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PHILIPS

DHAKA SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1996

# The Baily Star \_

### **Encouraging Tree Plantation In City**

By ASM Nuruanabi

The tree plantation season of the year has been inaugurated under the aegis of the Forest Department. In view of the great importance of the occasion in the context of its economic and environmental impact, it's of utmost significance that this is not looked upon as a yearly ritual by all

their scenic attraction. In seemed that we had forgotten as never before that by all possible means, all our developmental activities should be geared to the ensuring of compensating the enormous loss that we have sustained in

In the past it was a common phenomenon that was primarily due to lack of coordination among the agencies concerned.

Lately the physical environment of the metropolis has our very survival.

planted with little care given to the need for proper maintenance of the newly planted trees. Since in most cases, no clear record is available as to the number of plants that manage to survive, some observers express doubt that not even ten per cent of the planted trees manage to survive each year. In such circumstances, it is felt that the persons charged with nurturing should not take their job as a one-time ritual but it should be taken up on a continuous basis.

It's a happy sign that the

Forest Department has lately taken up a four-year City Afforestation scheme which is already under the process of execution with a total outlay Tk. 547.00 lakh covering the city of Dhaka along with five other main cities with their neighbourhoods. The project aims at afforesting the metropolitan city in a planned way to increase tree cover, assisting the development of the city's scenic beauty and creat ing a congenial environment through over-all development amenities. Through this project, roads and link roads of the city, parks and recreation centres, institutions and offices, factories, residential areas, marginal and fallow lands, flood protection embankments, etc will be planted with bushy and ornamental trees in a planned manner. Roadside and other open spaces will be planted with timber trees and the reserved areas will be planted with fruit trees. Under telephone and electric lines shade and orna-

mental trees will be planted. To ensure smooth implementation of the project, a national committee as well as a steering committee for the Division have been constituted. in which the Mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation has been included. RAJUK has also been associated as well as the Dhaka Divisional Commis-

There is already a standing order of the government that all agencies under various ministries should keep a tree

"system is in acute crisis,

rising default and ever hunger

margins needed to restore

It observed that the gov-

ernment is "caught in the

confusing and conflicting roles

of bank owners, customers,

regulator and provider of the

legal framework for debt re-

accelerating improvements in

the legal framework for loan

recovery and foreclosure, and

in Bangladesh Bank's capacity

and determination for supervi-

sion and enforcement," the WB

It said the government

should have a definite

timetable for privatisation of

the NCBs and complete the

privatisation of two NCBs

within six to nine months and

the rest two within the next

the report suggested a two

pronged strategy — immediate

clude leaving fertiliser distri-

bution to private sector and

pricing fertiliser at per inter-

national prices, abolishing re-

strictions on private sector

trade and storage of foodgrains

and procurement of rice

through open market opera-

tion instead of traditional pub-

include privatisation of fer-

tiliser manufacturing, seed

production and distribution,

extending financial sector re-

forms to cover the formal rural

financial institutions to remove

interest rate ceiling on agricul-

tural credits and avoiding loan

nance, the Bank said a biparti-

san Task Force on Parliamen-

tary Accountability is needed

to carry through the commit-

ment to a transparent and

open government, responsive

Citizens Charter to publicise

performance standards for

corruption is also needed to

combat corruption, and an

Ombudsman's office is needed

to register public complaints

in each thana office, the WB

It also suggested setting a

A task force for eradicating

to the legislature.

public services.

On the issue of good gover-

The medium term actions

lic procurement operations.

and medium term actions.

To revitalise agriculture,

The immediate actions in-

two years.

write-off.

Reforms should focus on

WB suggests steps

do not offset the fundamental caught in a vicious cycle of

plantation component in their respective development pro-

Dhaka City Corporation is an important agency responsible for plantation of trees in the city. In the newly introduced budget for the current financial year, the Corporation has made a provision of Tk. 50 lakh for the afforestation programme in all the 10 zones of the Corporation. One praiseworthy aspect of the Corporations activity in this regard is that after the plantation is done by private contractors in one year, bill for that work is held up for another year to see how the newly planted trees have been taken care of by the contractors. Thus the nurturing aspect of the newly planted trees is given proper attention. allowing payment in such cases where the plant trees survived The concerned Corporation of ficials still recall with pride that for its success in the tree plantation programme during 1992, it won the first prize under the classification of municipalities and Corporations in the Prime Minister's Trophy for that year by planting 50,000 saplings in the ten zones of the city.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartri pakkha (RAJUK) has also plans for planting trees in the areas under its control, such as Banani, Uttara, Baridhara Shympur, (near Postogola) Progati Sharani and some other areas. Moreover, they have made a provision of two per cent in every scheme for

the purpose of tree plantation. Observers, however, believe that efforts of the government agencies alone may not suffice. What is also needed is the ecological awareness of the people. While publicity in this behalf should be intensified through mass media, a political will need be demonstrated by the participation of elected representatives of the people in tree planting. The present period seems to be very favourable in this context on

while discharging their duties in future. The regiment was launched with selected and disciplined account of a better political army personnel on July 5 in 1975, said the Prime Minister. calling it a product of ceaseless labour, utmost devotion and President supreme sacrifice.

yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Ha-

sina vesterday lauded the

different state functions.

"I am impressed, delighted and proud of the highly rated discipline, dutifulness and exemplary efficiency in professional activities of the members of the regiment.

Sheikh Hasina recalled the memories of the members of the PGR, including Capt Hafiz, Nayek Abu Taher, Sepoy Abul Kashem, Sepoy Shah Alam and Sepoy Abdur Rouf, who glorified the history of the regiment by sacrificing their valuable lives.

The Prime Minister termed

patriotism, hopes PM these rare examples of dutifulness of these presidential guards as pride of the armed forces as well as of the whole

> Chief of Staff of Bangladesh Army Lt Gen Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman, Comman ding Officer of the PGR, high military officials, and members of the martyrs' families were

The Prime Minister presented gifts to the wife of Shaheed Nayek Abu Taher, Rawshan Ara, the mother of Shaheed Sepoy Abul Kashem, Razia Khatun, the father of Shaheed Sepoy Shah Alam. Abdur Rashid, and the mother of Shaheed Sepoy Abdur Rouf. Sakhina Khatun.

### Khaleda, 30 MPs From Page 1

of the ruling party in the House Abul Hasnat Abdullah and AL MPs were present. Later, three women MPselect from the Jatiya Party, were sworn-in at the Speaker's Chamber.

The three are Zeenat Hossain, Rabeya Bhuiyan and

Sabita Begum.

### Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina distributing relief among flood affected people in Syedpur PID photo PM visits From Page 1

for rendering service to the people, she said, seeking their (people's) cooperation to build a happy and prosperous

Bangladesh. Hasina said irregularities and corruption in last 21 years had brought the nation on the verge of ruination. "Our efforts will be to remove those vices

and build up a society free from corruption and terror ism. She accused the previous government of shattering the country's economy through corruption and said: "We have

assumed power at a time when the country's economy is in There are multifarious problems but ways to solve those are limited, she said

adding that "however, our sincere efforts will continue to get rid of those. The Prime Minister an nounced a donation of Tk 500,000 for construction of

houses for the flood-affected people, who were rendered homless following erosion of the river Brahmaputra. During her visit to the flood affected areas in Fulchhari, the

Prime Minister also addressed a spontaneous gathering at Kanchipur High School Hasina assured that her

government would take up development programmes in the area. "You tell us what to do. my government is ready to put all its efforts to fulfil the needs of people.

The Prime Minister, during her helicopter trip to the flood-hit areas, was accompanied by Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq, Communications Minister Anwar Hossain and State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed.

### Elections of Dy Leader of House, 4 whips to be delayed Star Report

The election of Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad and four whips of the ruling Awami League in the House is likely to be delayed further with the shifting of the date of the AL Parliamentary Party (ALPP) meeting.

According to AL sources. election to these posts would not be held before the ALPP meets next week.

The ALPP meeting, which was earlier scheduled to be held today, will now be held on July 13, just a day before the Seventh Parliament goes into its first session. The date was shifting because of the worsening of flood situation in the country and pre-occupation of AL Chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, party sources

### Talks today

The visiting Indian Foreign Secretary will lead his country's delegation on an official level talks to be held here today. The home team to the talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be led by Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan.

During his three-day visit. the Indian Foreign Secretary will call on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury.

He will also call on Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria and Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak. The Indian Foreign Secre-

tary was received at the airport by his Bangladesh counterpart Faroog Sobhan. Bangladesh High Commi-ssioner to India CM Shafi

Shami, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dav Mukherjee, Additional Foreign Secretary Ahmed Tarek Karim and Director General (South Asia) at the Foreign Office FM Shamim Ahmed were present.

## The Midnight Kile

### Deve Gowda goes to **Kashmir today**

NEW DELHI. July 5: Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda said he would travel to Kashmir tomorrow, the first visit to the troubled area by an Indian head of government in almost a decade. Deve Gowda said today he had no political agenda lined up for the one-day visit but that he had called an all-party leaders' meeting in New Delhi on Monday to discuss assembly elections in the troubled Jammu and Kashmir state. reports Reuter.

## Khaleda: Agitation

From Page 1

form those properly and sincerely," the former prime minister said.

Begum Zia, however, ruled out any possibility of her party's joining the government of Sheikh Hasina and observed that there was nothing called the government of national

What has been made is completely a coalition government," she said adding that parliamentary form of democracy cannot exist without the

About the legal steps against the reported rigging and irregularities in the last election, the BNP chairperson said her party had already taken recourse to legal steps seeking redress in this regard.

She also informed that the BNP was planning formation of a shadow cabinet in parliament to make parliamentary democracy more effective. Asked to comment on the

renaming of Radio Bangladesh as Bangladesh Betar and hanging of the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in government offices, Begum Zia avoided a direct reply, saying "We don't know where we will Replying to a question on

the visit of the indian Foreign Secretary who is expected to discuss the water issue, the former prime minister said her government took initiative to resolve the problem of wa-

ter sharing. "We always wanted a solution to the problem, we still want a solution," she said. adding that they had demanded the share of water as was negotiated by the Zia government.

### Maneka expelled from Janata Dal NEW DELHI, July 5: An in-

fluential lawmaker who accused Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda of India of clearing a controversial power project was expelled from the party today, a news report said, according to AP.

The expulsion of Maneka Gandhi, a leading environmentalist and the daughter-in-law of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was expected for several days after she criticised the government for allegedly approving a plan to set up a power plant in a southern

Maneka was not immediately available for a comment.

### Flood threatens Dhaka Our Correspondent from

From Page 1

Sherpur adds: The flood situaand Gothail Bazar in Islampur tion in Sadar and adjacent thana are under threat of ero-Nakla thana has deteriorated sion by the river Brahmaputra. The flood situation in six thanas of Sirajganj further deborder. teriorated as more areas went under water during last 24

hours till this (Friday) evening Five children reportedly drowned in flood waters in Sirajganj district. They were Rubel (8) of village Dighulia in Shahjadpur thana and Zarina (10) of village Shantanagar in Kazipur thana, Tuku (7) of Singabari village in Kazipur thana, Shahed (7) and Hazrat

(9) of Mirpur area in Siraigan Paurasava, according to UNB. Some 20 villages of Shahjadpur, Chowhali and Kazipur thanas and 1,000 acres of cropland went under water

yesterday, official sources said. About 50,000 people of Sadar, Tarash, Shahjadpur

Belkuchi, Chowhali and Kazipur thanas were affected in the flood, caused by heavy downpour and onrush of water from upstream. Some 2,500 people of 500

families in six villages under Kawakhola union in Sadar thana were rendered homeless due to erosion by the river Ja-

### 3 incidents of snatching in Dhanmondi

By Staff Correspondent Three incidents of snatching occurred in Dhanmondi Road No 2 and adjoining areas yesterday, witness said.

Three other incidents of

snatching also took place in the same area the day before, witnesses and residents said adding that the area has become risky for the passers-by. A resident of the area who witnessed one incident at about 1pm yesterday said that muggers in an auto-rickshaw attacked three young girls in a rickshaw who were going towards the City College on road no 2. One of the girls was seriously injured when the muggers tried to snatch the gold chain from the girl.

In another incident at around 9pm muggers snatched a gold chain from a housewife who was travelling in a rickshaw near the same spot, according to witness.

### 8000 vehicles

From Page 1

tre-long queue from the Aricha ghat. Similar queues of vehicles awaiting serial numbers from BIWTC counters were seen at the two other ghats at Nagarbari and Daulatdia. Additional police forces

have been deployed at the three ghats to help ease the traffic congestion causing much suffering to the passengers, particularly women and children.

Water Development Board sources at Nagarbari said the water level of the Jamuna registered rise at Nagarbari point and 50 kutcha godowns of wheat, fertiliser and cement were washed away.

BIWTA sources said the pontoon at Nagarbari ghat has been threatened by the swelling river.

due to incessant rain and onrush of water from across the Flood situation in other thanas — Jhenaigati, Nalitabari

and Srebardi thana of the district, however, has improved officials here said. At least 40 villages under the Sadar thana and 30 villages

low-lying areas were inundated and some 15,000 people marooned in the district. Four rivers in Brahmaputra and Meghna basins were flow-

ing above their respective danger levels, according to a bulletin of Flood Information Centre yesterday. The Brahmaputra at Ba-

13 cm above its danger mark at 6 pm. Manu river at Manu Railway

Khowai at Habigani and Halda at Narayanhat points registered sharp fall and were flowing below their respective danger levels at 6 am. Surma at Kanaighat receded

by 2 cm but was still flowing above 79 cm its red mark and Kushiyara at Sheola rose by 2 cm and flowing 32 cm above Kushiara at Amalshid re-

### mained static and was flowing 82 cm above its red mark. PM leaves for

Dr Wazed Mia is scheduled to leave for Makkah on Monday to perform umrah. The Prime Minister, who is

going to Makkah on an invitation from the Saudi Government, is due to be back home on July 11.

### Share trading

From Page 1 vestors) are monitoring the next budget.

ation of the privatisation process for further development

of the capital market. The volume leaders of the week were: Apex Weaving (77.950). Chic Tex (69.200). Eastern Cable (50,430). Beximco Ltd (64,430), Beximco

Pharma (34,100), Square Pharma (25,960). Usmania Glass (32,670), Eastern Housing (33,680). Meghna Cement (33,260) and Janata Insurance (22,000)

### Ctg market

tried to resist them. He was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical

creants looted Tk 1 lakh from a tailoring shop. Police said a armed group stormed Kajal Tailors at about

pm and looted the money from the owner of the shop at gun point. Separate cases were filed

## with Kotwali police.

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# DOWN TO EARTH

concerned. Dhaka was once a city with attractive verdant beauty particularly in the Ramna area. The burgeoning process of urbanisation has claimed among its victims the cruel denudation of trees in many areas which once contributed to some cases, the denudation orgy became so rampant that it the simple truth that trees are our friends and contribute to the ecological balance of nature. Time has come to realise

our reckless drive towards urbanisation. although, on the one hand, trees were planted by one agency, on the other hand, they were cut down by another agency for avowed development work. Apparently this

been receiving increasing attention. It is to be hoped that the recent political change in government will give a fillip to the growing realisation of the importance of this aspect. Because at stake is the urgency of turning the plantation programme into a social movement to maintain the ecological balance of the country for

The agencies associated with the plantation programme sometimes seem to enter into a sort of competition on how many trees are

The WB urged the govern-

ment to accelerate the re-

structuring of the financial

sector and privatisation of

About tariff structure, the

Bank said the tariff schedule

should be further compressed

and lowered since revenue

from the expansion of trade

will quickly more than make

up for the lowering of rates. it

said the country should go for

a three-rate schedule of 10, 20

and 35 per cent in 1996-97

and finally adopting a flat rate

of about 15 per cent by 1999-

sector, the report said ex-

porters should be given access

to world-priced inputs by ex-

empting, suspending or rebat-

ing customs duties and by

waiving the VAT on the con-

facility should be made avail-

able for all export industries as

well as those who serve both

the export and home demands.

Export Promotion Bureau

should establish a profession-

ally managed matching grant

scheme for product and mar-

owned enterprises (SOEs)

which use a third of all credit

while yielding only three per

cent of national product, the

Bank said a clear cabinet policy

statement should be issued

covering objectives and modal-

ities, and also firm targets

should be set for the privatisa-

tion process with intermediate

overhaul of the corporate taxa-

tion to provide better incen-

tive to private investment, the

Bank suggested establishing

low rate of tax on profit, about

15 per cent, on all types of

businesses and also reducing

the scope for discretionary rul-

the Bank observed that "the

problem of lawlessness im-

poses serious costs on com-

merce." It suggested develop-

ing well-trained, motivated

and neutral police force to

protect businesses from ha-

sector, the Bank said the

Regarding the financial

rassment.

About the law and order,

Stressing the need for an

deadlines for specific steps.

About privatising the state-

It also suggested that the

It said bonded warehouse

tent of export sales.

ket development.

On incentives for export

problems of inefficiency.

state enterprises.

2000.

bers of the PGR in various state functions is a matter of pride for the Armed Forces and the

nation as a whole. President Biswas said the necessity of raising the President's Guard Regiment was felt just after the emergence of

full-fledged regiment. The President lauded the role of the members of the PGR in discharging its solemn

efficiently. the PGR while on duty with the then President Shaheed Ziaur Rahman, President Biswas said they glorified the history of the regiment by setting a bright example of duti-

### Saurav's feat

From Page 1

the fabulous feat. cricketer in the fray, had earlier gone down in history by scoring a century in his Test

debut at Lord's last week. Only five batsmen have scored two centuries in their first two Test appearances. They are: Bill Ponsford, Dog Walters and Greg Blewet of Australia, Alvin Kalicharan of West Indies and the present Indian captain Azharuddin. Among them, Azhar is the only plucky cricketer holding the unique record of scoring three successive centuries in his

first three Test matches. Ganguly can match his skipper. Match report on Page 10.

Telecom policy

countries, modern technology has eliminated corruption in the telecommunication sector," the Minister pointed out. The government would take donors' assistance in modernising the telecommunication sector, he added.

The minister said the inconvenience caused to the people by road digging for installation of telephone lines will come to an end soon as the Prime Minister is considering setting up of a joint body of the T&T, the WASA and the Dhaka City Corporation to look after such works.

"Road digging will not be allowed in the day time and during the rainy season once this body is set up," he added.

From Page 1

Bangladesh as a free and

sovereign nation in 1971. The PGR was raised in 1975 in this day entrusting with the task of providing security to the head of the state and the government. The President said the organisational set-up of the regiment has

been extended to make it a

responsibilities properly and Referring to the supreme sacrifices of some members of

### fulness.

sixth Test batsman to attain Ganguly, the only Bangalee

The world waits to see if

From Page 1

activities of the President's Guard Regiment (PGR) recall nation. She prayed for the deing their devotion and sincer ity in discharging their duties parted souls and sought blessings of the Almighty for their reports UNB. The Regiment's responsibil bereaved families. ities are glorious and important, she said adding that its members were upholding the image of the armed forces and the country by participating in

PGR to show utmost

Speaking on the occasion of the 21st founding anniversary present. of the President's Guard Regiment at its headquarters, the Prime Minister hoped that the members of the regiment would show utmost patriotism

committee room No. 1 at the Sangsad Bhaban in the

Some ministers, Chief Whip

### Manila declaration

# Call for child-friendly

media environment MANILA, July 5: Asian ministers, non-government groups and members of the media today pledged to protect children against undesirable west-

ern influences on the region's culture, reports AFP. "Media for or about children should protect and respect the diverse cultural heritage of Asian societies," read a declaration issued at the end of the

three-day Asian Summit on Child Rights and Media. 23 countries called for the formation of media watchdogs at national and regional level, urging self-regulation to promote an indigenous, child-

Some 250 delegates from

friendly and positive media environment. "Let us continue to address

the importance of protecting Asian cultures, in the midst of the global communication revolution," Philippine President Fidel Ramos told delegates.

Yang Weiguang, Vice Minis-

ter of China's Ministry of Radio, Film and Television told AFP that it was up to governments to enact laws that would protect children against "too much violence and obscenity." Yang conceded that there were "western programmes that are very good programmes

Asian children such as great masterpieces and western science programmes. But he added that once the declaration was approved "There will become degree of

-PID photo

control."

that should be introduce to



Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan receiving his Indian counterpart Salman Haider at the Zia International Airport yesterday.

## From Page 1

of Nakla thana mostly in the

hadurabad point was flowing

bridge and Moulvibazar points

# its red mark.

Makkah Monday By Staff Correspondent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with her husband

political situation in our country and waiting for the He emphasised on acceler-

## From Page 1

condition. In the other incident, also in Love Lane area, armed mis-

### 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.

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