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**Down to Earth**  
**Boosting Tourism In City**

By A S M Nurunnabi

The opportunities for visiting countries that exist nowadays could not be thought of in the past. Now the world has changed. The concept of tourism has now acquired a wide-ranging significance which exerts considerable socio-economic impact. Though the government recognised the tourism sector as industry in 1991, there has been so far no substantial improvement in this field. We are yet to attain the stage of development in this sphere already achieved by our neighbouring countries — India and Nepal. One reason perhaps is that we are late starters in this field.

Our country, which has many potentialities to become one of the attractive spots for the world tourism, is yet to be discovered by the foreign tourists and not even by the local people. Even in the Dhaka city itself, there are many attractions in the glory of its oriental past and the pervasive beauty of nature lying in unbroken view of surrounding region. In short, Dhaka city with its historical monuments, archaeological wealth, and modern city centres is a dreamland for the tourists. It has a happy blending of old and new architectural trends. It is the hub of industrial, commercial, cultural, educational and political activities for Bangladesh. Motijheel is the main commercial area of the city. Gulshan, Banani, Uttara, Dhanmondi are the sophisticated residential areas. Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara are also known as diplomatic zones. Colourful shops full of traditional handicrafts of wood, bamboo, straw, brass and copper are other characteristic features of tourist attraction.

The Tourist Month of this year was launched by the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation from the first of this month. The Corporation has drawn up comprehensive programmes for tourists, both domestic and foreign, covering the entire month. These programmes include city sight

seeing, cultural functions, river cruises, food festivals at some of the hotels offering varieties of cuisines, grand concert, Meena Bazar offering fine arrays of handicrafts, Musical Instruments Exhibition, Children's Art Competition, etc. The tourist handbook distributed by the Corporation gives full details of the places of tourist attraction in the city.

In the eyes of our observers, tourism is yet to achieve a people-oriented character. In this context, it is felt that we need to bring our people of small means out of their homes by projecting our tourist spots and offering them attractive travel packages at economy rates. Moreover, tourism in general in our country is influenced by seasonal changes. On this account, foreign tourists and even domestic tourists choose winter as more favourable for their outings. Because of the comparatively high expenses, some sections of local people with modest means are not able to avail the various facilities provided by the Parjatan Corporation, such as the Joy Restaurant at Savar, Waterfront Restaurant at Zia International Airport, Mary Anderson Floating Restaurant at Padma VIP jetty. These facilities for enjoyment are mostly availed of by people of foreign tourists and our own people with higher income. Similarly other facilities near the city and its suburbs provided by the Parjatan Corporation are mostly directed at foreign tourists and local people of means.

There are other important factors to help promotion of tourism. To make every guided tour meaningful, the role of expert guides can hardly be exaggerated. In fact, they form an integral part of the tourism industry. The question of providing adequate security to the tourists during their visits is also very important. At the same time, there is need to maintain adequate infrastructure including road communication and quality hotel ac-

commodation. It is felt by some tourist operators that if scope is created to introduce economy rates for tour tariffs, the domestic tourist and particularly the city dwellers may be motivated to take more interest in visiting places of tourist attraction in greater numbers. This may particularly work as incentive to people of small means in the city who hardly get any opportunity to visit such places of interest around them. Such people-oriented programmes are reported in operation in India where positive incentives are allowed to internal tourists.

It is, however, felt by observers that certain factors act as disincentives in the growth of tourism. Any instability or indiscipline in our civic life adversely affects foreign tourism. Moreover, the proliferation of beggars on the streets, shopping centres and other places frequented by foreign tourists projects a poor image of our country.

Income from tourism in many other Asian countries has been reported increasing for the last few years, whereas our tourism industry suffers from many deficiencies affecting our revenue in this field. According to a tourism expert, tourism-related income of Asian countries will reach 8005 billion dollar in the year 2000. In this perspective, since the contribution of tourism in earning foreign exchange, widening of scope for capital investment, alleviation of poverty, opening of new job opportunities for our people is considerable, it behoves the authorities concerned to give greater attention to this sector.

In this respect, the private sector may be attracted to play a significant role, as in many other countries aiming at augmentation of foreign exchange earning. The fast growing opportunities for travel emerging all over the world may be taken advantage of by us in greater measure to fully realise the great potentialities of tourism in our country.

**Motivation campaign**

From Page 1

Islamia High School, Shoarighat; Karatitola Govt Primary School, Karatitola; Millat High School, Bangshal, Hammadia High School, Armanitola; Islamia High School, Shoarighat; Armanitola Govt High School, Armanitola and BDR High School, Palkhaha.

AFC (Cub Scouts) Md Fazole Khan supervised the campaign by scouts of Chinha Mukta Scout Group, Palashi, Palashi Govt Primary School, Engineering University School, BUET, Dhanishir Mukta Dal, North Dhalpur; Udayan School, DU campus; and Dhaka Badr High School, Bjoyonagar Road.

Artist Laxman Kumar Sutradhar supervised scouts of Kadamtola Purba Basabo High School, Basabo; Bangladesh Pradhani Foundation, Malibagh; Ideal Govt Primary School, Motijheel; Motijheel Govt Boys High School, Motijheel and Baowani High School, Denara.

Field Commissioner (FC) Dhanial Muhuri led the campaign by scouts of Govt Science College, Tejgaon; BG Press High School, Tejgaon; Rayerbazar High School, Nakhla Para Hosain Ali High School, and Tejgaon Govt High School.

AFC Abul Kalam Azad led the scouts of West Dhanmondi Yusuf High School, Mohammadpur Govt Primary School, Bengali Medium High School, Mohammadpur; Kamarpara High School and Lalmeta Govt Primary School.

AFC KM Sadiuzzaman oversaw the campaign by scout of Agargaon Talota Govt Primary School, Khan Hasan Govt Primary School, Mirpur Govt High School, National Open Scout Group, Pallabi; Hajrat Shah Ali Model High School, Mirpur-1; Shiddhanta High School, Mir-

**Nobel Prize**

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He has been the subject of military harassment and surveillance.

Over the years, he has compiled lists of people missing or believed killed in East Timor. In 1985, he published a pastoral letter criticising birth control methods being implemented there which implied that women were being forcibly sterilised.

In 1989, he wrote to the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, calling on the UN to hold a referendum on the territory's future.

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**UP polls: BJP short of absolute majority**

LUCKNOW, India, Oct 11: Hindu nationalist hopes of destabilising India's national government by dominating key state elections in Uttar Pradesh were dashed today after the final results were published by poll officials, reports AFP.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), which had banked on an outright majority to put pressure on H D Deve Gowda's precarious United Front coalition in New Delhi, claimed 175 of the 424 seats declared.

That made it the strongest party in the assembly but, with its ally the Samta (equality) Party claiming just two seats, the BJP was left 36 seats short of absolute majority.

The United Front, meanwhile, an alliance of six centrist-leftist parties, took 133 seats, while the Congress (I) Party and a party of Hindu lower-caste 'Untouchables' took 100 seats.

The results fuelled intense

**ALCWC**

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into two sessions — the first at a city hotel from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and the second at the Ganabhaban from 3:30 pm to 9 pm.

In her concluding speech last night Sheikh Hasina warned party leaders to remain alert about joining of 'some people' in the party. They can change colours overnight. This will tarnish party's image.

She urged the party rank and file to assist the government in implementing development works. She urged them to make tireless efforts to eradicate poverty from the society and materialise the dream of Bangladesh.

Sheikh Hasina also asked party members to make the people aware of the steps so far taken by the AL government for their betterment.

"Don't think what you are getting. Think how more you can offer to people," said Hasina.

**Probe body on ZH Hall incident submits report**

The three-member inquiry committee, which was formed to probe the October 6 incident at the Zahurul Haq Hall of the Dhaka University, submitted its report last night, reports UNB.

According to the report, two armed outsiders — Sunon and Swapan — forcibly entered into Sarwar Hossain's room at the hall and had thrown out him through the first floor window after they snatched his wife's gold ornaments.

The probe body found necessary documents which proved that the lady guest, who came to Sarwar Hossain's room, was his wife.

The report also said that the miscreants had deliberately thrown Sarwar out of the room, apparently with the intention to abuse his young wife.

About the probe committee report, Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury said that the university authorities would take proper action against the miscreants.

There was no doctor on stand-by at the race, Suematsu said.



Members of Chayanat rendering 'autumn songs' at the Fine Arts Institute, Dhaka University yesterday. —Star photo

negotiations between parties determined to keep the BJP out of power.

Dissent, meanwhile broke out within the BJP, which privately conceded it had suffered a setback in its former stronghold.

"The party has received another blow," a top BJP leader said on condition of anonymity. This clearly shows that the party has gone out of gear.

"The BJP campaign went haywire halfway through electioneering with different leaders pulling in different ways."

The party won the most seats in general elections earlier this year but was ousted from government India a fortnight because it could not command a majority in New Delhi.

Independents and minor parties today gained 14 seats.

**Mob torches 18 churches in East Java, kills 5**

JAKARTA, Oct 11: Thousands of people have burned down 18 churches and killed five people in a rampage in the East Java town of Situbondo, a church source said today, reports AFP.

The crowd, angered by a court verdict passed on a Muslim sect leader, Ran Amok on Thursday setting fire to the court building in Situbondo before setting the churches alight.

The bodies of a Pentecostal priest, his wife, two children and a church worker were found late Thursday in the ashes of one of the 18 destroyed churches in Situbondo, 150 kilometers (93 miles) from the main East Java town of Surabaya.

**Man dies after running up 577 stairs**

TOKYO, Oct 11: A 56-year-old man participating in a sporting event in western Japan died after running up 577 stairs, officials said Friday, reports AP.

Mutsuki Misumi, a company worker, collapsed Sunday morning after reaching the 123-metre (406-foot) observatory of the building where the race took place, said Motokazu Suematsu, a spokesman for the event's sponsor.

Misumi was the first casualty ever in the competition held annually since 1990 in Fukuoka, 899 kilometres (562 miles), southwest of Tokyo, Suematsu said.

Misumi later died of a heart attack at a Fukuoka hospital, the national Asahi Shimbun newspaper quoted family members as saying.

The race covered a course up the emergency stairs inside the Fukuoka Tower, a multi-purpose building in downtown Fukuoka.

Misumi was among 250 runners who took part in the race, dubbed the 'Super Ultra Stairs Climbing' event, Suematsu said.

There was no doctor on stand-by at the race, Suematsu said.

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**PHILIPS**



President Shahabuddin Ahmed placing wreath at the mazar of Ziaur Rahman in the city yesterday. —PID photo

**President**

From Page 1

He told both the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia, when they had called on him on the day of his taking oath as the President, to work unitedly for the solution of pressing national problems.

Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP, who accompanied the President from Dhaka, also spoke on the occasion.

From Tungipara, the President went to Jatiya Smriti Shoudha at Savar. He placed a wreath at the Shoudha and paid homage to the martyrs of the War of Liberation. He signed the visitors book there. Earlier, the GOC of the Ninth Infantry Division, Major-General Imamuz-Zaman received him there.

President Justice Shahabuddin also offered *fateha* at the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. He placed wreath at the mazar of the late President and stood there for some time in solemn silence. He prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

From there the President went to the mazars of three national leaders and offered *munaqat* there. He placed wreaths at the mazars of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque, Khwaja Nazimuddin and Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy.

The President then placed a wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar and paid his tributes to the language martyrs. Secretary to the President Muhammad Enamul Huq and military secretary to the President Major-General Ruhul Amin Chowdhury accompanied the President during the visit.

**Khaleda**

From Page 1

that despite rigging in the election, her party joined Parliament as opposition for the sake of democracy. But the ruling party, she alleged, always tried to deprive them of their right to speak in the House.

"We still want to remain in Parliament to raise our voice for the people and make it the centre of all activities," the Leader of the Opposition said adding that the people had vested the BNP with this responsibility.

Ridiculing the ruling party's accusation against the BNP for the "garbage" of 21 years, she said that in fact, it was the BNP which had to clear the 'garbage' piled up during the three years of Awami League and nine years of Jatiya Party rule.

Speaking on the occasion, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan alleged that the party in power was trying to revive one-party rule in the name of national consensus. "People will resist this evil design at any cost," he said.

**Arms surrender**

From Page 1

tan cities under the amnesty, according to officials statistics. The government had announced amnesty for arms surrender on August 7 for three days and the time-limit was later extended till August 13, without saying anything specifically on the offences that could be covered under the amnesty.

Later, an inter-ministerial committee was formed to recommend measures for rehabilitation of those surrendering arms within the specified time-limit.

One source, however, said they were not sure what would happen to the recommendations for rehabilitation measures as the committee has not been empowered to suggest anything on the legal issues concerning the beneficiaries of the scheme.

The committee formed at the initiative of the Home Ministry included representatives from the ministries of Industry, Social Welfare, Labour and Manpower, and Foreign Affairs, with the objective of finding ways and means to give incentive either in cash or in kind in the form of self employment projects to attract those possessing illegal arms to return to normal life.

**PM: Asian Highway**

From Page 1

She deplored that BNP had indulged in the 'dirty business' of involving AL's name with India and asked partymen to make the party's position clear to the people.

The Prime Minister said workers of the loosing state owned enterprises (SOEs) will get priority in obtaining 'ownership' of the industrial units in the process of disinvestment.

"Government can't afford to carry the burden of subsidy worth thousands of crores of taka. We will sell these and rather go for new profitable industrial units," said the Premier.

AL central leaders including a number of ministers and parliament members, members of the party's advisory body and presidents and general secretaries of 70 organisational districts attended the extended meeting of the ALCWC, first after the party came to power on June 23. The last extended meeting of ALCWC was held on April 18 this year.

With party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair, the opening session of the meeting lasted for about two hours from 10:30 am. The meeting resumed at 3:30 pm at Goniabhaban, official residence of the Prime Minister.

In the opening session, AL general secretary Zillur Rahman placed a brief report on party organisational activities since the last extended meeting of ALCWC and AL government's functioning over the last 100-plus days.

AL joint secretary Abdul Jalil placed an obituary reference at the meeting and the participants stood in solemn silence for a minute paying tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and those who sacrificed their lives for realising people's rights.

In her 70-minute speech the president touched on almost every aspects of national life as well as organisational matters. She said that the former BNP government failed in its denationalisation programme.

"We can't misuse public money in feeding loosing concerns year after year. We like to assist workers by offering them better opportunities once they form cooperatives and float projects. They can also buy the mills and factories, which we are willing to sell out," said she.

Prime Minister also made some clear utterances about much-talked issues of Ganges water, power import, providing transit facility to India and asked partymen to further strengthen the organisation saying that plays were to be against the present democratically elected government.

Sheikh Hasina put special emphasis on economic emancipation of the people and said, "We have to attain seven per cent growth rate, enhance foreign investment, ensure security in public life and eradicate the curse of illiteracy within 10 years."

"My government will not suffer from indecisions. Ability to take speedy decisions is one of the main features of my government," Hasina said.

"Awami League does not suffer from narrow partisan attitudes. So far we did not go for politicisation and will never do so. Our bid for depoliticisation is on and will continue for some time more."

In this regard, the AL chief mentioned the election of former chief justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as President of the country. "We were in a position to nominate a party man for the post of President but, we didn't do so. Our wisdom is electing a non-partisan and respected person to the post earned much appreciation worldwide."

She alleged that BNP never wanted to realise Bangladesh's due share of Ganges water. Begum Khaleda Zia, during her New Delhi visit, forgot to ask for water and signed a joint communique allowing India push in its citizens to Bangladesh," Sheikh Hasina said.

**Teenager**

From Page 1

Narinda Road when he came under attack.

Darbh was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at around 11:30 am, police added.

She said her government has made progress in getting the due share of Ganges water soon, we are going to gain our share."

She claimed that BNP government's misguided foreign policy had made the country literally 'friendless.' "But, due to right policies now, we are getting more and more positive signals from donor countries and agencies. For the first time this year, our Finance Minister did not need to answer donors' queries and got monetary assistance from Paris Consortium more than expected."

"The World Bank and other donors were not in favour of providing subsidy to agriculture. But we made them understand. We don't give promises to please donors. We don't practice politics of foul play."

"We will achieve economic development alongside our efforts to give democracy an institutional shape. Bangabandhu brought political independence but had to embrace martyrdom soon after he had launched programmes aiming at economic development."

She also mentioned measures taken in different sectors including reform in local government structures, formation of law reform commission and development in the telecommunication sector. She said, "We will go for upazila system to ensure service at the door steps of rural people."

Sheikh Hasina was critical of former BNP government's claim of Bangladesh's becoming an 'emerging tiger.' "But our's is a country of Royal Bengal Tiger. Days are not far away when Bangladesh will be an emerging tiger, not in rhetoric but in real terms."

The Prime Minister set aside allegations of repression on Opposition leaders and workers. "Why political parties try to take responsibilities of terrorists when police arrest them on specific charges? My government can't shoulder the responsibility if Bureau of Anti-Corruption sues a family for charges of corrupt practices."

Turning to organisational matters, Awami League president asked the party rank and file to uphold the party's tradition of serving the toiling masses and said, "I want you to work with the same devotion now in nation building as you did during the periods of democratic movements."

Sacrifice yourselves for the well-being of people for four more years and see how people reward you again through ballots. Mind it, ballot is more powerful than bullet," the AL chief said.

She urged her partymen to organise the national council session of the party, due in December, in a successful way and asked the six teams, formed earlier, to settle disputes, if any at grassroots levels of the party.

Sheikh Hasina reminded AL leaders and workers that it was unique that the party, which achieved independence for a country but ousted in a counter-revolution, came to power again. "There is no match in world's history."

Some party frontliners including Abdus Samad Azad, Abdur Razzak, Begum Motia Chowdhury, Begum Saieda Chowdhury, Amir Hussain Amu, Zillur Rahman, Quamruzzaman, Abdul Momen, Mohammad Nasim, Abdul Mannan and Abdul Jalil were seated on the podium during the inaugural session.

Darbh was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at around 11:30 am, police added.

Sutrapur police suspected that the incident was a sequel to previous enquiry.

The victim's body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy and a case was lodged with Sutrapur thana.

None was, however, arrested in this connection till last night, police said.