

World Bank on Family Planning

At a time when Bangladesh needs all the help it can generate from outside to intensify its family planning activities...

Judging by a report published in this paper yesterday, the differences touch on some fundamental issues. It is said that after a recent mission to Bangladesh...

The Government of Bangladesh has reportedly expressed serious reservations about the WB's advice. These reservations are undoubtedly based on several valid reasons...

Partly it is due to the 10 per cent unemployment rate. Additional hardship has resulted from cuts in unemployment and solo parents' benefits imposed earlier this year...

In immediate terms, the best way of tackling what is rightly regarded as the country's "Number One" problem lies in putting in a new life into our existing efforts with increased vigour...

A Safer Environment

Inaugurating a seminar on "Engineering for Disaster Mitigation," the minister concerned Abdullah Al-Noman called upon the country's engineers to put their efforts in preserving environmental balance...

It is no wonder that the environment issue today figures so prominently at various international fora. For the peril man has been facing since the discovery of a hole in the ozone layer...

Sadly, the point is often missed here by planners and policy-makers — as the minister has done in this case. If the engineers have a role to play in the creation of a safe environment...

As for the disaster management, which is interrelated with environment, engineers and scientists must work together to suggest the ways and means capable of matching the challenge.

It's Time to Support Battle for Democracy in Myanmar

by Kaiser Rasheed

Recent happenings along the Bangladesh Myanmar border appear to be following virtually the same pattern as before except that the Myanmar army seems to have lost its bearing completely.

With the advent of the first Ne Win Government in the 1950s, the local army commander launched a major operation against Arakanese Muslims.

It was against this general background that the army was deployed to commit loot, rape and arson mainly in the districts of Maungdaw and Buthidong in the hope that their operations would divert the political opposition of the Arakanese away from the Myanmar to the Arakan Muslims.

Moreover, the reaction of Pakistan under martial law was sharp and swift instead of the expected apathy towards a remote and neglected border.

It became abundantly clear that unless favourable conditions were created for the immediate return of refugees who had streamed

tried once more to test the resolve of Bangladesh almost as if to reassure themselves that things had in fact changed since the last time.

Myanmar armed forces have chosen to launch an attack against a manned outpost on our side of the border. The only thing that this indicates is a sense of desperation on their part.

across the border into our territory, the consequences could be far more serious than they had bargained for. The military presence was such that the possibility of armed conflict along the border could not be ruled out.

entirely that of the Myanmar Government. The normalization process was smooth and expeditious and complete tranquillity returned to the border areas once again.

Food Line Lengthens for Affluent Society

NEW Zealanders, who once enjoyed one of the highest living standards in the developed countries...

choose between the basic essentials of food, heating and the clothing. Families were in debt, could not afford to eat properly and suffered ill health and depression, the report said.

income tax scale ranges from 24 cents to 33 cents in the dollar. There is clear room for us to increase taxes, and there is no evidence it will be a hindrance to economic growth," he said.

Another social worker says: "It's quite degrading to go to a food bank. But people have to put aside pride and come and ask for food parcels for their children."

Church welfare agencies report 300 to 700 per cent increases in demand for food parcels which are made up of groceries, fruit and vegetables donated to the food banks.

The report showed beneficiaries becoming isolated from society and cutting sports and leisure activities other than New Zealanders considered part of everyday life.

The government pays welfare benefits to solo parents, unemployed, elderly and people who cannot work through sickness but these have been cut or frozen as it insists the country should live within its means.

The council has called on the government to raise taxes so it can reinstate benefits at their June 1990 level.

Archbishop Davis said government policies were favouring the rich and penalising the poor. The Prime Minister was presented with a statement which talked of "ominous signs of political distrust and disillusionment that threaten the health of the democratic process and the nation."

Africa: Famine Is Man-made

A new study argues that famine, now occurring only in Sub-Saharan Africa, is not the result of natural disasters but of faulty policymaking.

The study found small-scale projects in Ethiopia and Sudan that have prevented famine. But these have been too small in number and scope.

grammes are needed to sustain farmers while they wait to harvest trees.

The report also cites the urgent need to adopt economic policies that would help rural households rebuild their productive capacity.

These include providing farmers with "sorghum production packages" with rapid-growing seeds, fertiliser, ploughs, and technical assistance.

"Botswana and Zimbabwe have avoided famines through droughts," said Von Braun. "They have done this through rural public works projects that provide the poor with a guaranteed income of wages or food, in exchange for the construction of badly needed transportation and irrigation systems."

There is no excuse for famines in the 20th century. They are entirely preventable through changes in domestic policy," he added.

The other Municipal Corporation areas. All political parties shall have to obtain prior written permission from the respective Metropolitan Police Commissioner for holding public meetings in a particular spot.

Ethiopia and Sudan's food-for-work and cash-for-work projects increased the purchasing power of the rural poor, while creating badly needed infrastructure.

To the Editor...

Letters for publication in these columns should be addressed to the Editor and legibly written or typed with double space. For reasons of space, short letters are preferred, and all are subject to editing and cuts.

Public meeting and public suffering. Sir, The autocratic Ershad regime set a bad example and left a legacy as well in holding public meeting here and there any time within the Dhaka city causing immense trouble to the travelling public.

the other Municipal Corporation areas. All political parties shall have to obtain prior written permission from the respective Metropolitan Police Commissioner for holding public meetings in a particular spot.

Student from abroad. Sir, I am student at a college in Dhaka and find it extremely difficult to concentrate on my task.

More ado than festivity. Sir, While I realise marriages, "mussalmans," birthdays and other such occasions are matters to rejoice with, I find it hard to be in a festive mood when these do occur.

Articles on literature. Sir, I had been a continuous reader since the launching of The Daily Star. The same is applicable to some of my neighbours.