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DOWN TO EARTH

A Housing Complex with Many Problems

By ASM Nurunnabi

An example City's growing slum-like entity is provided by the sprawling existence of the residential complex known as Azimpur Estate...

found it necessary to arrange for additional construction within the available land in the Estate...

daily occurrence and affects the environment of the whole locality.

There seems to be no escape from this choking situation. On the one hand, the additional construction of buildings on every inch of buildable plot is proceeding apace...

When the quarters were originally constructed, there was no great congestion among the different units constituting the residential complex...

The whole scenario, however, changed with the rapid increase in the number of residents in the area...

As a result of these activities, there is hardly any doubt that the whole residential complex is fast turning into a sort of urban slum. Moreover, there is an increasing number of shops on internal footpaths and also a growing kutcha bazar...

It is hard to realise the justification for construction of additional buildings within the narrow confines of the residential complex. If there was actual need for building space with convenient proximity to the city, there would have been no dearth of suitable land without encumbering the already overladen population pressure within the existing residential areas...

Typhoon pummels southern China

BEIJING, Aug 2: Typhoon Herb pummelled the southern Chinese coast today, sweeping at least one person but to sea and raising already flood-swollen rivers and lakes to the danger level in some areas, reports AP.

In Taiwan, the death toll from Herb, the worst storm in 30 years, rose today to 19, with 39 missing, the government said. In addition to the dead and missing, 380 people were injured, 36 seriously, by fallen objects or in rockslides triggered by the typhoon, which lashed Taiwan Wednesday.

Officials said the storm caused an estimated 10 billion Taiwan dollars (US \$1.365 billion) in damage to crops, roads and power equipment. Some 9,900 hectares (24,450 acres) of flooded rice paddies were damaged, they said.

Herb was the second typhoon to hit Taiwan in less than a week. Typhoon Gloria killed three people last Saturday and caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to crops.

Although the typhoon's 140 kilometer-per-hour (87-mph) winds began to weaken as soon as it hit the Chinese mainland on Thursday, the storm was expected to dump unwelcome rains on areas still recovering from widespread seasonal flooding, official media reported.

The water level in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, parts of which have already flooded further upstream, had reached the danger level in coastal Jiangsu province, China's state-run Xinhua News Agency reported today. It said floods could threaten the safety of some 180,000 people.

The China Youth Daily said in a report from the Fujian capital, Fuzhou that a village official on patrol in southeastern Fujian province was missing after he was swept away by waves.

Violent wind and waves swept away some coastal embankments, whipped advertising billboards through the air and left streets in the provincial capital Fuzhou flooded knee deep in some places.

Sea walls were breached in about 1,000 places in Fujian, Xinhua said.

Ramendu elected Sangskritik Jote president

A 29-member central Executive Committee of the Sammilita Sangskritik Jote was elected yesterday with Ramendu Majumder and Golam Quddus as its president and general secretary respectively, reports BSS.

The election was held in the third biennial conference and council session of the organisation at the Silpakaia Academy, in the city. The conference was inaugurated by Poet Shamsur Rahman. Presided over by Faiz Ahmed, the inaugural session was addressed by Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Ramendu Majumder, Assaduzzaman Noor, Mamunur Rashid, Ataur Rahman, Nasiruddin and Golam Quddus.

The conference was rounded off with a cultural programme. A new council of advisers of the Jote was also formed in the conference. Faiz Ahmed, Poet Shamsur Rahman, Dr Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Dr Anisuzzaman and Kamal Lohani are members of the advisory council.

55 bus passengers hurt in Tamil Nadu blast

MADRAS, Aug 2: A bus ran over a bag containing explosives at a bus stop in southern India today, detonating the device and wounding 55 passengers, police said, reports AP.

Police said they suspect the explosives were intended for use in stone quarries in the area, and that terrorism apparently was not a motive.

The incident was at Arantangi, a town 560 kilometers (335 miles) south of Madras, the state capital of Tamil Nadu.

Five of the wounded were in serious condition, said a police spokesman. Earlier news reports said 30 were badly wounded. The bus was bound for Peruvurani, about 50 kilometers (35 miles) away.

There was no immediate indication whether the bus was a deliberate target.

Snackmaker Toaster Oven. Transcom Electronics Limited. Official licensee of Philips Electronics NV for lighting products, radio and TV sets.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing district officials and local elite at Gopalganj Circuit House yesterday. — PID photo

PM: Neglected areas

From page 1 governments alter the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for widespread corruption and plundering of national wealth, according to UNB.

The Prime minister instructed the police forces to maintain law and order to help achieve economic development of the country.

The meeting was also addressed by DIG Police of Dhaka Range and DC of Gopalganj.

The Prime Minister later went to Shariatpur and addressed district officials at the DC office, asking them to devote themselves to the welfare of the people by discharging their duties with a missionary zeal.

Briefing Hasina on law and order, and flood situation, the deputy commissioner of Shariatpur said implementation of an irrigation project under-

taken in 1968 could protect a vast area in the district from recurring floods.

The official also suggested formation of a new police station comprising five inaccessible unions in the eastern part of the district.

The prime minister asked the officials concerned to review the master plan for irrigation to make it up-to-date.

said the government would consider proper implementation of the project.

Addressing a public meeting at Shariatpur Stadium, the Prime Minister said the government would take measures for the women to bring them in the mainstream of the society. She also assured necessary support to them to set up small and cottage industries.

She said law and order situation would be improved to provide peace and security to the citizen of the country.

"We are working for the repressed and exploited people for whom the Father of the Nation had struggled throughout his life," she said.

Presided over by local Awami League president Abidur Reza Khan, the public meeting was addressed, by Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak and Col (ret) Shawkat Ali, MP.

Rao asked

From page 1 Rao has denied the allegations but newspapers here reported Thursday that the former premier was in New York around the time that Pathak alleges the transaction took place.

Chandraswami and an associate have been in prison since May charged with criminal conspiracy and fraud. Magistrate Kumar has repeatedly rejected their petitions for release on bail.

Pathak's allegations have turned up the heat on Rao to step down as leader of the Congress (I) Party, which he led to its worst electoral debacle in May, ending his five-year tenure as prime minister.

Two beheaded

From page 1 months back but despite reminders Mansoor was not making any such arrangements.

On July 31, Kashem and Tayeb left home for Chuadanga to meet Mansoor but did not return. Yesterday, their bodies were found.

A case was registered with Pabna thana and bodies were sent to Pabna General Hospital for autopsy.

West Bank

From page 1 wounded were in serious condition.

The Israeli army, which still controls access roads in and out of the city, sealed the area. The Israeli army said it deployed more troops outside Tulkarem, and allowed extra Palestinian troops into town at the request of the Palestinian Authority.

Photographers stuck at an Israeli roadblock outside Tulkarem said the Israeli troops had set up a makeshift field hospital, and that several ambulances were on standby.

Terrorists

From page 1 injured and admitted to hospital, he added.

Accusing some officials of Pallabi police of patronising terrorists, Majumdar, the ruling party MP, said the thana first refused to file any complaint from Farida on the July 25 incident.

Later, they registered a case and arrested five of the seven attackers, he said.

The rest two along with their accomplices attacked Farida's residence yesterday.

Johnson

From page 1 take a perfect race to beat Michael — 19.32 is just an incredible time.

Boldon said: "When I crossed the line I did not believe the time he had run. This is the fastest man in the world... with the greatest respect to Donovan Bailey."

Johnson still managed to find fault with his race. "I think the start cost me a few hundredths of a second. I stumbled out of the blocks," he said.

But he lapped up the atmosphere. There has never been this much pressure on me in my entire life. But I have always said I perform better under pressure and I definitely proved that today," said Johnson.

My coach told me everybody is a suspect so I have just been going after everybody. Perek's coach John Smith, meanwhile, had spent most of the months before the Games trying to persuade her to run the 200m.

It paid off as she caught world champion Merlene Ottey of Jamaica in the final metres with a sensational late surge to win in 22.12 sec. The bronze went to Nigerian Mary Onyali (22.38).

Perek's double was not the first though. Valerie Brisco-Hooks of America performed the same 200m-400m feat at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984. (Perek's story on page 11)

Concern over presence of outsiders at DU, Shahidullah Hall

By Staff Correspondent

Provosts of different halls of the Dhaka University (DU) have expressed concern over the presence of outsiders and some students belonging to other halls in the Shahidullah Hall.

At a meeting of the DU Provosts committee yesterday evening the provosts decided to closely monitor the situation in respective halls. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed chaired the meeting held at his residence.

The meeting took stock of the prevailing situation in the dormitories and sought assistance from all concerned in keeping normalcy on the campus.

Earlier on July 30, Dhaka University authorities and two major student organisations, in separate meetings reached a consensus that no outsiders would be allowed to reside in the varsity dormitories.

The meetings were held on the outset of reported intrusion into Shahidullah Hall by some outsiders on July 29.

PIA passengers

From page 1

ternational transit lounge of the ZIA and all of them were male, including a nine-year old boy.

Officials at ZIA quoting some of the people who claimed to have voted even in the general elections in Pakistan. According to law in Pakistan, the voters are required to have their national identity card for voting.

The officials wondered as to how they could obtain tickets and even travel without having valid travel documents. Immigration officials also suspected the involvement of airlines staff in the whole affair.

A total of 282 person had returned to Dhaka from Pakistan in November last year in two batches, following a statement by the Pakistani Interior Minister on the issue of illegal immigrants, press reports said.

According to those who had returned at that time a massive crackdown on Bengali-speaking people in Karachi followed that statement.

On their return, all the 282 people were arrested under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for carrying forged travel documents.

After establishment of their identity, they were later granted bail but the government had announced that tough measures would be taken as regards such cases in future.



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia interviewing party nomination seekers for the September 5 Parliamentary elections at the party's Kakrail office yesterday. — Star photo

BJP concentrates focus on temple issues

NEW DELHI, Aug 2: The pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is concentrating its focus on the 'temple issues' Ayodhya, Mathura and Kashi through the militant Hindu outfit Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Bajrang Dal on the eve of the assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh (UP), reports BSS.

Vinay Katiyar, a member of the parliament from Faizabad and former chief of the Bajrang Dal told newsmen here yesterday that he had joined politics as he was inspired by the desire to 'liberate' the three holy Hindu pilgrimage spots from Muslim occupation.

He said the 'Ayodhya' issue had been partly resolved by demolition of the Babri Masjid, but the problem remains in Mathura and Kashi. Katiyar said that he would launch an agitation for repeal of the Places of Worship (Protection) Act, which was passed by the last parliament since "this is the essential pre-condition for the liberation of the Mathura Idgah and the Gyan Vapi Mosque in Kashi."

Katiyar frankly admitted that the agitation would focus on the repeal of the law protecting the status of places of worship as on August 15, 1947.

He believes that the agitation programme on the repeal of the Places of Worship (Protection) Act would not violate the party discipline as the BJP had formally opposed the Bill in parliament.

He was confident of getting the cooperation of the VHP and the Bajrang Dal in making his agitation programme fully successful.

India won't succumb to US pressure to sign CTBT

NEW DELHI, Aug 2: India today defended its decision not to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and said it would not succumb to US pressure to support the pact imposing a global ban on nuclear tests, reports AFP.

"There has been no softening in our position and there shall not be," said Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral to the thumping of desks in approval by members of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of parliament.

Responding to US suggestions that India was blocking the completion of the CTBT negotiations, Gujral said, "India has followed a reasonable and positive approach."

India has refused to approve the treaty under discussion in Geneva until the five declared nuclear powers — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — agree to a time bound frame work for scrapping their nuclear weapons.

India has also sought the modification of the so-called "entry in force" clause in the draft treaty under discussion which makes it mandatory for New Delhi to ratify the treaty for it to take effect.

"We will not allow such language which imposes obligations on us despite our clear stand," Gujral said. "We continue to hope our concerns will be addressed to arrive at a genuine consensus."

India has expressed support for a ban on nuclear tests but is unwilling to back the CTBT unless it includes a commitment to universal nuclear disarmament.

The United States and other countries are hoping to complete discussion of the treaty in time for it to be submitted to the UN General Assembly in New York in September.

A number of deputies in the Rajya Sabha accused the United States and other nuclear powers of "nuclear blackmail" and of seeking to impose "nuclear apartheid" on the rest of the world.

"India must resist nuclear apartheid," said KR Malkani of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, India's main opposition party, which supports the deployment of nuclear weapons.

Aideed dead

From page 1

southern half. Ali Mahdi and Atto had formed an alliance to fight Aideed for control of the Medina neighbourhood in south Mogadishu. It apparently was during that battle that Aideed was wounded.

The Voice of the Somali People, said the self-proclaimed Somali president died of a heart attack while performing his national duties.

Aideed's radio station declared a 30-day mourning period and said flags in south Mogadishu would be flown at half-staff for seven days. It broadcast somber music and messages of condolence to Aideed's family all morning.

Aideed is survived by his third wife, Khadija said Gurhan, and 14 children.

Prof. Ioan M Lewis, a British expert on Somalia, said Aideed's death opens the situation in Somalia to "positive developments."

Attempts since 1991 to broker agreements between the various faction leaders in Somalia have generally been a complete waste of time, largely because Aideed wasn't interested in negotiating, Lewis said.

Aideed emerged as a powerful force in Somalia after the overthrow of President Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991.

During Siad Barre's increasingly brutal 21-year reign, the Italian-trained general served in the army, cabinet and as Somalia's ambassador to India.

Siad Barre named him intelligence chief, but came to suspect Aideed of plotting against him and jailed him from 1969 to 1976.

As Siad Barre's rule weakened, Aideed turned on his boss.

Aideed's fighters drove the fallen leader from Mogadishu in January 1991. Shortly after, two Hawiye sub-clans — one led by Ali Mahdi and the other by Aidid — began quarrelling over the spoils.

More than 350,000 Somalis died from the fighting and famine.

20 Chechens killed in Russian air raid

MOSCOW, Aug 2: Russian air raids on villages in southern Chechnya have killed more than 20 civilians in the past 24 hours, Chechen spokesman Movlady Udugov said today, reports AFP.

Quoted on Moscow Echo Radio, Udugov said that the air raids had in particular targeted roads through mountainous regions in the south of the breakaway republic.

He added that Russian forces on Friday morning surrounded and blocked access to the village of Bachi-Yurt in southeastern Chechnya.

Earlier today, the Russian defence ministry said eight Russian soldiers had been killed and 10 others injured in the past 24 hours in Chechnya.

Defence Ministry spokesman Alexander Ovchinnikov, cited by Moscow Echo Radio, did not say where the soldiers were killed or injured.

A spokesman for Russian troops in Chechnya for his part told the Interfax news agency that four soldiers had been killed and eight injured, most of them in an ambush by secessionist rebels in the village of Jalka, east of the capital Grozny.

He added that the rebels were still laying mines on roads used by Russian military convoys and that 14 mines had been defused in the past 24 hours.

A wide-ranging peace accord was reached between the two sides on June 10 — just before the presidential elections in which president Boris Yeltsin badly needed to show he could end the war.

Child-lifters

From page 1

rested the two teenaged boys — Monir, 13 and Motaleb, 16 — on Tuesday and Wednesday respectively when they again tried to pick up Jewel's younger brother Rubel, 7, Monday afternoon. They were placed on police remand for another day on expiry of a two-day remand yesterday.

Jahanara, a home-based garments worker, was not in the house when Jewel was lured by the two boys saying he would be taken to a movie house to see a film, according to police.

The arrested boys, who resided at a slum in Sukrabad area could not name the person to whom they handed over Jewel for Tk 500. They, however, told police that the gang members often passed their time at Shampur in Sutrapur area and at Sadarghat launch terminal.

The arrested boys confessed that they had also picked up another child from Shabujbagh area some time ago, police said. Acting on this, Mohammadpur police raided different parts of the city to trace the gang. They also kept constant vigilance at Sadarghat terminal. Besides, Detective police also continued search.