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The World On Time

Down to Earth

Sad Tale Of Two City Areas

by A S M Nurunnabi

A sad tale of suffering and woes relates to two city areas namely Sher-e-Bangianagar and Hazaribagh, among others In pre-independence days. Sher-e-Banglanagar was known as the second capital of the country. The so-called second capital was established in the sixties, according to the architectural plans of world famous architect Louis Kahn. Such plans were said to have been modelled on the pattern on the remnants of the ancient glorious Mohenjodaro civilisation. Great care was taken to beautify that area with lush green trees and other ornamentai paraphernalia. Well-known structures and buildings such as Gono Bhaban, Planning Commission, Election Commission. Ministry of Defence — all bear witness to the creative zeal of those times

At present that area no longer reflects edifying sights. When we enter Sher-e-Banglanagar by skirting Gono Bhaban and the Suhrawardy Hospital, a distressful panorama will meet the eye. Much of it is covered by a good number of unauthorised dairy farms set up in an environment of filth and gross neglect of sanitation by slum dwellers of adjacent areas. The droppings of animals of these farms, remaining uncleared for long periods of time, seriously pollute the environment of the Suhrawardy Hospital and the surrounding residential areas. Though many highly placed persons of the neighbourhood commute through this area, none seemed to care about its sad plight.

Nearby is the garden known as "Chandrima Uddyan" which is said to be a venue of elements whose presence is detrimental to the existence of a healthy climate for recreation. From time to time, police personnel and security guards of the garden conduct drives against such

anti-social elements but it has been found difficult to dislodge

It is reported that a galling situation is created by some residents of government quarters in adjacent areas. Besides setting up cow sheds for their cows. some of these residents are found to build small tin sheds in the rear of their quarters without any regard for government rules and regulations. These tin sheds are let out by some allottees of government quarters in this area for quite a good sum of money.

Another distressing picture of the area is the existence of socalled "out-falls" behind almost every government quarter, particularly "G" and "H" types quarters. These places are used for dumping of household garbage from the government quarters. Besides these, it is found that behind the Community Centre and the office of the Welfare Samity, there are in existence many slums, makeshift shops and garages for rickshaws These structures are let out by elements wielding considerable local influence.

This is the current sad picture of Sher-e-Banglanagar which was once a beautiful

Another sore spot of the city is the Hazaribagh area which is the home of 90 per cent of all leather producing companies in Bangladesh. One of the largest population concentrations in the country. Hazaribagh has deteriorated to the extreme in recent months. The newly built Dhaka Protection Embankment prevents tannery wastes from flowing into the Buriganga river and keeps it trapped in the area. The impoundment is reportedly a highly polluted pond of organic wastes, acids and heavy metals. National and international environmentalists and health experts have expressed concern over its effects

on the environment and health

of the people of the area. Considering the adverse impact of tanneries on urban health in particular and on ur ban environment in general, i was learnt that a feasibility study for the relocation of the leather industry to Savar, on the outskirts of the city, was conducted recently by the Asian Development Bank in response to a request by the government of Bangladesh. The feasibility study reportedly showed that the proposition was too expensive and too extensive. The study took note of the fact that the area which is affected by the pollution of tanneries, is densely populated. At the moment, the ground water of the area is becoming more and more contaminated with the leaching of chromium from the impounded wastes. The ADB feasibility study is understood to have suggested that in order to cope with the pollution of tanneries, some measures need to be taken, which include installation of a Central Water Treatment Plant in Hazaribagh area, the uplifting of roads and sewerage and strengthening the Department of Environment. The government is yet to make a move for implementation of the suggestions of the ADB. Since all tanneries are privately owned and owners are members of some associations or groups, it behoves them to do necessary coordination for improving environmental management. The Department of Environment is also required to ensure compliance of the tanneries with the legal provisions enacted under the Environment Protection Act. Since the international communities are also concerned with the pollution of tanneries, donors are likely to come forward to provide loans for satisfactory solution of the problems that have

15 infrastructure None arrested

UNDP suggests reforms in 7 main areas

Star Report

The United Nations Development Programme has suggested reforms in seven main areas to modernise and strengthen the infrastructure of the Jatiya Sangsad, aiming at improving its efficiency, transparency and accountability, official sources concerned said.

"Specific activities will be undertaken within each of these specified areas," a UNDP source said. MPs were sent abroad "to study the working of various parliaments under phase one of the project" that began in September and will end in December this year, he added.

The second phase of the project would continue for the whole of next year and would be sponsored by various donor agencies including the UNDP. In the second phase, major

Four killed

Six people were killed and 44

others injured at Bhaluka on the same highway on Thursday. Our Staff Correspondent in Sylhet adds: A septuagenarian was crushed under the wheels of a speeding coach on Dhaka-Sylhet highway tonight Naior Miah, 70, died on the spot at a place near Mokambazar at about 7:45 pm. The killer vehicle was on its way to Sylhet having started from Comilla.

The agitated villagers put barricade on the road just-after the accident. Several hundred vehicles remained stranded on both sides of the road. Police cleared the road after one and half an hours.

thrust would be given on setting up an independent institute for parliamentary studies for conducting seminar programmes for MPs, sending selected MPs and staff on study tours and training attachments abroad. providing audio-visual aid for MPs and arranging training courses and seminars for the staff as a continuing process.

the sources said Besides, efforts would be made for new space for the JS committees, ensure staff and research support for the committees, office space for MPs

and staff and research support. In-house printing facilities for the JS and transforming the current library into a modern legislative information centre were also included in the reform package.

Under this project, equipment needs of the library, reference and documentation section, research section and other sections would be assessed for necessary support. Personnel would also be trained according to requirements, the sources

pointed out. A project for in-house television circuit for live broadcast of parliament sessions would also come under consideration. A feasibility study for installation of computers and other relevant technology like 'internet'

would also be conducted. The sources said that the project had been conceived on the basis of previous reports and studies by The Asia Foundation (1991), Centre for Analysis and Choice (1994 and 1995), World Bank (1996) and a number of MPs and interviews with staff members.

irritant. Although successive

India governments have recog-

nised China's sovereignty over

the Himalayan plateau, many

by the exiled Tibetan leader, the

Dalai Lama, to expel China

A small group of Tibetans

shouted slogans against the

Chinese leader as he was driv-

ing to Raj Ghat, the grave of In-

dian independence leader Mo-

Dalai Lama welcomed Jiang's

visit to India and expressed

such a meeting were unrealistic

because "of the new wave of re-

pression and the on-going cam-

paign to denounce me inside Ti-

closer relationship between the

two countries would help the

visit of President Jiang Zemin

The Tibetan leader said a

"I therefore welcome the

In a statement Thursday, the

But he said the prospects for

from Tibet.

handas Gandhi.

hopes to meet him.

Tibetan cause.

to India," he said.

Indo-China accord

From Page 1

ing guarantees for investments in each others' countries could not be signed because differences were not resolve, according to AP.

With both sides trying to bring their developing countries into the global economy, the talks between Jiang and Gowda were aimed at improving cooperation and leaving behind the tensions that remain from the unresolved border war.

"Though we still have some outstanding problems left over from history, I can said that our common interest far outweigh our differences," Jiang said in a speech during a dinner hosted by India President Shanker

Dayal Sharma. "Both of us need a peaceful neighborhood," replied Sharma

in his dinner speech. New Delhi also is concerned about China's help to Myanmar in constructing military port facilities on India's eastern

flank. The Tibet issue is another said a senior police official yesterday.

Another police official however did not rule out the possibility that the killing was preplanned. "But we are investigating the incident as an instantly planned murder for snatching the money," he said.

Unidentified gunmen in a motor bike gunned down two brothers — Salahuddin, 32, father of two, and Sohel, 19, a college student — and took away Tk five lakh from them near Lal Masjid on Dhaka-Narayangani road at Shampur at about 11:30 am Thursday

The brothers were going to their family's business place at Paglaghat in an auto-rickshaw after drawing the money from a Janata Bank branch at Postagola, according to reports.

DB and Demra police yesterday questioned some people at Shampur, Paglaghat and Keraniganj thana areas yesterday. Police sources said that they got a very good impression about the deceased brothers and their family.

Both the armed killers had long hair and they were smartly dressed, locals told police. However, none could tell the number of the motorbike or the autorickshaw.

The family of the deceased has a well-established business of stone trading in Paglaghat, said police adding that they did not get any information to think that the killing was out of enmity.

Meanwhile, the slain brothers were buried at their family graveyard at Ekuria in Keraniganj yesterday morning, police said. The family members also do think that the killing was pre-planned, police added.

ADB loan

From Page 1 desirability and design of such a unit would be investigated during the PSIDP preparation process and finalised during appraisal of the project, it said.

The project is scheduled for appraisal during February-March period next year, but the government has expressed a desire to advance the timetable and have the appraisal done in December.

The Bank has agreed to the proposal, but said the actions prior to appraisal should be met by the earlier date and the government's readiness for the appraisal be indicated at least a month in advance.

Specific task teams to be formed under the joint auspices of the Board of Investment (BOI) and the concerned line ministries would develop and facilitate the sub-projects under the PSIDP.

Acting on the concept of a single window approach, these teams would undertake all activities necessary from the government side, such as conducting pre-feasibility studies, evaluating and marketing subprojects, inviting private sector interest and interfacing with potential sponsors for providing information and assistance.

Alleged evasion of tax by 2 importers

Hearing of writ seeking vacation of court order completed

By Reaz Ahmad

Hearing of a government writ petition seeking vacation of an interim order that allowed two importers to release their allegedly under-invoiced goods has been completed.

The writ petition was filed early this month with a High Court bench comprising Justice Md Mozammel Haq and Justice Md Abdul Matin.

The writ followed alleged evasion of tax by importers taking advantage of interim orders by court.

Talking to The Daily Star Attorney General K S Nabi said that the government was contemplating legal steps to plug the loopholes whereby a section of importers pay tariff value less than that fixed by the Customs department taking advantage of their LCs. The steps will be taken in the light of the verdict on the writ petition, he added

The Ministry of Finance and National Board of Revenue (NBR) "have put their heads together to plug the loopholes and stop the revenue loss," he said. The revenue loss due to such

under-invoicing by importers taking advantage of interim

KLM's claim

By Staff Correspondent

Biman contradicts

Biman, Bangladesh Airlines in a clarification to a news item headlined "KLM to withdraw operation from December 1," published in The Daily Star on Friday, said yesterday that KLM's entire summer schedule up to March 1997 for operation to Dhaka from Amsterdam was approved by the Civil Aviation Authorities of Bangladesh (CAAB) and intimated to KLM in a CAAB letter dated November 26 last

It refuted KLM's claim that Bangladesh government's authorisation to KLM for its oper ation in Bangladesh was not renewed. It is "far from the truth", the Biman said. It how ever said that KLM's traffic right in Dhaka-Dubai-Dhaka sector was disapproved.

The clarification further said that the last para of the news item relating to profitability of a route was not correct as Biman had made no such statement.

"KLM can continue to operate it's flight from Amsterdam to Dhaka picking up passengers from Amsterdam bound for Dhaka and vice versa," said the clarification.

This is in line with the Netherlands Authorities' denial of Biman's flight to New York from Amsterdam where Biman had traffic rights," it added. "KLM can still use Dubai for technical and route scheduling purpose only."

In October 1995, the Nether lands Civil Aviation Authorities (NCAA) denied approval to Biman's flight to New York from Amsterdam. This was the sector in which Biman had been enjoying traffic right under an agreement since December

Since then, Biman had discontinued the Dhaka-Amsterdam-New York service and introduced flights through Brussels to New York.

Persistent efforts by the CAAB to review the Air Service Agreement between the two countries in view of the prevailing situation did not met with any success so far. Biman pointed out.

Hitler's role

From Page

tribute to Hitler anything other than metaphorical statements about the destruction of the

He suggested that Hitler, who in violently anti-Semitic speeches had called implicitly for the eradication of the Jews, had been "pressed into taking action" by fellow Nazi leaders. Mommsen said "Hitler's role

demands a fresh evaluation and forces his biographers to consider him in an object role with regard to politics" rather than always as the decision-maker.

The Daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung reacted strongly to Mommsen's remarks outlined in the Weekly Die Woche two weeks ago, saying: "All the information and the views of researchers on national-socialism concerning the role of Hitler, are not merely minimised but reversed," the paper

It accused Mommsen of "banalising the political reality of the rise of Nazism" and even charged that his ideas could bring grist to the mill of "revisionists" like David Irving.

Germany's most noted biographer of Hitler, Joachim Fest, also challenged Mommsen in the latest issue of Die Woche which came out Thursday.

The policy undertaken against the Jews with its "combination of coldbloodedness. desire for revenge and annihilation was Hitler's personal creation" said Fest, 69, who wrote a biography of the Nazi leader in 1973. In defence of his argument,

Mommsen pointed to a recent book by Brigitte Hamann, 56, a German researcher living in Austria. The book called "Hitler's Vienna — a Dictator's Formative Years" — deals with Hitler's youth in Austria during which, the books claims, he formed relationships and sometimes even friendship with Jews.

court orders may be around Tk 250 crore since the beginning of the current fiscal, according to a statement made by Finance Minister S A M S Kibria in the second session of the seventh Jatiya Sangsad that concluded

recently. A huge number of writs, filed by a section of importers challenging the amounts of Customs duty is now pending with

The minister had told the Jatiya Sangsad that merits of those writs were such that those may take even eight to ten years to be disposed of by the court.

As many as 2362 such writs were pending till October 31 this year. The number of writs were on the rise, he had said. The year-wise break-up of

such writs are 11 in 1986, 11 in 1987, five in 1988, 14 in 1989 48 in 1990 55 in 1991 179 in 1992, 146 in 1993, 338 in 1994 279 in 1995 and 1276 in first 10 months of the current calendar

In an earlier report in The Daily Star it was said that Customs officials in Chittagong had said importers were producing invoices which did not match the 'price guideline' followed by the Customs.

When importers are asked to pay taxes according to the Customs manual, they move to court and obtain court orders in their favour, the Customs offi cials had said. "An LC is a contract between the importer and the exporter. It cannot be the basis for determining the tariff value," a high ranking Customs official had said.

Teresa undergoes heart operation

CALCUTTA, Nov 29: Nobel Peace Laureate Mother Teresa would have died if she had not undergone a heart operation to clear blocked arteries here today, a doctor said, reports AFP.

Patricia Aubanel, an Ameri can cardiologist helping the medical team at the BM Birla Heart Institute here, said: "If we had not intervened she would have died, 100 per cent."

Whereabouts of Zardari unknown to his family

KARACHI, Nov 29: The family of deposed Pakistani premier Benazir Bhutto's husband said today Asif Ali Zardari, who was arrested last month. had vanished from sight since being transferred to jail in Karachi, reports AFP.

"We have not been able to locate the whereabouts of Zardari and our entire family is in panic," the jailed former investment minister's sisters Fauzia Igbal and Faryal Talpur said in a statement here.

"We feel our brother is being maltreated and his life is in danger." they added in the message appealing to human rights groups and the Pakistani Supreme Court for help in locating Zardari who was transferred here from Islamabad on Wednesday.

The women said the jail authorities had refused to receive clothes, medicines and food sent to him from Zardari's house on Thursday.

India festival From Page

deavour to sing for the messes. not a section or class of people.

"I sing for the common people ... and I must sing to the people," Usha Uthup told the press conference after returning from a river cruise in the Buriganga, where she enthralled the audience singing a couple of Tagore's songs.

Usha will perform at Mirpur Indoor Stadium today at 6 pm. This will be the last programme of the Utsav, the India Festival that began in the capital and the three other cities of the country on November 18.

From Page 1 involved with the construction work of the centre told the news agency yesterday that the wall floor and roof of the building had been made sound and fire proof and the acoustics of the building is very standard.

The mural representing the

traditional and cultural heritage of Chittagong will be portrayed in the wall of the main entrance lobby of the TV centre. official sources said. The arbory culture in and

around the centre and a lake which will be the reservoir of stream of nearby hill water will add extra attraction to the visi-The main instruments have already been installed and test-

ing of relay is expected by one week. Initially two hours national porgrammes and regional news will be telecast from Chittagong TV Centre through the transmitter installed in the TV centre with that of Nandankanan one. The programmes in Chittagong region will be viewed

through channel five. Information Secretary Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed who has recently visited the TV centre asked the officials concerned to complete the work by this

Prime Minister Sheikh Ha sina is expected to inaugurate the TV centre on the Victory



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Bangladesh Mahila Forum accorded reception to 25 freedom fighters at the Jativa Press Club vesterday.

25 FFs accorded reception

Twenty-five freedom fight ers were accorded reception by Bangladesh Mohila Forum at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday afternoon marking the silver jubilee of victory of Liberation War, re ports UNB

Of the 25, Momtaz Begum was accorded reception posthumously while two others could not attend the function.

The freedom fighters who at tended the reception included ministers Abdur Razzak and A S M Abdur Rob, MPs Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Sadek Hossain Khoka, former MP Monirul Haq Chowdhury and Rafia Akter Dolly, politicians Kazi Aref Ahmed, Haider Akbai Khan Rono, Mujahidul Islam Selim and Hasanul Hag Inu.

Habib and Bakul Mostafa, poet Rafiq Azad, advocate Sultana Kamal, Major General (retd) M Abdur Rab, Dhaka Range DIG M Nurul Alam, Farida Khanam Saki, artiste Syeeda Kamal, Dr A B M Zafarullah and Manjuruddin Ahmed Srabani Chowdhury was

Others were Taramon Bibi

Bir Protik, journalists Harun

present on behalf of her mother Momtaz Begum who died in June this year. State Minister M A Mannan and Home Secretary Syed

Rezaul Hayat missed the pro-

gramme due to important state functions The function, a very brief af fair, was addressed by Mohila Forum president Ferdousi Sultana and general secretary Jesmin Zakaria.

They termed the reception symbolic and dedicated towards all the freedom fighters martyrs and survivors — and urged all political parties to work shoulder to shoulder as in 1971 for progress and prosperity of the nation.

The function began with the freedom fighters taking their seats in single row on the podium. They were garlanded by young dancing girls and given crests by tiny tots.

All the 22 freedom fighters joined in the chorus singing "Amar Sonar Bangla" as the national anthem was played on the occasion.

The reception was rounded off with a cultural programme participated by different groups. including Swanan. Geetanjali and Kathakali.

From Page 1

schedule of concessions. This will eventually be forwarded to the SAARC council of ministers, which is comprised of members' foreign ministers and is scheduled to meet on December 19 in New Delhi for implementation. Diplomats said implementa-

tion would be a major step towards realising the goal set by the SAARC of launching the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) before 2005.

"The significant contribution of this meeting will be remembered by all as an important milestone in this regard. said Secretary General Naeem U Hasan, SAARC's top bureaucrat

Officials said SAPTA would help increase the trade between the seven South Asian nations which currently represents only 3.4 per cent of total global

Call to include Bangladesh in Indian Ocean Rim Assoc spoke on the occasion. Speakers at a seminar in Dhaka Thursday night called

for inclusion of all eligible countries including Bangladesh within the fold of the newly formed Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) Association for regional cooperation, reports BSS. With the ever fast changing

with the flourishing of democratic liberalisation and open market economy the importance of global and regional cooperation became indispensable for economic advancement of mankind, they added The seminar on "Globa lisation Through Young Lea

ders", was organised by

Bangladesh chapter of Junior

Chamber International at the

of the world scenario, specially

German Cultural Centre in the Australian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Charles Stuart attended the seminar as the chief guest while President of Supreme Court Bar Association Barrister Shawkat Ali was the guest of honour. Eminent scholar Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly presented the key-note paper on the subject while chaper contact person Mrs Shaa mimun H Lipi presided. Fo-

junior chapter Nurul Kader also BB guidelines From Page 1

under Father of the Bangladesh

deeds and memorandum of deposit of shares and other necessary documents besides share/debenture scrips from the shareholders.

banks would monitor if they

regularly review the market

value of the deposited shares/ debentures. A shareholder, however, can be given highest Taka 10 lakh

as loan. Bangladesh Bank on Thursday allowed the scheduled banks to sanction highest 40 per cent loans against the market value of shares/debentures withdrawing an earlier ban.

The speakers maintained that apart from government level thrust, steps should also be taken in the private sector to expand cooperation in eco-

-Star photo

They said the young people as symbol of vigour, discipline and uncorrupt entity should take the leadership of present day commercial as well as socio-political activities. The youth could make mean ingful interactions in world

trade and business, they added

Globalisation is a technical

nomic and trade sectors.

term having a modern scientific connotation and the youths only could carry forward this new message, they ob-PM-Jyoti

From Page meetings are a continuos process of interaction on different aspects of the water issue. They are helping the process of negotiations. But all these have been unstructured meetings," a source close to the negotiating

in a departure from the earlier programme, the proposed trip of Jyoti Basu to Sylhet and Srimongal now stands cancelled. It is learnt that the day has been kept free to "facilitate further discussions. This afternoon, Workers

process said

Party will accord a reception to Jyoti Basu at 4:15 pm at the Shilpakala Academy audito-Basu, West Bengal Home and The internal audit of the Information Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharjee and Finance Minister Dr Asim

Dasgupta are also scheduled to

hold discussions with central

leaders of the Left Democratic

Front (LDF) office at Topkhana later in the evening. The West Bengal Chief Minister will pay a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed on December 2 prior to his departure for Calcutta in the

In the afternoon, leaders of

During their hour-long

Workers Party of Bangladesh

called on Jyoti Basu at Sonar-

meeting they discussed the is-

sues of Ganges water sharing

problem, Chittagong Hill Tracts

problem and communal har-

Basu enjoys river cruise

afternoon.

gaon Hotel.

Nurul Hasan.

From Page 1

stood forlorn near the railings of the three-storied launch Basu was accompanied by two ministers of West Bengal — Information, Home and Cul-

tural Affairs Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharjee and Finance Minister Dr. Ashim Dasgupta. They had the lunch on board with rice and variety of delicious fish of this part of the sub-continent with which the veteran communist leader of India must have been closely familiar at one stage of his life.

The octogenarian Basu enquired of the quality of the fish compared to those days of British period when as a child Jyoti grew up in the surroundings and in later days used to come to his ancestral home from Calcutta where he did his early education.

The West Bengal Chief Minister visited the home in the village Barodi on Thursday. Basu is in Bangladesh for talks with Bangladesh government on sharing the waters of the Ganges to facilitate an ac-

cord between Indian and this

The international communist movement and the relations between the communist parties of the two countries also came up for discussion. The leaders of the Workers Party

were: Amal Sen, Rashed Khan

Menon, Bimal Biswas and

Workers party will accord a reception to Jyoti Basu at 4.15 pm today at the Shilpakala Academy in city. Buddhadev Bhattacharjee and Asim Dasgupta will be pre-

sent at the reception. After the reception, Basu will hold a meeting with the leaders of the Left Democratic Front at its Topkhana Road of-

The Workers Party will also host a dinner tonight in honour of the West Bengal chief minister and his entourage.

বি,জি,এম,ই,এ নির্বাচন '৯৭ সম্মিলিত পরিষদ

country.

সম্মিলিত পরিষদ এবং এর প্যানেল নেতা, ড্রাগন গ্রুপের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব মোস্তফা গোলাম কুদুস এর পক্ষ থেকে সম্মানিত পোষাক শিল্পের মালিকবৃন্দকে জরুরী ভিত্তিতে সদস্যপদ নবায়ন করে ভোটার হওয়ার জন্য বিনীত আহবান জানাচ্ছি। অন্যথায় আসনু বি.জি.এম.ই.এ এর নির্বাচনে আপনি/আপনারা মূল্যবান ভোটদান থেকে বঞ্চিত হবেন।

রেদোয়ান আহমেদ

কুতুব উদ্দিন আহমেদ কো-চেয়ারম্যান সম্মিলিত পরিষদ ও ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

এনভয় প্রদপ

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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