

# BLUE DART EXPRESS LIMITED

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## Down to Earth Proliferation of Shops

By A S M Nurunnabi

The burgeoning growth of shops in the city is a notable aspect of metropolitan life. While in the cities and towns of developed countries, it is not easy to find a shopping centre close to the residential areas, it is quite different in Dhaka. It will not be an exaggeration if it is said that everyday new shops are being opened along lanes, bylanes, streets and boulevards in the metropolis. Here one will find a shop not far from one's drawing room. Big shopping complexes are being raised wherever an open space is available along the roadside, irrespective of any consideration whether the place is at all suitable for commercial activity. As a result, the city of nearly nine million people is now virtually littered with shops of various descriptions, besides the steady growth of large shopping complexes.

The rising trend of setting up shops does not spare the once quiet and select residential areas like Dhanmondi and Gulshan. The big shopping complexes at important points of the city are a constant source of traffic jams. Of course there are underground parking spaces in some of the important shopping complexes, but they make little difference to the ever growing traffic congestion at most of such places.

Although there are indications that the purchasing power of the people has not grown by a significant degree, the number of shop keeps growing. Why? According to observers, people don't have much option. Situation in job market is thought to be bad. Industry is considered risky and it requires more than only money. So people open up a shop when they have some

## Historic June 7

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Sheikh Hasina yesterday gave separate messages on the occasion.

In a message President said the unparalleled leader of 1966 and later father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, placed the six-point demand for full autonomy of the then East Pakistan.

He said the 6-point demand was made in view of the geographical distance between the two wings of Pakistan and in the light of 24 years history and experiences of erstwhile Pakistan.

The president said people gave their verdict in favour of the 6-point in 1970 election. But as the people's verdict was ignored, the bloody war of liberation began that resulted in the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her message has called for concerted efforts to complete the unfinished task of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib for building a 'Sonar Bangla' ensuring basic needs of the people.

"If we can complete the task, dreams of the martyrs of 7th June would be fulfilled," she said.

### JP to expel

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Ershad was instigating factionalism in the JP.

Regarding the presidium of the party it said, "The structure of the Presidium is now against the party constitution. A total of 34 members have been inducted into the Presidium, which as the party constitution allows 25."

"We will not allow the party to become a stooge of a foreign power," the statement said. "Disciplinary action will be taken against Ershad soon for his autocratic attitude, women related scandals and turning party into a B-team of the ruling party."

BSS adds: Replying to a question Kazi Zafar Ahmed said time would say how many central leaders and workers are with us. Wait until the council session, he added.

To another question Kazi Zafar Ahmed said there is no question of their joining the BNP. He did not rule out the possibility of forming an alliance with BNP to launch a movement.

He said that the party chairman Ershad has no authority to expel the three founder leaders — Kazi Zafar, Shah Moazzam Hossain and Shamim Al-Mamun.

Asked about the split of Jatiya Party, Shah Moazzam said the next council will decide whether the party would be divided or it would remain united.

### Editor : Mahfuz Anam

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# The Daily Star

## Environment Court to be constituted

Minister for Environment and Forests Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday said the government has decided to constitute an environmental court to try the persons responsible for polluting the environment, report agencies.

She was inaugurating a seminar on "Dhaka city's endangered environment: Our role" jointly organised by Institute for Environment and Development and East-West University and Centre for Urban Studies.

Presided over by environment institute chairman AMA Muhit, the seminar was also addressed by city Mayor Mohammad Hanif and Secretary of Youth Ministry ASM Shahjahan.

The minister said the government would amend the existing environmental laws making it stricter.

Referring to the environmental hazards caused by different development activities, the minister said there is no alternative to sustainable development, but the environment should be protected through coordinated efforts.

Stressing the need for the contribution of all sections of society to check environmental pollution, she said, "It is not possible for the government alone to maintain better environment."

In this connection, it is felt that many of the scheduled shopping centres and markets could not come up in the residential areas as officially allocated in the approved blueprints, due to alleged misuse of power and influence by the top and affluent minority of the society. As a result, we find a strange mixture of various lands within the earlier earmarked residential areas. Left to the market forces, the development of the shopping facilities starts at the top where there is more surplus money to spend for non-essential items.

Economists wonder whether the mushroom growth of shops in Dhaka does have any rationale linked to the strength of the Bangladeshi economy. From the economic indicators, they find that the growth in the manufacturing sector has not been bright and that the purchasing power of the people has not much improved.

In the heyday of their imperial glory, the British people were called nation of shopkeepers by their detractors. We are left to wonder whether in the light of the present trend of growth of shops in the metropolitan area, we may be similarly labelled.

LAHORE, June 6: A prominent Shi'ite Muslim lawyer, Ghulam Mustafa Naqvi, was gunned down today as he drove his motorcycle down a congested street in this ancient Punjab capital, police said, reports AP.

A motorcycle roared up beside Naqvi and the passenger opened fire with an automatic rifle, according to eyewitnesses.

No one has claimed responsibility for the killing but Pakistan's Punjab province has been wracked by bloody religiously motivated violence in recent months.

As many as 100 people have died in battles between militant Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims.

Most of Pakistan's 140 million people are Sunni Muslims who get along with their Shi'ite brethren. But militant groups of both sects have sprung up in recent years and they often clash.

The Punjab provincial government has set up a special task force to try to root out religious killings. And some lawmakers have openly discussed banning religious parties in

Pakistan.

Kuetlen, ranked No 66 in the world, became the first Brazilian man to reach the finals of a Grand Slam tournament by defeating Dewulf 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6.

Bruguer, at No 16 the only seeded player who made the semifinals, beat Rafer 6-7, 6-1, 7-5, 7-6.

### Villager shot dead in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, June 6: A villager was shot dead and 10 others injured in a gunfire at Ukhia thana of the district today, reports UNB.

An armed gang, known as 'Syed Bahini', set ablaze a house in Paglirbile village in Ukhia and then took shelter at a nearby house sensing the presence of police.

The miscreants opened fire soon after police gheraoed the house. Abdus Sukur, 30, a villager, was killed during the firing.

Of the injured, Ali Hossain was admitted to hospital with bullet injury.

Meanwhile, police arrested two of the terrorists — Rafige, 35 and Kamal, 17. A case was filed with Ukhia police in the afternoon.

Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to address the rally organised by Jatiya Samrak League at 3 pm at Nabisco crossing, Tejgaon Industrial Area, where workers leader Monu Mia embraced martyrdom in 1966.

### UK immigration

From Page 1

the rule will be scrapped immediately.

Following our manifesto commitment, we are acting to end the primary purpose rule because it is arbitrary, unfair and ineffective and has penalised genuine, divided families and unnecessarily increased the administrative burden on the immigration system," he said.

### CAAB report

From Page 1

landed at the Riyad airport in the early hours of May 24 last.

The six-member CAAB probe body, during its nine-day investigation recorded statements of a number of staff of the CAAB and the Biman. They include two captains of Biman airbus, four security staff of Biman and CAAB, a Belgian airbus engineer and three engineers working at the Biman hangar.

The report held the security of the CAAB and the Biman responsible for the incident.

The probe body, headed by Group Capt Iqbal of CAAB comprised two Biman and three CAAB officials. The committee submitted its report to the Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, the secretary of the ministry and the Chairman of the CAAB.

The body of Mahbub, autopsy report and other relevant documents did not reach Dhaka from Saudi Arabia till yesterday.

Asked about the split of Jatiya Party, Shah Moazzam said the next council will decide whether the party would be divided or it would remain united.

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## BISTEC launched

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third world making interdependence in the face of competitiveness.

He described this event as "the first-ever joining of hands of a member of ASEAN with three SAARC members through formation of a growth quadrangle which opens a new chapter of economic cooperation in this part of the world with a great deal of ramifications."

He said with ASEAN having agreed to establish the ASEAN free trade area (AFTA) by the year 2003 and SAARC pursuing the same goal to attain by the same time, we visualise that the cooperation will pave a massive way between South and South-East Asia through trade liberalisation and lowering of trade barriers.

He said growth triangles or quadrangles are seen as a dynamic growth mechanism that can accelerate the process of economic transformation and integration of component re-

About the steps taken by the government to reduce pollution, the minister said the government vehicles have started using gas (CNG) instead of petrol and diesel as fuel.

More double-decker buses would be introduced in the city by reducing two stroke engine vehicles phase by phase, she added. The government is also studying the feasibility of circular train in the capital.

Sajeda Chowdhury said over population, traffic jam, excess vehicles, uncontrolled slums, deforestation, disruption of Pagla WASA treatment plant, liquid effluent of Hazaribagh tanneries and water-logging have made the city environment severely polluted.

The minister said the government would amend the existing environmental laws making it stricter.

Referring to the environmental hazards caused by different development activities, the minister said there is no alternative to sustainable development, but the environment should be protected through coordinated efforts.

Stressing the need for the contribution of all sections of society to check environmental pollution, she said, "It is not possible for the government alone to maintain better environment."

In this connection, it is felt that many of the scheduled shopping centres and markets could not come up in the residential areas as officially allocated in the approved blueprints, due to alleged misuse of power and influence by the top and affluent minority of the society. As a result, we find a strange mixture of various lands within the earlier earmarked residential areas. Left to the market forces, the development of the shopping facilities starts at the top where there is more surplus money to spend for non-essential items.

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