

Leaders of the federation who met the Prime Minister included secretary general Dr Siddique Ahmed Chowdhury Dr Sharaf Ali, Prof Mostahid and Dr Mohammad Ashrai

6 killed From Page 1

a worker of a welding shop. Police seized the vehicle (Sylhet Ba-5799). A case was lodged with the Kotwali po-

UNB from Sirajganj adds: A Dhaka-bound coach from Joypurhat skidded off the Bogra-Nagarbari highway yesterday killing two passengers and injuring more than 30.

Police and witnesses said the bus plunged into a roadside ditch at about 10:30 am at Hatikumrul in Ullapara

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

Seventeen of the injured were admitted to the Sirajganj General Hospital and the Community Hospital. Condition of six of them was said to be critical

The seriously injured passengers are Jakia Khatun, 35 Sultana Begum, 29, Rebeka Khatun, 30, Nasir Uddin, 15 Mominul Haq 41, and Zahid,

Iran Broadcasting chief in city

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Dr. Ali Larijani arrived yes terday on a three-day visit for talks with Bangladesh officials on promotion of bilateral cultural ties, reports UNB.

The visit will be prominently featured by signing an agreement on media exchange programme between Dhaka and Tehran. Talking to newsmen on ar

rival at the Zia International Airport (ZIA), Larijani said the trip, though primarily aimed at promoting bilateral cultural relation, would contribute to further strengthening ties between the two countries in all sectors, including trade and investment.



Marie-Chantal Miller at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Sophia in Baywater, London yesterday. (Story on Page 8) — AFP/UNB photo

Iran protests deployment of Fifth Fleet in Gulf

TEHRAN, July 1: Iran today protested the US deployment of the Fitth Fleet in the Gulf, saying the move constitutes threat to the security not only in Iran but also in other countries in the region, reports Xinhua.

Iranian navy commander Ali Shamkhani said in a press conference that the Iranian navy will launch more military exercises, enhance military capability and prepare itself for any kinds of military

As part of the military programme, he said, the Iranian navy will launch grand military manoeuvre involving 57,000 forces in a water area of 14,000 nautical miles in the Gulf from July 3 through

At the same time, he added, the navy forces will launch joint military exercises with Oman's navy forces in the Oman Sca. But he said 'talks on the time for the joint operation between the two military forces are still under

Observers here said the US decision to revive its Fifth Fleet in the Gulf has been interpreted as a provocative move on the part of Washington which would lead to an increase in tension in this volatile and strategic region.

Iran has viewed the latest US move as provocative and a major threat to all regional countries, but primarily to it-

Following the economic and trade embargo by the United States against Iran on June 7, the Chinton administration decided to establish the Fifth Fleet for its Armada based in the Gulf, giving a higher profile to the American presence in the oil rich and exporting region.

According to an earlier report, the Fifth Fleet will be forces central command which is already headquartered in the Gulf.

SC interpretation

sition MPs. Atter two days of debate, the Speaker rejected his application but he was re portedly requested by the rul ing party high command not to inform the House immediately the MPs' absence.

and decided that the Law Ministry should seek the President's discretion for higher court's interpretation of the relevant clauses

Ministry might send the application to the President today. Ministry official were not available for confirmation.

Article 106 of the Constitution says. "If at any time it appears to the President that a question of law has arisen. or is likely to arise, which is of such a nature and of such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it, he may refer the question to the Appellate Division for consideration and the division may, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report its opinion thereon to the

seats, the BNP source said.

The Speaker may delay pointed out.

formally commissioned today covering ships of the US nava

From Page 1 leave for 149 absentee oppo-

The ruling party leaders

also consulted legal experts A BNP source said that the

The idea of seeking the President's help came after some of the ruling party leaders asked whether the relevant constitutional clause would be applicable in such a situation in which more than 140 MPs would lose their

the issue once the matter is referred to the court, a source

Rivers flowing below danger level The Brahmaputra contin-

ued to fall further while the Ganges recorded rise at upstream points yesterday, re-Dhaka ports UNB. According to a bulletin of

the Flood Information Centre, rivers in the Meghna and the south-eastern hill basins marked both rise and fall at different points during the pe-The Karotoa at Panchagarh

marked a sharp rise by 1.05 and flowing 1.17m below the danger level while Kushiyara which crossed the mark on Friday is now flowing below the danger mark. The Brahmaputra (Jamuna)

recorded further fall by 3 cm at Bahadurabad, 9 cm at Siraigani and 4 cm at Aricha while it marked slight rise at Noonkhawa and remained steady at Chilmari. The Teesta recorded fresh rise by 9 cm at Dalia and 28

cm at Kaunia while the Old Kanaighat. Brahmaputra further receded 7 cm at Jamalpur and 8 cm at Mymensingh. The Kaliganga recorded a further 6 cm fall at Taraghat. 55 and 31 cm at the points respectively.

Among the other rivers of

the Brahmaputra basin the Dharla registered a 3 cm fall at Kurigram while the Buriganga remained steady at The Ganges recorded fur-

ther rise by 5 cm at Rajshahi and 6 cm at Hardinge Bridge while it receded further by 5 cm at Goalundo and 6 cm at Bhaigyakul. The Punarbhaba at Dina-

jpur registered slight rise and the Karotoa at Panchagarh marked a sharp rise by 1.05 m. The river at this point is flowing 1.17 m below the danger level. The Gorai at Gorai Rly

Bridge recorded further rise

by 9 cm while the Mahananda at Chapainawabgani remained steady. The Surma recorded fresh fall by 11 cm at Kanaighat, 5 cm at Sylhet and 4 cm at Sunamganj. However, the

river was flowing 30 cm below the danger level at The Kushiyara which crossed the danger level at both Amalshid and Sheola on Friday, marked a sharp fall by

during African summit

The Midnight File

Arafat was gunmen's hitlist

GAZA, July 1: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was quoted as saying today he and two other leaders were slated for assassination during an African summit earlier in the week in Addis Ababa. Tayeb Abdel-Rahim, General Secretary of the Palestinian authority, said Arafat told the self-rule administration during its weekly meeting that besides Mubarak three presidents' - including the PLO leader - were on the gunmen's hitlist, reports Reuter.

Sudan takes border dispute with Egypt to UNSC

KHARTOUM, July 1: Sudan has taken its border dispute with Egypt to the UN Security Council, the official Suna news agency reported today. The Sudanese ambassador to the United Nations filed the complaint with the Council after Sudan said two of its policemen and a soldier were killed in skirmishes in the disputed Halaib region this week, reports AFP.

Jeddah meet discusses ways to revamp OIC

The Group of Eminent Persons in its first meeting in leddah discussed ways of gearing up the activities of OIC to enable it to face the challenges of Muslim Ummah in the changed world context.

Its next meeting will be held in first week of Septemher. The venue and the date will be announced in due

Ambassador Abul Ahsan. also former Foreign Secretary, who attended the meeting lune 27 28, told UNB that the Group also reviewed the performance of the 25-year-old organisation against the backdrop of present global sce-

Ahsan, one of the members of the committee, said it dwelt at length on the crisis Muslims are facing in the aftermath of political changes in Europe and Central Asia. The meeting particularly

focused on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, social and political problems of Muslims in other parts of Europe and a volatile situation in Central Asia. The Ambassador also said

the Jeddah meeting also discussed how to enhance economic cooperation among Muslim countries in view of different emerging regional economic cooperation and trade blocs.

JCD factions clash in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, July 1: Four people were injured in an intra party clash between two factions of JCD at Nasirabad Government Commercial Institute today (Saturday), police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

*Local resident Faridul Alam, 35, his six-year old son and wife, and Shipon, a student of the institute - received cracker injuries. All of them were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Panchlaish police confirmed the incident, but nobody was arrested in this connection.

JU Disciplinary Board to probe Dipu's killing

By JU Correspondent

The Jahangirnagar University Syndicate in a special session yesterday asked its Disciplinary Board to enquire into the murder of Showkat Kabir Dipu.

The members of the Syndicate noted with regret that none had been arrested in connection with the death of Dipu, a student of the university and also a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader, though seven months had elapsed since the killing.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, who chaired the session, has summoned a meeting of the Disciplinary Board on July 4.

Meanwhile, some 200 ac tivists of the BNP backed ICD brought out a procession on the campus and gheraoed the registrar's building, where the Syndicate session was held. They demanded immediate trial of the killers of Dipu.

Housewife From Page 1

correspondent that he rushed to the spot from Malibagh after receiving a phone call just after the incident and took her to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors on duty declared Rukshana dead Dr Kashem also claimed

the his sister had been under mental depression for some-

Siddika, about 45 and teenaged Amena, both servants in Rukshana's house said that their mistress had occasionally complained about severe headache and mental depression.

Ramna police inspected the spot. An unnatural death case has been field in this re-

Secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Hamid Al Gabid in consultation with its Chairman King Hasan of Morocco had earlier announced a 15member "Group of Eminent

persons," tollowing up the de-

cision of the 7th summit of The 7th summit, held in Rabat in December 1994, coinciding with the 25th founding anniversary of the organisation, decided to set up a "Group of Eminent Persons", as select number of outstanding individuals from different disciplines, to discharge some important tasks to give a nudge to the activities of the 52-member forum of Muslim countries.

The tasks are: To review and have a stock taking of the quarter century's activities of the organisation, to identify its strength and weaknesses, review its objectives in the changing circumstances, suggest appropriate measures to enhance its effectiveness in promoting Islamic solidarity and strengthening cooperation among the member-na-

Jute-textile

From Page 1 of Khulna and Tongi industrial belts and most of those in Narayangani remained op-

crational. Different jute and textile trade associations also said the production in most of their mills was not affected. Sources at the Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association told The Daily Star that production in 25 out of 30 mills of the asso-

ciation was normal. Until last night, there was however no move to end the

The ministers concerned had stated on several occasions recently that the government had nothing to do with the demands of the nongovernment industrial workers. The labour leaders of those mills should solve their problems through discussion

Egypt

with their owners, they said.

From Page 1 flected by Baz, who blamed Sudan for wanting to provoke a confrontation.

Asked about a general mobilisation ordered by Sudanese President General Omar Al-Beshir in a speech to the nation on Friday, Baz commented "the Khartoum government is trying to distract the attention of its suf-

fering population. Meanwhile, Egyptian investigators have implicated three Ethiopian security officials and Sudanese intelligence agents in the assassination attempt on Mubarak, se-

curity sources said today. Preliminary investigations showed the Ethiopians were among a total of 13 attackers who sprayed the president motorcade with machinegun fire last Monday. Sudanese intelligence had full knowledge of the attack and was involved in its planning, the

sources said. Master plan

From Page 1 new master plan when implemented would help to a great extent to turn Chittagong city into the commercial capital of the country.

Noman said that the government was mobilising fund from ADB and other agencies to execute the master plan and there would be no dearth of fund for the purpose. What we need are coordinated approach and efforts to implement the plan, he said.

He said that Japan was . providing fund for development of Chittagong Airport into an international airport. Stressing the need for beautification of Chittagong

city, Noman sought the cooperation of the people and all concerned agencies in implementing new master plan for Chittagong city which would be finalised soon and implemented in due time.

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

The International Day of

Sonali Bank

He also said that the tax holiday certificate procedures

The NBR Chairman further informed the DCCI members that the board is soon going to publish a revised Operative Tariff Schedule (OTS) and an amended income tax act for

streamline the procedure.

ers.