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likely to figure prominently at

the summit is "the Effect of

globalisation on SAARC." Offi-

cials hope that the leaders at-

tending the summit may come

out with suggestions and resolu-

expected to discuss matters re-

lating to implementation of the

South Asia Free Trading

Agreement (SAFTA). It is ap-

prehended that the goal of im-

plementing SAFTA by the year

group formed during the last

Male summit to evaluate the

progress of SAFTA is learnt to

have given a dismal, report. It

has been said that at the pre-

sent pace of progress in elimi-

nating tariff barriers among

member-countries, it could take

at least another eight years to

Colombo Summit will be held

on July 29 at the Bandarnaike

International centre while the

closing ceremony will take

place at the President's Secre-

tariat on July 31. The retreat of

SAARC leaders is due to take

place on July 30 at a place

comprising foreign ministers of

the SAARC countries will meet

on July 27 and 28, two days

ahead of the summit. The main

agenda of the summit is ex-

pected to be finalised at the

tenth since the regional organi-

sation was formally launched

in the Bangladesh capital on

December 8, 1985 through the

12 technical committees and

ter its 114th year this Decem-

ber, there have been criticism

that it has failed to bring the

countries in the region closer,

particularly to create a stable

atmosphere of cooperation be-

cause of several outstanding

bilateral issues between neigh-

bours. Still some progress was

seen in the last four years in co-

operative efforts in some areas

like poverty alleviation and

creating groups for sub-regional

cooperation. But the recent

standoff between its two big

neighbours have once again

threatened to hinder progress of

Comprising a population of nearly 1.2 billion, nearly one-

fifth of the mankind, whose

level of poverty, education and

development is still groping to

catch up with that of the devel-

oped world, SAARC was dubbed

by the Western media as the "the

ister, leading a big delegation.

is due to leave Dhaka for

Colombo on July 28 by a special

The Bangladesh Prime Min-

the organisation.

poor man's club."

flight of the Biman.

fixed 13 areas of cooperation.

The organisation has set up

Although, SAARC would en-

Dhaka Declaration.

The Colombo summit is the

meet of the foreign ministers.

The Council of Ministers

around Colombo.

The opening ceremony of

reach the goal of SAFTA.

Already an eminent persons

2001 may not be achieved.

The Colombo meet is also

tions in this regard.

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Down to Earth

Conservation Imperatives for City's Historical Relics

By ASM Nurunnabi

It can hardly be overemphasised that preservation of past culture is very important to nourish our sense of identity, national pride and self-esteem. There is, therefore, an over-, whelming need for creating a general consciousness among the people on the importance of conservation activities relating to our past heritage.

In the conservation concept. the major significance is attached to architectural conservation. The expression "architectural conservation" suggests the maintaining of the presence of the past in the present that involves preserving, restoring and or adapting old buildings. designing new ones that respect their neighbours and the continuity of history, weaving old and new together in an urban fabric of variety and richness. The advocates of conservation stress that it is through the dynamic act of conservation that we can observe and develop a regard and knowledge of traditions and the guiding principles that constitute a tangible link with the past; in other words, a reflection and knowledge about

our own selves. Furthermore, architectural conservation is viewed as a tool of socio-economic re-vitalisation and community uplift. This has necessitated a multidisciplinary approach towards conservation. Nowadays this draws the skill of archaeologists, ethnographers, sociologists, historians, architects, landscape architects, engineers and town planners.

That national policy of architectural conservation is yet

Justice Zakir

Ahmed dead

Zakir Ahmed, an Additional

Judge of the High Court division

of the Bangladesh Supreme

Court, died of bone-marrow

cancer here early this morning

at All India Institute of Medical

Science (AIIMS). He was 56, re-

present when he breathed his

expected to be flown back to

Dhaka on Sunday (July 19) by a

British Airways flight. Hearing

the news, Bangladesh High

Commissioner in New Delhi.

CM Shafi Sami, and other offi-

cials of the High Commission

bone-marrow transplantation

in the AIIMS in September last

year. He came to Delhi again in

April this year for follow up

treatment but his condition

habuddin Ahmed, in a condo-

lence message, has expressed

deep shock at the death of Jus-

Hasina also condoled the death

Viagra import

From Page 1

and abuse the drug. They are the

most likely users of the drug

even if they do not need it. This

side effects. It may not suit pa-

tients suffering from hyperten-

sion (high blood pressure), said

Cardiologist Dr Momenuzza-

man of the National Institute of

Cardio-Vascular Diseases

high blood pressure must check

with a heart disease specialist

before taking the drug or he

Latest craze

From Page 1

airmen from the nearby Clark

Air Base, which has been con-

verted by the government into

contest for internet surfers to

concoct potent mixtures and

names for cocktails flavoured

with the popular anti-impo-

tence pill, which the govern-

ment is still testing for possible

harmful effects before it is re-

tailed in the widely conserva-

tive and predominantly Roman

The bars have announced a

an economic zone.

Catholic nation.

"A patient suffering from

Viagra has varying degree of

Young men may be attracted

ter producing prescriptions.

is what worries us most."

President Justice Sha-

Prime Minister Sheikh

Justice Zakir underwent

rushed to the AIIMS.

started deteriorating.

tice Zakir Ahmed.

of Justice Zakir.

(NICVD).

may die."

His wife and only son were

The body of the deceased is

ports BSS.

last at 5:50 am.

NEW DELHI, July 17: Justice

to be formulated. This imposes serious difficulties in execution and implementation of architectural conservation projects. Some of these difficulties lie in the fact that in many cases in the original urban fabric, immediate surroundings to historical structures and monuments have been either destroyed, lost their original use and character

or have been hidden by relatively new structures. As a result there remains a possibility of structures of greater conservation value being left over unintentionally. Another unfortunate aspect is that some of these old buildings are constant victims of various destructive processes. For example, Ruplal House at Farashgani has been vandalized by virtue of its present use as a wholesale market and godown. Outrageous excesses of construction have totally engulfed the oldest mosque in Dhaka, the mosque

of Binat Bibi. We are told that the destructive forces are so rampant and powerful in replacing and delacing old buildings and historical places that the luture of our past is seriously at stake. The most serious issue today is the conflict between the aims of conservation and the desire for modernisation.

The problem is more acute in urban Dhaka where there is increasing rejection of traditional values and architecture by many classes of society. Contemporary city administrators are sometimes reluctant in architectural conservation because of problems and complexities of land ownership, rehousing and political wran-

Another aspect, as stressed by experts, is that historical relics, for effective preservation, need careful maintenance not only of their structural remains but also of their original

environment. But sadly, though the Antiquity act of 1968 prohibits construction on or near a monument, in many cases much of the original surroundings of the monuments have disappeared long ago and there has been a lot of additional constructions even on the monuments and within the premises as well as

According to a research study, 259 sites and monuments at present stand in the country as protected monuments, and the Department of Archaeology is to out necessary repairs and restorations. At the same time, it is reported that the said Department continues to add more and more monuments to the protection list. In this context. it is understood that there is already a proposal for inclusion in the protection list a few other monuments in the Dhaka city. They include Choto Katra and Boro Katra, North Brooke Hall, Ruplal House, Rose Garden, Sutrapur Zamindar Bari Shankha Nidi Bhaban and Bhaja Hari Lodge.

To emphasise the importance of conservation and restoration of old monuments of Dhaka, scholars observe that a nation's glory cannot be built on the self-destroyed debris of

Flood situation

Our correspondent reported from Sherpur: Three persons died of diarrhoea during the last 24 hours as the flood situation deteriorated in 10 out of 14 unions of the Sadar thana vesterday, affecting at least two lakh people and having about 70,000 marooned The dead are Riazuddin (50)

of Kulurchar Baruipara and Akram Hossain (25) and Shahana Begum (10) of Bagolgarh under Sadar thana, official sources said. Diarrhoea has broke out in areas under the Sadar thana.

Atiqur Rahman Atiq MP and Deputy Commissioner Naofel Mia visited the flood af-

fected areas. Some 3000 families have taken shelter on the Brahmaputra embankment and in different schools and colleges, the sources said.

Road communication between Sherpur and Jamalpur remained snapped for the last five days.

Our Pabna Correspondent adds: Most of the educational institutions in eight out of nine thanas of the district have been closed. Road communication in most areas were snapped. Incessant rain continued and over one lakh people in the 16 floodhit areas have been marooned.

Our Natore Correspondent says, vast areas in eight unions of two thanas in the district have been submerged following a sharp rise in water levels in the rivers Padma, Atrai, Barnoi Gur and Nandakuja.

Sukash, Dahia, Hulhulia, Chhatardighi and Ramananda Khajura unions of Shingra thana and Chapila, Nazirpur and Naopara unions of Gurudaspur thana have been affected as breaches developed in the flood protection dam near Sardahanagar, official sources

According to the sources. some 15,000 people in the two thanas have been marooned while standing crops on more than 12,000 acres of land have been damaged by the surging

UNB Sirajganj Correspondent says: Three children drowned at different places in

the district yesterday. The victims were identified as Asadul (4) of village Langalmura in Chowhali thana, Rahman (2) of village Nukali in Shahjadpur thana and Ramichha (7) of village Ekani

in Kazipur thana. The over all flood situation in the district deteriorated further. The water level of the river Jamuna and its branches receded slightly, but erosion was

continuing. Some 40,000 people of five thanas in the district have been marooned by the flood water while 4,000 people of Kazipur. Belkuchi, Chowhali, Shahjadpur and Sadar thanas became homeless due to river erosion.

Reports from Jamalpur says: Overall flood situation in the district remained unchanged as the rivers Jamuna and Brahmaputra were still flowing above danger levels although the water levels marked fall during last 24 hours.

Scarcity of food and drinking water have been prevailing in the 58 flood-hit unions in

seven thanas where over five lakh people have been ma-

UNB Kushtia Correspondent adds: The overall flood situation in four thanas of the district worsened further as the water levels of Ganges and Gorai rivers rose further. Water level of the river Ganges was recorded at 13.41 meters at the Hardinge Bridge point while at Gorai Railway bridge point, the water level of Gorai was recorded 11.87 meter.

UNB Comilla Correspondent says: About 100 feet of Gumati dam was eroded at Jahapur in Muradnagar thana yesterday, inundating vast areas.

Army has been deployed at Jafarganj in Debidar thana and at Farijpur in Burichang thana in the district as the overall flood situation deteriorated fur-

The Gumati river was flowing 2.5 meter above the danger level on Friday. Some 23 to 24 cracks were found in the Gu-

mati embankment. Lakhs of people of 26 unions of the district took shelter at the Gumati embankment.

UNB Faridpur Correspondent adds: Flood situation in the district further deteriorated. More than 500 families of Charmonair UP under Safdarpur thana and Chandra UP under Bhanga thana lost their dwellings due to erosion of Arial Khan river.

About half of the population of Char Nasirpur, Maligram, and Gharua UPs have been marooned.

A large number of flood affected people have taken shelter on the embankment.

UNB Khagrachhari Correspondent says: The overall flood situation in the district improved further as water receded fully from the low lying areas of the district.

People recovered the body of Moklesur Rahman (30) who drowned at Balutia area near Khagrachhari-Ramgarh road. Water-borne diseases have broken out in the affected areas.

Police SI shot during gunfight with terrorists

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 17: One police sub-inspector received bullet wounds during a gunfight with some armed terrorists in Bahaddarhat area under Chandgao thana in the city this evening, police said.

He was admitted to hospital. The gunfight began when a large contingent of police went there at 6.15 pm to arrest a terrorist, Suja Uddin, police said. The terrorists fled the scene after half an hour.

Young woman

From Page 1 The in-laws added that they lodged a general diary with Cantonment thana on Wednesday in connection with the

missing. But Alamgir, a brother of Ferdousi, alleged that Abbas and his parents were involved in the killing.

Mass reception to Khaleda near BJMB postponed

The mass reception to BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, scheduled at the western side of Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge on July 25, has been postponed due to worsening flood situation in the country, a BNP press release said yesterday, reports UNB.

Tremor jolts Taiwan: 4 killed

TAIPEI, July 17: A strong earthquake jolted Taiwan today causing rock slides on a southern mountain that killed at least four people and injured 19, reports AP.

The quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 6.2, was felt throughout Taiwan and on the coast of mainland China. It was centered about 14 kilometers west of Alishan, known also as Mount Ali, about 300 kilometers (180 miles) south of Taipei.

A hotel in the town of Rweili on the scenic mountain suffered serious cracks, injuring four of its staffers, said Mo Hwei-tsu, head of the Taiwan Rescue Center. He said previous reports that the hotel collapsed, trapping 10 people inside, were mis-

SQ Chowdhury

From Page 1 Bhuivan remained silent.

"I'm certainly feeling comfortable being part of the majority," said Salauddin Quader Chowdhury responding to another question.

He said, "I have given the total and unilateral responsibility to the party chief to use my resignation letter as and when she deems it fit. She has not the authority to use it or throw it into dustbin.

Chowdhury indicated the BNP may go for final bout if there is any rigging in the Barisal by-election on July 20. Asked if his resignation is a reflection of protest against the

leadership of BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, he denied it outright. "He (Bhuiyan) is a sweet person. My resignation has not even a remote connection with Mannan Bhuiyan." In reply to another query, he

said he does not aspire to be the BNP secretary general as he does not consider hunself competent for the post. He. however said one certainly may feel for a more effective Secretary General for BNP "in terms of a political movement.

"It is the party hierarchy to decide the matter. I don't want to make any comment on it." Chowdhury said.



Nathuram Godse, the gunman who killed Mahatma Gandhi. The play "Nathuram Godse - AP photo speaks" has been banned by the central government.

SAARC: All eyes on dialogue the two countries, it would be ilgrowth and easing of tariff bar-From Page 1 riers. An important issue

Foreign Ministry officials said Bangladesh was the only country that took an initiative to know the minds of the two leaders. "We came off better informed about the views of India and Pakistan but we have not be told how Delhi and Islamabad proposes to keep the South Asian region free from the dread of a nuclear holocaust."

A senior official said it is likely that five of the seven members of the SAARC -Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, the Maldives and Sri Lanka - are likely to insist individually and collectively on receiving clear cut assurance both from the Indian and Pakistani leaders about making South Asia 'a zone of peace'.

"The other SAARC countries have a responsibility to extract commitments from the two big neighbours that they would not jeopardise the prospect of development for their teeming millions by going ahead with an arms race, and that too a nuclear one. Only concrete moves by India and Pakistan could contribute to confidence building measures after the May ex plosions," said a senior diplo-

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury said: "The most interesting discussion of the forthcoming SAARC summit would be the meetings between Indian and Pakistani prime ministers. This in itself is of course a positive development, but given the present pronounced position of

Common Sand Boa, the

endangered snake

By Special Correspondent

species of the python available

in Bangladesh, who grows up to

India, was never known to have

Raymond Whitaker, who vis-

ited Bangladesh, said "it is

common throughout India on

the plain or low hills, but rare

may not be found in other areas

of Bangladesh. It is basically

nocturnal, keeps hiding a few

inches under sand or sandy soil

and comes out in the evening

It finds out some rat-infested

for hunting. Prof Hossain said.

area, takes shelter in a rat hole

and keeps waiting for its prey.

Like other pythons, it catches

the prey, twists its body around

before suffocating it to death for

highly endangered. It is harm-

less, beneficial and one of the

most beautiful snakes in the

world. It should not be treated

like other snakes, but should

protracted for our own benefit",

"The Common Sand Boa is

swallowing slowly.

Prof Hossain said.

Common Sand Boa may or

or absent in most of Bengal".

Prominent herpetologist

19 feet in length.

existed in Bangladesh.

Pickled inside a glass jar, a

Common Sand Boa or the Rus-

sel's Earth Boa, found by

wildlife biologists for the first

time in Bangladesh, provides

students of Dhaka University

an opportunity to know more

about the member of the Python

beaten to death by villagers at

Kudair in Bhuapur thana of

Tangail, was brought to the

university by a team of zoolo-

The villagers found the fe-

male reptile sneaking into a rat

hole and pulled her out, said

Prof Kazi Zaker Hossain, who

has preserved it at the Zoology

of rats, mice, frogs and lizards.

But it never harms humans,

rather works as a friend of

farmers, destroying rats," Prof

Hossain told this correspon-

tracted the Zoologists while on

a survey near the Bangabandhu

is mistaken as a baby python or

'Ajagar'. But there are only two

The villagers' action at-

Prof Hossain said the snake

The snake survives on a diet

Department of DU.

Jamuna Bridge.

The 24.5 inches long snake.

family.

lusory to expect anything dramatic. However, India and Pakistan could both demonstrate their goodwill at the SAARC summit to build up confidence". What the state minister said

carries 'a lot of content'. And SAARC members are expected to discuss and devise a system for regular consultations between member states on contentions issues, an observer The last SAARC summit at

Male had already agreed that members could have informal consultations relating to bilateral matters. At the Colombo summit, it is likely that the members might adopt a resolution institutionalising the process of bilateral consultations. Should that happen, analysts feel. SAARC would make a positive step forward in defusing tension not only between India and Pakistan but also draw a mechanism for discussions on critical bilateral problems between neighbours to act as a safety valve for carrying ahead the on-going process of regional cooperation.

The Colombo summit became uncertain following the nuclear explosions. Silent diplomatic efforts of several countries, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives ultimately paved the way for the summit.

In the process three sets of date had to be revised and the final schedule could be agreed upon after hectic consultations with all members by the current Chairman of SAARC, Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, and the host country's foreign minister Laksham Kadirgamar of Sri Lanka.

Gayoom could not proceed to all the SAARC capitals as is customary for the outgoing SAARC heads, but later the Sri Lankan foreign minister visited the capitals carrying letters of invitation from the host country's President Chandrika Kumaratunga. Among the subjects to come

up for discussion would be poverty alleviation, social

US-India talks

From Page 1 final congressional approval. Clinton was required by law to cut off loans and aid to India and Pakistan following their nuclear tests, and only Congress can lift the sanctions. Legislation approved by the Senate Wednesday would give Clinton waiver authority for up to 12 months. Rubin said the administration wants waiver authority for an unlimited pe-

If granted waiver authority of the type now under consideration, the administration would not —I emphasize the word "not" — be prepared to use such authority in whole or in part until there has been substantial progress toward But the Boa, usually found in | achieving the goals set forth in the UN Security Council Permanent 5 declaration of June the 4th in Geneva," Rubin said.

That declaration urged India and Pakistan to stop all further tests and refrain from converting nuclear capability into weaponry. It also called on the two to refrain from deploying missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, and from any further production of material used for nuclear weapons.

Ship movement

From Page 1 continued to fall into the lake, the sources said. But it should be brought down below 95 MSL to maintain uninterrupted power generation at Kaptai hy-

Meanwhile, low-lying areas on both sides of the Karnaphuli river at Rangunia and Boalkhali have been inundated due to increase in the flow of water from Kaptai Lake, administration source said.

From Page 1

SAGQ

tries should make maximum use of their available resources before seeking external assistance. The private sector should be encouraged to play its role in a bigger way, he said.

Rahman said the projects taken up by the sub-regional grouping would be supportive and complementary to national plans and those would not be substituted for bilateral, multilateral or regional cooperation. The idea of the Bangladesh

foreign secretary was widely appreciated by other member countries. The meeting decided that the

working group would be consti-tuted in each of the six areas of cooperation and the groups will meet at least once every six months to work out the feasibility studies and financial involvement of the projects.

The areas of cooperation and the working groups are as follows: Bhutan-environment, Bangladesh—sustainable utilisation of natural resources' endowments and energy, Indiatrade and investment facilitation and promotion, Nepal multi-modal transportation and communications and

Pak PM's sectt From Page 1

hill-side complex he inherited from his predecessor Benazir Bhutto, sacked for misrule in The secretariat building is

situated on 12.6 acres with a frontage of 1,220 feet on Constitution Avenue near the seats of the parliament, the presidency and the Supreme Court.

It has a seven-storey central structure with four identical wings extending from it with a covered area of 359,342 square feet, amid lush landscaped gar-The building contains 372

office rooms with 113 bathrooms, 29 kitchens, an auditorium with 360-seat capacity, a 250 seat banquet hall, three conference rooms, four lounges, a meeting hall, a library, a mosque, a cafeteria, a bank and a post office.

Seoul to back

From Page 1 lieve she can play a role acceptable to both parties"

Shin said his country appreciated the peace initiative of Bangladesh leader both domestically and regionally. As for the reunification of

the two Koreas, he said not

much progress has been made in short term, but "we are confident of long-term progress". He said. "We want to continue dialogue with the North for peaceful reunification. After the new government came to power, the peace initiative - having continued dialogue with North has been further geared up," he

He leaves here today at the end of his three-day visit. Korean ambassador in Bangladesh Tae Kyu Han was

present during the interview.

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

dro-electricity project, they Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, 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

Liaison Office: i) 49 A/B, Tejgaon Ind. Area, Dhaka

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