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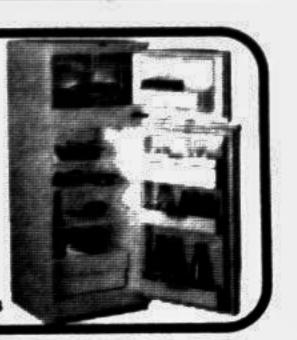


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Down to Earth

Growing Craze for Multi-storey Buildings

By AS M Nurunnabi

Currently a growing craze for multi-storey buildings is rather noticeable in our metropolitan city. If the number of buildings only in Banani and Dhanmondi residential areas that have been under process of brisk demolition recently, is taken into consideration, the craze for such high-

rise buildings becomes obvious. The builders or owners of such buildings in the metropolis are becoming a new wealthy and elite class and our traditional ways of lifestyle in separate entities with well-defined boundaries, etc. are disappearing fast, giving way to a new community style of living, with certain common facilities to be shared by all. This is a new phase of our urban development with the inevitable changing of the city's sky-line.

Inevitably, some questions are raised in connection with the new phenomenon. Such questions mainly relate to problems in several fields. In planning a sprawling building in the place of an existing old house, the builders tend to overlook certain essentials of good living.

The mass-produced living places are creating certain problems to the neighbours and the community as a whole. Congestion is one that catches one's eye immediately. In this context, we may cite congestion density created not only by the existing volume of city population but also by the burgeoning traffic pressure caused by the increasing number of vehicles of all descriptions.

This congestion is further heightened by the steady growth of high-rise buildings. As a result, there are emerging threats to normal functioning of the service sector in such fields as gas, water and electricity which are already overloaded.

The current boom in construction of multi-storied

Kuwait in 1990, and halted co-

operation with UNSCOM

(United Nations Special Com-

mission), which has to confirm

the elimination of Iraqi chemi-

cal, biological and nuclear

weapons before the embargo

when Egypt, Syria and six Gulf

states told Baghdad on Thurs-

day that it would be solely re-

sponsible for any military

strikes against it if it refused to

Cruise missile-firing B-52

bombers and radar-avoiding F-

117A Stealth fighters were

among 139 US aircraft on their

way to the Gulf to augment

forces already in the area, cen-

tred on the aircraft carrier

ready in the region, along with

23 US combat ships, eight of

them armed with sea-launched

Tomahawk cruise missiles. The

carrier Enterprise is due to ar-

rive in the Gulf in just over a

newspaper today, said that "if

we have to, we are ready to use

military action. We would much

regret this but our objectives

will be clear - to force Saddam

back into compliance with the

Thawra, echoing an appeal on

Thursday by Tareq Aziz, urged

Annan to try to resolve the

standoff over weapons inspec-

tions, but said this did not

mean Iraq was scared of possi-

nan, who has already appealed

to Saddam to resume coopera-

tion with UNSCOM, was due to

meet UN Security Council

members in New York today

and planned no further action

on Iraq unless they requested it.

Russia, the United States and

Security Council members

But Eckhard said that An-

ble US military strikes.

The Iraqi newspaper Al-

Blair, writing in a British

Some 170 US aircraft are al-

allow arms inspections to re-

Irag's isolation increased

can be lifted.

Eisenhower.

week.

buildings calls for adoption of measures on a priority basis for augmenting the capacities of infrastructural facilities to meet the challenge of growing pressure in the coming years.

There are other disadvantageous factors which are mainly social in character, affecting the homes of the residents of such buildings. Admittedly, a home is a place for the children to grow up in and learn from the environment prevailing therein. But it has been observed that in the limited space of an apartment, the factors which help the healthy growth of a child, by and large, inhibit it both in the physical and men tal aspects. To these inhibiting influences are now added the growing addiction to TV, VCR and computer games which make the children more cooped up in homes.

There are some disturbing aspects when an old building is pulled down at a particular site to make room for construction of a multi-storied structure. One would find building materials haphazardly lying for days, at times for months. The "culture" of using the roads in front of the site for storage of building materials and debris is not likely to go away easily for want of effective supervision and control by the law-enforcing agencies like Rajuk or/ and police.

Moreover, when construction activities are in progress employing a large number of labourers and craftsmen, they create such a cacophony of loud noise that day-time peace of the adjoining neighbours is rudely disturbed for days until a definite stage in construction work is reached. At night also the close neighbours get no respite. When the day's work is over. such labourers engage themselves in loud singing in chorus in their local dialects or playing on their transistor radios with loud volume.

The phenomenon of affluent

people, owning/occupying high-rise building apartments has gradually spawned change of social structure. The richer classes enjoying such high-rise property seem to symbolise a growing process of class segre-gation, as a result of which middle-class people with mod-erate income get cornered and lose their social significance however important they may be in educational, cultural and other fields. Besides these social impli-

cations, there are environmental considerations arising from such buildings. Most of the apartments in the high-rise buildings use air coolers with the result that, although air/ventilation in the interior enjoys cool temperature with the help of mechanical gadgets, this creates heated temperature outside. There is thus an imbalance in the environmental situation with adverse effect particularly on such greenery/vegetation as may be existing in close proximity to the high-rise buildings using air

The basic question relating to high-rise building seems to be whether the present trend in this respect really affords any meaningful relief by way of meeting the housing needs of any significant section of the city populace, besides the affluent classes of society. Some knowledgeable quarters feel that the present emphasis on high-rise buildings for residential purposes in city areas may be shifted to low-cost lands available outside the periphery of the main city areas with provisions for housing for people with moderate income with the help of concession/subsidies from the public sector if no private sector initiative comes forth. In this context, the results of the Purbachal Housing project will be observed with great interest.

service for those

Opposition BNP held a milad-mahfil at its city office after Asr prayers yesterday in memory of those killed during a 60-hour nationwide hartal that ended on Wednesday evening. reports UNB.

mahfil.

sent at the memorial service.

Investigators said ASP Mok les told them that he had con tact with BNP leader Ashraf Hossain, as he was known to him while posted in Khulna. But he denied the charge of disclosing any secret. Sub-Inspector Atiquzzaman outright rejected having "any

tion, reports UNB.

relationship with any BNP

The two city special branch

police officers and a business-

man arrested for allegedly leak-

ing out secrets and trying to fo-

ment anarchy yesterday denied

the charges during interroga-

Assistant Police Superintendent Moklesur Rahman and Sub-Inspector Atiquzzaman and Moazzem Hossain, a businessman, were held on Wednesday. The three were remanded on Thursday for two days for interrogation.

Following intelligence report, police arrested them on charge of disclosing government decisions to opposition leaders. They were also accused of keeping in touch with the family members of the killers of Bangabandhu, police sources

Kashmir rebels kill 2 Indian army officers

SRINAGAR, India, Nov 13 Muslim militants ambushed an Indian border guard patrol in Kashmir today, killing three people including two senior officers, police said, reports AFP.

The ambush occurred early today in the downtown Safa-Kadal quarter of the Kshmiri summer capital, Srinagar.

to police sources, has good relations with some opposition leaders and was active in subversive activities to create a situation which might help the opposition parties and killers of Bangabandhu, who were sentenced to death by firing-squad by the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court on Novem-

The businessman, according

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda

Zia, along with the party leaders, offer Munajat at a

Milad Mahfil for those killed during the recent hartal at

Arrested SB police officials,

businessman deny charges

city BNP office at Nayabazar yesterday.

Tendulkar From Page 1

124 off 92 balls as India overhauled Zimbabwe's modest 196 9 with 20 overs to spare.

Saurav Ganguly enhanced the quality of the one-sided final with a strokeful 63 not out including three sixes off Grant Flower that sailed out of the Sharjah stadium.

It was India's sixth title in nine one-day series this year during which they played a record 40 internationals, surpassing Pakistan's tally of 39 ast year The Indians return home

with the winner's cheque of USS 40,000, along with 35,000 dollars for coach Anshuman Gaekwad, who received a benefit purse form the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series, the organisers of cricket in Sharjah. Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin also received a

Mercedes 500 Sel luxury car from a Dubai-based businessman for becoming the leading run-getter in one-day internationals.

Tendulkar won the 1,500dollar award for man of the match and an additional 2,500 dollars as player of the tournament which also featured world champions Sri Lanka.

Ministers, AL leaders visit Bangabandhu's

GOPALGANJ, Nov 13: As part of the 'thanks giving day', cabinet ministers, leaders and workers of Awami League, and people from all walks of life converged at the mazar of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara here today.

Awami League observed the day to express gratitude to the Almighty Allah for enabling the nation to witness the trial of the self-confessed killers of Bangabandhu.

They offered fateha and placed wreaths at the mazar. held at the mazar premises after Jumma prayers.

LGRD and Cooperatives Min-

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended a milad mahfil at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum premises arranged by Dhanmondi Ward Awami League in observance of the day.

Pesh Imam of Sobhanbag Mosque Maulana Abdur Razzak conducted the milad mahfil and special numajat.

Security around Bangabandhu Museum

tion of Dhanmondi Road No 32

beside the residence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has been restricted for about a week to gear up security around the late leader's house officials said.

posed from the crossing of Road No 32 along Mirpur Road (the east end of the road) up to the location, where it is linked with Road No 31.

bandhu which has already been turned into Bangabandhu Memorial Museum is a sacred place," the DC said.

rangement," he added.

25 shops gutted in Feni

FENI, Nov 13: Twenty-five shops were gutted in a fire at a market in Dagonbhuiyan thana here today, reports UNB.

Police said the fire originated from a fuel shop in the evening. Firemen from the district headquarters extinguished the flame after fighting for two

mazar

A milad mahfil was also

ister Zillur Rahman, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak. Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Awami League presidium member, Amir Hossain Amu, Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury, parliamentary affairs advisor to the Prime Minister Suranjit Sengupta, Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah and leaders of Awami League and its front organisations were pre-

By Staff Correspondent

Traffic movement on a por-

Mustaque Hossain Khan, DC

Traffic, told The Daily Star that movement of vehicles along that portion of the road has been restricted since November 7. a day before the delivery of verdict in Bangabandhu Murder The restriction has been im-

"The residence of Banga-

"It is our duty to ensure the sanctity and security of the place as well as the safety of the visitors coming from different parts of the country," he noted without mentioning when the restrictions would be withdrawn. "It is a temporary ar-

Indo-Pak talks conclude

Arrangements for trans-border bus service fine-tuned

NEW DELHI, Nov 13: Pakistan and India today finetuned contentious arrangements for running the first trans-border bus service between the two countries, reports

Officials said the bus service was one of the few areas where a "convergence of views" emerged during week-long bilateral talks that ended today. Pakistan Culture Secretary

Roshan Zamir said Islamabad was keen on launching the link between New Delhi and Lahore as soon as possible. "The nuts and bolts are being put in place," Zamir told AFP

following talks with Indian officials that covered cultural exchanges, easing rigid visa regimes and building people-topeople contacts.

"This is the only area where we have hope," headed, referring to the lack of progress made on other issues during the talks in New Delhi.

India and Pakistan have blamed each other for delaying the 526 kilometre bus service. which is scheduled to run three times a week. Plans for the luxury bus

emerged during a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif in September in New York.

Opinion makers have called for increasing people-to-people contacts from both sides to clear the uncertainty and mutual suspicion which cloud bilateral relations.

Anwar Ibrahim's wife to meet Albright KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 13:

Anwar Ibrahim today filed a legal challenge to his firing as Malaysia's No. 2 official, while his wife prepared for a meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright next week. reports AP. The former deputy prime

minister's trial on abuse of power and sexual misconduct charges was temporarily halted. Malaysian officials want to prevent it from overshadowing the Nov. 17-18 summit of the Asia-Pacific Kuala Lumpur.

Economic Cooperation group in Yet, the Anwar case will still compete for attention with the summit hosted by Malaysia's strong-willed prime minister.

Mahathir Mohamad. Sen Lugar From Page 1

"The purpose of force, if we use it, would be to degrade his ability" to develop and use weapons of mass destruction. Albright said on PBS-TV's "NewsHour With Jim Lehrer" programme.

Albright, who scheduled a news conference today before flying to Malaysia for talks with Asian officials at an economic conference, said the administration was stepping up its support for Iraqi opposition

We would look forward to working with the post-Saddam regime," she said. Even so, David Leavy

spokesman for the National Security Council, said Clinton still had 'diplomatic and military options' before him to deal with Saddam.

From Page 1

struction sites at Gulshan to

suspend work. But the site owncode was violated. When asked, Rajuk Member

(Estate) Bhuiya Rafiuddin Ahmed refused to comment saying. "we need government permission to talk to the press"

Rajuk Chairman M Azizul Haque could not be reached for his comment despite several attempts. Minister for Housing and Works Mohammad Nasim was also not available.

were several reasons why the investigation halted. "A host of Rajuk officials are involved in Gulshan scam so nobody from inside here would like to do anything that might jeopardise their own positions." the source

Another source said encroachment upon the green space and the lake in Gulshan area has served certain sections of Rajuk quite well. He said most of the plot-owners along public land.

find that official five-katha plots have become upto tenkatha ones and this is where the catch is," the source said.

He said that many of these illegal occupiers of public land "secretly" approached Rajuk and got the encroached land allocated in their names. "These deals involved mostly the Estate Department of Rajuk," the

The planned bus trip would take 10 hours with two halts. including one for customs. A

The service could become popular because of the huge traffic between the neighbouring countries involving a large number of Muslims with relatives on either side of the bor-

one-way fare will cost about 500

Besides air traffic, a passenger train called 'Samjhouta' (the train of understanding) plies between India and Pakistan twice a week.

No significant progress was made on any of the seven issues discussed. "The hopes with which we came here have not been fulfilled, but this is only an exploratory round," Pakistan government spokesman Tariq Altaf said after today's

The crucial issue of Kashmir. which was dealt with separately in Islamabad, still managed to overshadow - and in several cases suffocate - the questions discussed in Delhi, which included several territorial disputes, as well as trade, terrorism and drug trafficking.

VGF: Donors From Page 1

ing that the number be further increased, even beyond 55

Relief ministry and World Food Programme (WFP) sources told this correspondent yesterday that a meeting would be held soon to take a decision in this regard.

VGF cardholders get 16 kg of foodgrains each per month. An ERD (economic relations division) official and WFP representatives in Dhaka discussed the issue on November 12, but due to other preoccupations it

was inconclusive.

Relief ministry officials said that at the next meeting, the date of which is yet to be fixed, the government would seek to know from the donors the latest position of shipment of food aid committed by them.

Nasim tipped

From Page 1 minister Mosharraf Hossain.

But ruling party sources said Rafiqul Islam had been sick and had a major surgical operation. The seat of the minister had been shifted to help him avoid getting inside the row. providing him the comfort of an aisle seat.

The political sources said the home minister had been regarded as a dove, who always preferred to use police in moderation against tackling the op-It was one of the rallying

points for hardliners in the government who lobbied the prime minister to change the man in charge of the crucial portfolio, dubbing him too soft against the opposition. If Mohammad Nasim re-

places Rafiqul Islam, according to the sources, it would send a very strong signal to the main opposition party, now at loggerheads with the government on various issues. A few more changes are also

being considered in the Council of Ministers. Some new faces may also be inducted, the sources hinted.

Vandalism

From Page 1

clothesmen from at least four agencies is also on the prowl day and night. About 200 yards from Mad-

hu's canteen, near the DU mosque, there is a police check The gate adjacent to the mosque remains shut in the

der care of the law keepers, including the plainclothesmen who check the IDs of late com-

evening with a pocket gate un-

But none came in defence of Madhu da.

Nor could they say when the bust was vandalised. Some say it must have happened after 12:30 am when Madhuda's son Arun, who now runs the historic canteen, left for home.

Vice Chancellor A K Azad Chowdhury said last night that he planned to lodge a complaint with police and promised to restore the damaged portion of the bust today.

A committee would be formed to investigate the incident, he said. Arun speculates it could be

the work of some anti-Independence elements. "It is beyond my imagination that somebody could damage the statue of Madhusudon Dey on the DU campus," Arun said. Meanwhile, 11 student or-.

ganisations including pro-Awami League BCL and BNPbacked JCD in a joint statement yesterday condemned incident. The student leaders said that

the attack on the sculpture is

tantamount to an attack on

spirit of democratic student movements of the country. Madhuda was the source of inspiration of all major democratic movements launched

from the Dhaka University before the Liberation War.

ATPF confce From Page 1 He hoped that the process of repatriation would resume

When his attention was drawn to the extradition of Major (retd) Bazlul Huda, one of the convicts in the Bangabandhu Murder Case from Thailand, the Foreign Minister said that all other countries where other convicts were hiding had assured of cooperation in returning the fugitives.

About the reported entry of 100 Libyans into Bangladesh a few days before the November 8 verdict and presence of international terrorists. Azad said it would be properly investigated.

US, Iraq rule out France all expressed reluctance for Annan to go to Iraq and risk a repeat of his February trip. which served only to postpone the day of reckoning now loom-

US National Security Ad viser Sandy Berger met with top foreign policy and military of ficials at the White House on Thursday evening but timing for US military action was a secret. Some analysts have said

an attack could occur early next

week. BAGHDAD, Nov 13: Russian President Boris Yeltsin today sent a message to Saddam warning that the crisis was getting beyond political control and he faced a real risk of US air strikes unless a solution to the crisis was found quickly,

reports Reuters. AP adds: Thousands of Iragis worried about US airstrikes lined up outside gasoline stations in Baghdad today while the official media ignored the evident loss of Arab support

in Iraq's confrontation over UN weapons inspections. Official newspapers published articles hailing President Saddam Hussein's decision to end all cooperation with the UN Special Commission and claiming there was worldwide

condemnation of American threats. "The world calls for dialogue and peace, and America seeks

war and aggression," the official al-Iraq newspaper said. "There is condemnation of American threats on both Arab and international levels," al-Thawra, the mouthpiece of the

ruling Baath party newspaper, said in a banner headline. The newspapers made no mention of Thursday's warning to Iraq by several Arab countries. The countries urged "wisdom and reason" to end the confrontation but said Saddam's government alone would be "responsible for any consequences" from stopping the

Sherpur College closed sine die

work of UN weapons inspectors.

SHERPUR, Nov 13 (APB) The Sherpur Government College was declared closed today for an indefinite period following a violent incident on the

campus, reports APB. The decision was taken after a student, brandishing a revolver, threatened a teacher on Wednesday.

in the parliamentary elections Teachers in an impromptu in February this year, went for meeting protested the incident new faces in 100 of the total 200 and demanded exemplary punassembly constituencies even ishment to the culprit. while renominating 68 of the

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BNP holds memorial killed during hartal

A large number of party activists and supporters were pre-As part of central programme. BNP and its six allies

Present at the milad were. among others, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Ashraf Hossain Abdullah Al Noman, Selima Rahman Fazlur Rahman Patal Sadek Hossain Khoka, MK Anwar, ASM Hannan Shah Barkatullah Bhulu, Amanullah Aman, Nazimuddin Alam, Fa-

BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia attended the milad

also held gayebana janaza and brought out mourning processions across the country.

zlul Huq Milon, Khairul Kabir Khokon and Shirin Sultana. Battlelines drawn for crucial

NEW DELHI, Nov 13: Battle-

lines have been drawn for the

crucial assembly elections in

four Indian states of Madhya

Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and

Mizoram with two main con-

tenders for power completing

their selection of candidates

adopting contrasting ap-

the Congress by and large

sought to project a "new" image

in Rajasthan, where it seeks to

end eight years of BJP rule, and

in Madhya Pradesh where it

faces anti-incumbency factor

and a strong challenge from

nied renominations to major-

ity of the sitting members of the

state assembly in Madhya

Pradesh and fielded 167 new

faces (out of a total of 320) in-

In Rajasthan, the Congress,

The overall inference by

Congress leaders is that party

President Sonia Gandhi has by

and large ensured that the

choice of candidates was not

bogged down by factional inter-

ests and were greeted as "rea-

many changes in the BJP list of

candidates for Madhya Pradesh

By contrast, there are not

sonably fair" and "sensible."

encouraged by its performance

As a result, the Congress de-

BJP to retain power.

cluding nine ministers.

72 sitting members.

In choosing its nominees,

polls in four Indian states From Pallab Bhattacharya and Rajasthan and the party leadership seems to have been guided by caution against possible outbreak of dissidence by ruffling too many feathers with

> rebel candidates marring whatever prospects the party has, especially in Rajasthan. However, both BJP and the Congress are faced with the prospect of having to contend with rebel candidates in Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh who jumped into fray after being denied their parties'

official nomination.

The BJP in Madhya Pradesh was jolted when senior leader and the state's former Chief Minister Virendra Kumar Saklecha quit the party after failing to get nomination and joined the fray as an independent with Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav promptly extending support to him.

A big shock for Congress

came when a rebel candidate

filed nomination against the party's official nominee Sheila Dixit, the lady tipped to become the Chief Minister of Delhi if Congress wins power in the coming poll. Mrs Dixit, who was close to slain Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, is being opposed by BJP's candidate and former Indian test cricketer Kirti Azad in the national capital's Gole Market constituency. The Congress and BJP appear to have kept the caste fac-

tor in mind while choosing the

candidates in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The Congress has given nomination to a large number of candidates belonging to Jat and Rajput communities in Rajasthan in a bid to counter the BJP whose top leader in this state Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, currently the Chief Minister, is a Rajput.

The presence of a large num-

ber of backward castes in BJP's

list of nominees in Madhya

Pradesh reflects the party's subtle move to shed its traditional image as an outfit for the upper castes and expand its support base. The lists of candidates of both Congress and the BJP have presence of a good number of relatives of senior leaders. The Congress list contains sons of Arjun Singh and Moti Lal Vora. both former Chief Ministers of

the state, wife of former Ra-

jasthan Chief Minister and

wives of senior leaders. In BJP, the nephew and niece of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, cousin of senior leader Sunder Lal Patwa, brother of Federal Minister of state for Human Resource Development Uma Bharati, brother and daughter of another senior leader Vijayraje Scindia have got nomination in the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh

The elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi have witnessed relations between BJP and some of its allies

like Samata Party, Trinamool Congress and Lok Shakti taking a knock after they failed to agree on a seat-sharing in the three states. Consequently. BJP will be opposed by its allies in some

seats in the three states. The

only ally with which BJP has-

gone for a very limited seat-

sharing is Indian National Lok

Dal in Delhi and Rajasthan to ensure support of sizeable number of Jat voters in these two The BJP declined to go for seat-sharing with its regional allies primarily for two reasons: (1) these allies have little base in the three states and (2) to avoid discontent in its fold over nominations that would

have been denied to its own

candidates, BJP sources say. Meanwhile, Vajpayee has acknowledged that the outcome of the November 25 assembly elections in the four states would have bearing on his government. The BJP, he told media persons last week, would wait and see what the Congress does if it were to win the polls in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh. Delhi and Mizoram.

jasthan and Delhi. Vajpayee also admitted that

The Prime Minister, however, ruled out threat to his government even if the BJP were to lose in Madhya Pradesh, Ra-

the issue of sharp rise in prices of essential goods would be a "contributive" and not a "decisive" factor in the elections.

Gulshan Lake

ers defied Rajuk's notices and kept building their structures. Many developers said they began work after obtaining official approval of Rajuk and that it (Rajuk) did not have the right to interfere unless the building

A Rajuk source said there

the lake have encroached upon "Now if you go there you will

source said.