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Down to Earth

The Dream for Low-cost Housing

By AS M Nurunnabi

being of limited scope, will creasing attention lately from quarters concerned with one barely touch the fringe of the problem. important aspect of the development needs of a society seeking economic progress. This aspect relates to the need for cre-

with people's participation. In this strategy of develop-

more important of which lie in the absence of employment op-It is obviously regrettable burden of city population. But.

in reality, all these exercises,

Rajuk has lately announced plans for uplift of six city areas. According to the chief town planner of Rajuk, under the new planning approach in the pro-posed new areas, the govern-ment would play the role of an enabler. And the private sector would do development activities

ment, it is felt that there should be no missing of the important point of low-cost housing for people of small means. According to informed sources, there is at present no dearth of knowledge on low-cost housing technology. Sri Lanka is said to be a prominent example in this respect. To make the project of low-cast housing really helpful for people of small means, the government may provide lands at subsidised rates to interested private developers and put a ceiling on their profit margins so that the people for whom the projects are meant are really benefited. Land may be acquired by government where necessary

for such projects as for construction of roads and other infrastructural facilities.

There should be no illusion about the consequences that are sure to follow our sustained failure to cope with the prob-lem. When a big chunk of the city population is left without a place to live in, some serious environmental problems are bound to arise. Already the slums of Dhaka are a threat to public health and this is likely to get worse. Last year's estimates suggested that slum dwellers make up 12 per cent of the city's population, with fore-casts saying this will rise to more than 50 per cent by the turn of the century.

With the conditions within the slums worsening, it is time to take action before disease overtakes us. This gloomy prospect should make us realise that something must be done on an emergency basis to make life more livable for these people if only for selfish reasons such as the need to prevent the potential of the city being eroded. Lowcost housing development could be the first important step in alleviating urban poverty.

One arrested

on charge of

torturing wife

By Staff Correspondent

Rahman alias Badsha vesterday

evening after his wife Beauty.

30, brought charges of torture

case with Motifheel thana early

in the day alleging that her

husband continued torturing

her over the years demanding

Lutfor, a resident of Outer Cir-

cular Road area in Razarbagh,

in the city assaulted Beauty ves-

terday morning following a

Dhaka Medical College Hospi

tal. On release from the hospi-

tal, she came to Motijheel

thana and lodged the case.

Beauty was later taken to

BNP

From Page 1

baseless and said that some

identified individuals issued

the statement to create confu-

cently formed "Shaheed Zia

Smriti Parishad" to float a

parallel organisation by violat-

General, in a notification,

asked the people concerned to

involved in dividing the party

to cover up their anti-party ac-

city BNP is facing the rift for a

long time. It is facing the intra-

party conflict since former

minister Abdullah Al Noman

was removed from the post of

president of the city BNP and

party leadership has been op-

posing the new city committee

since it was formed with

Nasiruddin as president two

command had to expel six in-

surfaced again, CUCSU VP and

city BNP joint secretary Mo-

hammad Nazimuddin was ex-

Abdullah Al Noman floated the

'Shaheed Zia Smriti Parishad'

with Prof Arif Mainuddin and

M Salimullah as president and

hunger strike on May 20 sepa-

BAEC

From Page

ported food and dairy products

were being examined properly

and that radiation level was

The permission level of ce-

A foreign news agency report

sium, plutonium, and iodine

radiation set by the govern-

said on Sunday that residents

of villages near Pokhran have

shown symptoms of health

hazard due to the nuclear tests.

Some of the villagers are hav-

ing vomiting tendencies and

headache. A 12-year-old girl

was reportedly vomiting blood.

the tests were conducted under-

ground, there were no chances

Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

1979, Convention on Nuclear Safety 1996, and the Conven-

tion on Early Notification of a

Nuclear Accident. The country

also signed an agreement with

'the USA in 1980 on the use of

nuclear energy for peaceful pur-

sphere.

Indian scientists said that as

Mentionably, Bangladesh is signatory to the Nuclear Non-

found 'normal' this week.

ment, is 50 to 95 BQ per kg.

The city BNP organised

secretary respectively.

At one stage, the party high

As the intra-party conflict

A few days back, followers of

They said a faction of the

replaced by Nasir.

fluential leaders.

pelled last week.

years ago.

Nasir said these people are

Sources in the BNP said the

refrain from such activities.

He said the party Secretary

Nasir said these people re-

sion among the people.

ing the party discipline.

tivities.

quarrel over dowry.

Quoting the FIR police said.

on her.

Police arrested one Lutfor

The mother of two lodged a



Communication Ministers' conference in Colombo yesterday. Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim is seen on her left. — AP/UNB photo

Ireland votes on peace deal

BELFAST, May 22: After three decades of bloodshed and six weeks of bitter bickering. the politicians fell silent today as voters turned out in apparently record numbers to decide whether to accept the Belfast peace accord.

Every opinion poll has pointed to approval when the ballots are counted tomorrow in both Northern Ireland and the neighbouring Irish Republic, where voters were being asked to drop their country's constitutional claim to the British-ruled north as part of

the historical agreement. "Anything for peace," said Deborah McCarron, after casting a 'ves' vote at St. James' Primary School in Creggan, a mainly Catholic district of Londonderry, 160 kms from

here. Under gray, overcast skies, Protestant Alistair Simpson, Londonderry leader of the Apprentice Boys fraternal order. somberly voted 'no' at a booth

Transport strike in northern dists tomorrow

PABNA, May 22: North Bengal Road Transport Owners' and Workers' Federation (NBRT-OWF) will observe a token strike in country's northern region on Sunday to press for their 15-point demand, reports

The leaders of the federation announced the programme at a press conference here today. The demands include refixa-

tion of toll for Jamuna Bridge, amendment to Industrial Ordinance 1993 and shifting of Notakhola ferry ghat to Nutibpur.

They also threatened a nonstop transport strike in northern districts from June 23 if their demands were not met by that time.

set up in a Salvation Army hall in the province's second city. "This is a sellout," Simpson

said. "It's first step to a united

Ireland and we won't have it." Majority "yes" votes in both parts of Ireland would clear the way to implement the agreement struck on Good Friday -April 10 - by the British and Irish governments and eight northern parties.

Under the agreement, on June 25, Northern Ireland's 1.2 million voters would elect a 108-member Belfast legislature from which a 12-member administration would be drawn Decisions would require both Protestant and Catholic sup-

CU classes

From Page 1

Talks will be held later, the Pro-VC said.

Meanwhile, a large number of police have been deployed on the campus to ensure security. In a pre-dawn swoop today. police arrested eight activists of

Jamaat-Shibir from Rumghata area on suspicion. They were later released from Kotwali thana after taking 'undertaking' when they said that they had come from

Dhaka in connection with yesterday's dialogue aimed at ending CU crisis, police said. UNB adds: Chhatra Shibir has called for a 48-hour hartal

in Chittagong on Sunday and Monday. The hartal was called at a Shibir rally at Laldighi Maidan

today. Addressing the rally, the leaders of ICS demanding resignation of Vice Chancellor and Proctor of Chittagong Univer-Later in the evening, Shibir

activists brought out a procession in the city and damaged five buses and three minibuses at Andarkillah.

Police picked up five workers of Shibir from the spot.

101-member BNP body to observe Zia's death anniversary

BNP has formed a 101-member national committee headed by Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury to observe the 17th death anniversary of President Ziaur Rahman on May 30. reports UNB.

Suharto From Page 1

web of state subsidies, monopolies and cartels to make bil-

However, Wiranto said an investigation would only add to national disunity during Indonesia's political and economic crisis.

"Let's leave it behind us," he said to reporters.

"There are more important things to do. This country needs stability to get out of its crisis. Just because a few people cry out for investigation, it does not mean we have to do it."

Earlier, Wiranto was retained as defense minister by Habibie.

Pak condition From Page 1

weapons which restore our mil itary and strategic balance with India, if we are given economic aid, then perhaps the government may consider," he told reporters representing foreign

"And those weapons have to be in the hands of the Pakistan armed forces," he said, noting that during the 1965 and 1971 Pakistan-India wars promise of help remained only 'on paper' and "excuses" were made. Otherwise, it would be "meaningless" to consider any offer, he

The foreign minister reiterated that Pakistan planned to conduct a nuclear test and only its timing remained to be decided.

Meanwhile, India's top nuclear scientist said New Delhi had the capacity to produce a nuclear bomb with a yield of 200 kilotonnes of TNT, 10 times the size of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

Another report says, India is planning to deploy special teams at sensitive spots around the country to help citizens deal with the after-effects of a nuclear disaster. The 250-strong teams would

be trained in high-tech techniques aimed at combating the effects of radiation, the director general of the Department of Atomic Energy MK Shukla told the Indian Express. He said the teams would be

stationed at 16 "identified" cities vulnerable to nuclear hazards, and would be trained to react to both a nuclear war and a civil nuclear disaster.

President urges politicians

Include family planning in party programmes

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday termed population boom a number one problem of the country and blamed the political leaders for not doing enough to overcome the problem, reports UNB. "All kinds of development

will be hampered if the problem is not solved, but the political leaders maintain a total silence in this regard," the President said urging the political parties to come forward to make the family planning programme an allout success.

He said the politicians have direct link with masses. He hoped that they would include family planning in their party programmes and encourage people to adopt family planning methods while addressing public meetings.

Inaugurating a Lions Club District convention here in the morning, Shahabuddin also called upon the voluntary organisations to strengthen the family planning activities.

Portraying a gloomy social picture, he said over population caused a tremendous pressure on land ... unemployment is on rise... As a result social unrest is also increasing alarmingly in the country.

Giving a special look at rural Bangladesh, Shahabuddin said Rural people, in true sense, are deprived of a healthy livelihood. They consider the deprivation as their destiny. He called upon the voluntary organisations to work more for rural people.

Praising the role of various philanthropic organisations during natural calamities, he said time has come to evaluate their activities in mitigating the miseries of the rural people. The President said people of the country are facing manifold

problems. "Illiteracy, scarcity of pure drinking water and many other similar problems are making their life miserable," he added.

The President emphasised on bringing down the popula-tion growth rate to zero and keeping it in that position for several years. He said the voluntary organ-

isations have a lot to do in this regard apart from the government efforts. In this context, Justice Sha-

habuddin recalled Red Cross' (Crescent) successful family planning programmes while he was the chairman of the organisation for four years since 1978, but regretted that the programme was stopped after he The inaugural session of the

convention of Lions District 315. B-3 was also addressed by District Governor Mohammad Farugue and convention Chairman M Nazrul Islam.

SB provides loans loans to any affiliated organi-From Page 1

defaulted loans by paying a paltry amount which does not cover even one per cent of his total defaulted loans with the bank. But the Banking Company Act 1991 clearly stipulates that to reschedule a defaulted loan, a minimum of 10 per cent of the defaulted amount must be

Why the letter was delivered so late and who were responsible for halting the letter are something yet to be ascertained. But it is thought that it was deliberately halted so that Rahman's loan proposals could be safely approved by the board.

Fazlur Rahman has Tk 113.12 crore loans with SB in 42 accounts. Of these, 30 accounts totalling Tk 36.25 crore are defaulted. To rescheduled his loans, he was required to make at least Tk 3.6 crore down payment. But sources said he made only Tk 59 lakh down

payment to get his loans rescheduled. According to sources in the bank, the chairman of SB

played a key role in processing the approval of Rahman's proposal. The managing director of SB, Mahbubur Rahman, did not object to the board decision although rules were violated in the process. Sources also said Rahman had the strong backing to a number of senior ministers of the ruling Awami League who pressurised the board into giving him fresh loans. Meanwhile, SB has sent a

letter to BB trying to justify its decision regarding Rahman. In the letter, the managing director of SB has said the fresh loans were provided for the sake of keeping Rahman's factories running and at the same

time to recover money from him. The letter also said that since loans are being repaid by Rahman, the bank did not file case against him in the Bankruptcy Court. The letter did not mention anything about rescheduling loans of Rahman and acknowledged the receipt of BB's letter dated April 1. However, facts tell a differ-

ent story. Fazlur Rahman's total loan with SB was Tk 89 crore last year. It now stands at Tk 113 crore which indicates that rather than repayment,

loans have been accumulated. Moreover, if loans are not rescheduled, as the MD's letter did not mention anything in this regard, then it was a violation of Bank Company Act, 1991, which bars granting

sation of a defaulting company. In Rahman's case, there had been 30 defaulted accounts and yet fresh loans were allowed violating the rules. Following questions need to

be asked in this case. How and why BB's letter to Sonali Bank got delayed? Who were the persons responsible for this delay? How could the SB board give fresh loans to a defaulter without the payment of the minimum required amount? Why the Sonali Bank MD's letter to the BB did not mention that the pervious loans have been rescheduled?

JS body

From Page 1 an official.

The Standing Committee is now set to hear from various bar association and jurists on May 26 and 27.

Talking to The Daily Star, Secretary of the Standing Committee Kazi Shamsuzzaman said, all bar associations have been invited to appear before the chairman and members of the standing committee on May 26 and 27 if they wish to put their thoughts in the proposed amendments' to the Code of Civil Procedure.

According to sources, if the amendments are made, revision cases now handled by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court can be referred to district courts, lessening the burden of cases on the higher court.

Chairman of the Standing Committee Suranjit Sengupta said some 26,000 cases are pending with the Supreme

"As per the provisions of JS Rules of Procedure, we are soliciting views from all concerned including bar associations and eminent jurists before preparing the committee's report on the proposed amendment bill", he added

A Member of the Standing Committee, Rahmat Ali, said something needs to be done so that cases do not remain pending for years together.

Cricket

From Page

final in Malaysia last year, lost the first two ODI encounters by big margins in Nairobi last October. The team, however, restored some of its lost pride with the facile six-wicket win in Hyderabad last week.



Anamika Modelling and Advertising organised a fashion show at a city hotel yesterday. - Star photo

্তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এড ডিষ্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ (পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী) ফোন ঃ ৯৫৬৩৬৬৭-৬৮, ৯৫৬৩৬৭০, ৮১২১৩৫-৪২

গ্যাস দুর্ঘটনা সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের অসাবধানতাজনিত ও গ্যাস ব্যবহারের নিয়মাবলী যথাযথভাবে পালন না করার জন্যই বিভিন্ন

সময়ে গ্যাস দুর্ঘটনার সূচনা হয় এবং জানমালের ক্ষয়-ক্ষতি ঘটে।

প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস বাতাসের চেয়ে ভারী। কোন কারণে নির্গত গ্যাস ঘর থেকে বের হতে না পারলে তা আগুনের সংস্পর্শে মারাত্মক বিক্ষোরণ ঘটে এবং নিমিষেই সর্বত্র আগুন ছড়িয়ে পড়ে। কোম্পানীর পক্ষ থেকে সন্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে সর্বদা বেতার, টেলিভিশন, সংবাদপত্র, সাময়িকী, শরণীকা ইত্যাদি বিভিন্ন প্রকাশনা ও প্রচারনার মাধ্যমে গ্যাস ব্যবহারের নিয়মাবলী মেনে চলার জন্য বিনীতভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো হয়েছে।

এই বিক্রোরণ ও ক্ষয়-ক্ষতি এড়ানোর জন্য অবশ্যই রান্না ঘরে বাতাস চলাচলের ব্যবস্থা রাখতে হবে। যাতে জমে থাকা গ্যাস বের হয়ে যেতে পারে। व्यकातरा गाम्प्रत हूना क्वानिया वाधरवन ना। कार्क्वत राख हूना ठानठारव वस वाधून এवः भूरताभूति वस रहना किना

তা দেখে নিন। মাঝে মাঝে আপনার গ্যাস লাইন অনুমোদিত ও অভিজ্ঞ গ্যাস কর্মী বা ঠিকাদার দিয়ে পরীক্ষা করে কোন প্রকার ক্রটি পেলে অবিলম্বে সংশোধন করুন।

গ্যাসের অপচয় ও অপব্যবহার রোধ করুন। গ্যাসের সঠিক ব্যবহারে সচেতন হোন এবং জানমালের নিরাপত্তা বিধানে সহায়তা করুন

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ/১২৩/৯৭-৯৮

জিডি-৩৭৪

PLEASE CONTACT:

three accused. **Editor: Mahfuz Anam** Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail,

The concept of low-cost housing has been getting in-

ating housing facility for people of small means in the city, most of whom live in small shanties. There is no denying the magnitude of the problem in the context of an ever sprawling metropolis, where the alarming rate of population growth tends to upset all calculations. The problem has been compounded by the rising toward movement of people affected by several adverse economic factors, the

portunities in the rural areas. that the city planners have not yet found any effective way of solving the problem. Reportedly, the government has initiated some low-cost housing projects with the objective of accommodating the urban poor. Such projects, if implemented with urgency, may tend to take some pressure off the growing

From Page 1

sioned for increasing the facili-

ties at the Chittagong port, it

was learnt from diplomatic

some eighty businessmen from

all the five BIMSTEC countries

formed an Export Group at a

meeting in Bangkok on March

6-7. ASM Quasem, immediate

past president of Dhaka Cham-

ber of Commerce and Industries

was elected the first Chairman

of the BIMSTEC Economic Fo-

rum. The Business Forum will

also hold its first meeting in

Dhaka shortly to identify the

inhibiting factors in the pro-

cess of fostering business coop-

eration between the govern-

ment and the private sector of

these countries. The meeting is

expected to recommend correc-

tive measures for boosting in-

tra-regional trade both at gov-

Abul Hasan Chowdhury said

that ESCAP has been autho-

rised by the BIMSTEC to con-

duct a study for construction of

a trans-Asian highway linking

all the five countries. Stretches

of the highway already exist

and it is a matter of linking up

and providing facilitation ser-

prising four littoral countries

of the Bay of Bengal -

Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka

and Thailand — was started in

meeting in December last at

Bangkok, the four founding

members agreed to admit

Myanmar as a member. Follow-

ing the inclusion of Myanmar

the organisation is now called

Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka,

Myanmar and Thailand for

grouping was mooted by

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India

and Thailand and was initially

referred to as the Bay of Bengal

Economic Cooperation Organi-

initiated considering the great

Shazneen murder

From Page 1

cluding the kitchen staff to

show their exact positions at

different times on the night of

The CID officials visited the

spot to ascertain if their

thoughts were right and to look

into various possibilities. They

collected various information

once again to verify the previ-

ously collected details about the

questioned Parvin and Minu

for several hours yesterday af-

ternoon. The two maids had

earlier giv ... judicial state-

ments as witnesses to the

now is that how Shahid being a

servant had the audacity and

courage to attack Shazneen in

her bed room when her parents

and a number of others were

present in the highly guarded

days CID is likely to bring con-

tractor Hasan, his supervisor

Badal and security guard Hu-

mayun Kabir from Dhaka Cen-

tral Jail to its custody for seek-

Magistrate's Court on Thurs-

day, rejecting the bail prayers.

ordered fresh remand for the

The Chief Metropolitan

ing a two-day remand.

Meanwhile, in a couple of

One of the many CID queries

Besides, sernor CID officials

the murder on April 23.

The regional alliance was

The original idea of the

Economic Cooperation.

- meaning

Later, at a ministerial level

the name of BIMSTEC.

The original grouping com-

vices, he said.

BIMSTEC

sation.

incident.

residence.

Talking to The Daily Star,

ernment and private levels.

In a major development,

Trans-Asian Highway

ing advantages of their geographical proximity and of the Bay of Bengal. The BIMSTEC is also being seen as a bridge between three SAARC countries, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, and two

potential of increasing trade

among these countries by tak-

ASEAN nations, Thailand and Myanmar. "BIMSTEC is in fact the first and only institutional link between SAARC and the ASEAN, a ranking foreign ministry of-

ficial pointed out. "The bridge-link between SAARC and ASEAN could expand the potential of BIMSTEC It would help increase the vibrancy of the region as a business and a commercial hub both for inter-regional trade and for attracting foreign in-

vestors," a South Asian diplomat said. Abul Hasan Chowdhury felt that ASEAN's experiences, its tremendous successes and some setbacks, will now be readily available to the BIMSTEC countries. The launching of BIM-STEC occurred on the same day. June 6, 30 years after the

launching of ASEAN, said another official.

Mercury drops The suffering of the people lessened a little yesterday as mercury dropped by a few degrees a day after the country experienced the highest temperature in several years, reports

BSS. Met office said yesterday's highest temperature — 38.8 degree Celsius - was recorded in Rajshahi while the maximum temperature in Dhaka was 36.2

recorded nearly 42 degree Celsius, the highest temperature in several years. According to Met office, the humidity is still high, and rain-

On Thursday, Rajshahi city

fall was recorded only in Sylhet yesterday. Meanwhile, doctors have advised people to avoid exposure to sun light as much as

possible and to drink larger

They also suggested all not to

amount of water.

take rich food as it might cause indigestion during the current hot weather.

Loadshedding From Page 1

and commercial operations take place. Kamaluddin said Bangladeshi garments will lose markets if consignments cannot be

exported in time because of loadshedding. The chamber president gave some suggestions to tackle the

power crisis. The suggestions include not to supply electricity to the national grid line without fulfilling the demand of Chittagong supply of power to the commercial and industrial areas at least for 8 hours without interruption, prior notice in the newspapers on loadshedding, withdrawal of peak-hour rate and demand charge, supply of power to Chittagong from those stations which generate surplus electricity and maintenance of power supply in important sectors stopping unnecessary il-

neon sign. The chamber president also said that loadshedding had paralysed all power-dependent of radiation affecting the atmocommunication systems including fax and computer.

lumination, flood light and

Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net