

UNDP report observes Market economy, democracy not quite enough

By Staff Correspondent

Ninety per cent of the world's population have no control over their lives despite widespread adoption of market economy, multi-party democracy and grassroots activities.

The ethnic minorities, the poor, rural dwellers, women and the disabled often have little power to change their lives.

These are some of the observations contained in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report-1993, released worldwide Tuesday. The global launching of the report, the fourth in a series since 1990, took place simultaneously in both New Delhi and Washington.

The resident representative of the UNDP in Bangladesh, Michael Constable, while addressing a press conference on the occasion of the report's publication in Dhaka yesterday said, "The report emerges at a time of great ferment, when people all over the world actively seek their share of economic, political and social benefits."

He said, "The 1993 report estimates that fewer than 10 per cent of the peoples of the world actively participate in events and processes which shape their lives."

The report calls for "people-friendly markets", allowing people to participate fully in their operation and to share equitably in their benefits.

One way of making economies work better and increasing opportunities for participation is to reduce state regulations, unleash private creativity and sell of inefficient public enterprises, it says.

"However, privatisation is no panacea," warns the report. Hastily conceived or executed, it may achieve very little. "Privatisation should be seen as a means to higher levels of human development rather than as an end in itself," it said.

Given a chance to organise, people can improve their lives,

the report says. The dramatic shift toward democracy taking place in most developing countries has led to an explosion of participatory movements or non-government organisations (NGOs). NGOs today benefit more than 250 million people compared to 100 million in the early 1980s.

To promote societies built around people's genuine needs, the report calls for five new pillars of a people-centred world order.

These are a concept of human security that stresses security of people, not just of nations using defence cuts to boost human development; a strategy of sustainable human development that centres around people; partnership between state and markets to combine market efficiency with social compassion; new patterns of national and global governance; and new forms of international co-operation to focus foreign aid directly on the needs of people.

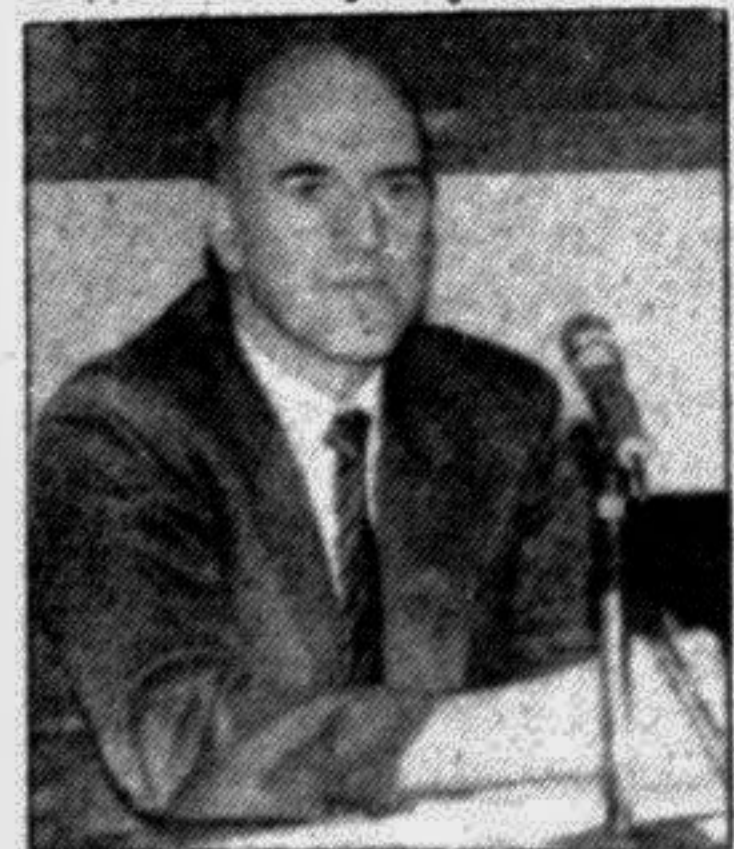
The report reveals the startling fact that the African-American population of the USA gets little benefit of the US society and economy that it puts it 30 places behind the white population of that country on the human development index. The US Hispanic population would rank 34 places behind the whites, making their lot worse than the population of developing countries like Trinidad and Tobago and the Bahamas.

UNDP lauds success of Grameen Bank

Grameen Bank's success in extending credit to the rural poor has been lauded highly by UNDP. The Grameen Bank in Bangladesh is one of the most successful experiments in extending credits to the landless poor, says the Human Development Report 1993 released worldwide Tuesday, reports UNB.

Govt's decentralisation

From Page 1 Col 4 for local action" as the theme in an attempt to connect, what it said, decentralisation which comes about by way of reliance



Michael Constable

on markets with the one that figures in strategies to alleviate poverty.

Noting that participation and decentralisation are firmly on the agenda of the Fourth Five-Year Plan of Bangladesh, the report, however, observed: "There is a distinct lack of concreteness... the plan does not address the question of sector-based planning in an economy increasingly regulated by market forces rather than by government fiat."

Advocating development through a market-oriented democracy, the report suggested allowing market forces to determine prices of commodities, with the task of charity and transfers left to the consumers, and property rights secured.

The rate of growth over the past decade has been disappointing and poverty reduction through growth thus remained out of reach, the report pointed out.

The report also noted that the decline of poverty fizzled out in the '80s while recent small improvements appear "fragile". The very poor have increased both in absolute and relative terms.

The main points of criticisms on the structural adjustment policies were identified in the report as: adjustment policies are not integrated into the planning process; focus is too narrow and not sufficiently integrated to the Bangladesh context; poverty eradication is not at the centre of concerns; protective measures for the poor are not part of the policy package; and privatisation is an un-

desirable reduction of the role of the state in a country like Bangladesh where the private sector is hardly more efficient than the public sector.

On planning for human development, the report recommended an "all-embracing view of actions, which is a must, particularly in the circumstances prevailing in Bangladesh."

Substantial improvement may be expected in terms of democracy at lower levels through the creation of elected bodies which can also serve the objectives of human development, the report pointed out.

"The newly declared local government structure can work effectively in this direction if adequate autonomy is granted at the local levels and if the government does not use the local groups politically and adequate trained manpower are ensured."

The report went on to advocate close collaboration between the government and the NGOs. "It is acknowledged that local government and NGOs are natural partners, that alliances are to be sought and that there can be a good deal of complementarity."

On setting priorities for the planning process, the report recommended further devolution to democratic local government with a view to intensifying the fight against poverty.

"Promoting private sector in the broad sense through co-operation by the public and private sectors and including farmers, small entrepreneurs, formal and informal organisations, NGOs, strategies for employment and self-employment, including access to basic needs like education, training and health as a condition for improved labour market functioning are the important agenda required for the formulation of a vision document," it added.

On the HDI ranking table, Bangladesh's life expectancy is listed at 51.8 years, adult literacy rate at 35.3 per cent and the purchasing power parity (PPP) is placed at 872 US dollars.

Among the SAARC nations only Nepal at 152 and Bhutan at 159 rank below Bangladesh in the HDI listing while Sri Lanka tops the ranking at 86. The Maldives is at 112, Pakistan at 132 and India at 134.



Police baton-charged unruly students who enforced a six-hour hartal in the Siddheswari-Malibagh-Eskaton area of the city yesterday in protest at the killing of a student Monday during a clash with shopkeepers of the Century Arcade. — Star photo

JAF resents press reports on sub judge matters

The Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (JAF) yesterday expressed anxiety over the publication of statements in the national press on sub judge matters, reports BSS.

In a statement, the convenor and the member secretary of the Forum, Justice T H Khan and Abdul Wadud Khandker said that some of the items even contained derogatory remarks against the judiciary of the country which they observed were not only unfortunate and condemnable, but also fraught with immense mischief.

They appealed to all concerned, especially the members of the bar, to rise to the occasion and make determined and concerted efforts to thwart any attempt from any quarters to undermine the image of the judiciary.

The JAF leaders emphasised the need and importance of keeping the judiciary above controversy and said nothing should be done which might undermine the image of the judiciary.

"We all should remember that under our constitution the judiciary has been rightly assigned a very important role and that is not confined only to adjudication of disputes between individuals, but includes a wide range of matters. The Supreme Court has been assigned the high responsibility of examining and reviewing acts and deeds of the executive and the legislative organs. Thus it is assigned the great and important responsibility of maintaining balance between the different organs of the state," they said.

"We feel it in no uncertain term that the continuance of the rule of law is absolutely dependent upon uninterrupted functioning of the judiciary. Thus the dignity and image of the judiciary should be upheld at all costs," they added.

Silver haul case: One on remand

By Court Correspondent

Owner of Lucky Corporation at Tantibazar, Sukkur Mohammad, was remanded to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for four days Tuesday.

The CID police arrested Sukkur Mohammad from his factory Monday with five mounds of silver worth about Tk 30 lakh.

When Sukkur was produced before the chief metropolitan magistrate's court Monday, police prayed for seven-day remand for interrogation.

However, the Chief Magistrate of the Dhaka granted four-day police remand.

Malaysia

From Page 1 Col 8 of the workers and also the particulars of the concerned recruiting agency. The particulars of their flights will also be notified to Malaysian Immigration in advance.

"From now on, there will be no specific deadline for entry of Bangladeshi workers already recruited," said the high commissioner, adding that the decision was taken in view of the huge number of recruited workers as well as the shortage of flights on the Dhaka-KL route.

Due to the deadline imposed earlier, the Malaysian High Commission in Dhaka was under tremendous pressure to handle a huge number of visa applications. Since May 1, the high commission issued about 11 thousand visas to workers recruited for Malaysia, the sources said.

The waiver of the deadline will relieve several thousand worried Bangladeshis who have been waiting anxiously to get seats on flights to Kuala Lumpur.

Six-hour hartal in parts of the city

By Staff Correspondent

Sporadic clashes between police and students marked the six-hour hartal in the Siddheswari and Malibagh areas of the city Tuesday.

The students of Siddheswari Degree College called the dawn-to-noon hartal in protest against the killing of one of their fellow-students. The scope of the hartal extended up to the Bangla Motors crossing.

Kawar, a first year intermediate student of the college, was killed during skirmishes between shopkeepers of the Century Arcade shopping-centre and students of the college Monday over alleged extortion by the students.

The shutters of all shopping centres including the Century Arcade and Mauchak Market and the roadside shops in the area remained down during the hartal hours.

The road from Malibagh Square to Bangla Motors was blocked to traffic movement from 6 am to 12 noon due to human-barricades at different points, witnesses said.

In the morning the stu-

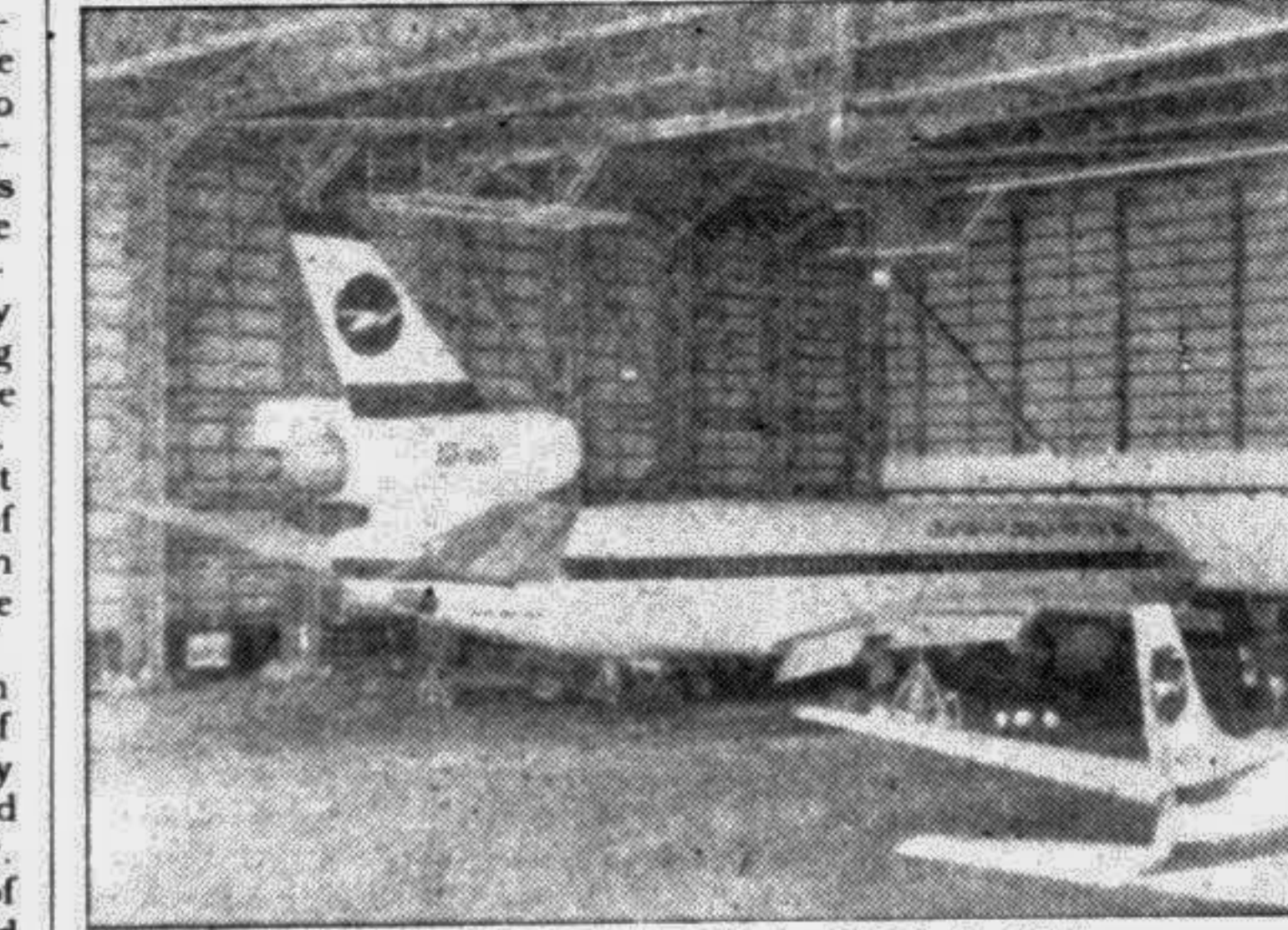
dents also damaged two cars which tried to enter the blocked road, said witnesses.

Police resorted to baton charges on the agitated students when they attempted to hold rallies and bring out processions several times during the hartal hours. The situation worsened when they hurled stones and bricks at the police on duty, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, Ramna police arrested four persons for their alleged involvement in Kawar's murder. They were identified as Monir Hossain, Alaf Ali, Bachchu and Shameem Kabir Proddhan.

Earlier, the Principal of Siddheswari Degree College lodged a murder case with Ramna police accusing three persons, including Helaluddin Helal, president of the Century Arcade Shop Owners' Association, said police.

Autopsy of the body of Kawar was done at the Dhaka Medical College Tuesday. Later, police sent the corpse to his village—Belna—in Kaliganj for burial yesterday.



The Biman DC-10 aircraft which skidded off the runway while landing May 18 was finally towed to the hangar at Zia International Airport early Tuesday morning.

DC-10 towed to hangar

From Page 1 Col 5 craft on the runway midnight Monday and then towed the crippled aircraft several hundred yards to the hangar, pausing for two flights.

Control tower officials told The Daily Star there was no need to close the airport to complete the salvage operation.

The DC-10-30, the fourth wide-bodied plane in Biman's fleet of nine aircraft, met with the accident during landing in inclement weather. All 123 passengers and 12 crew, arriving from Jeddah, escaped unhurt.

Officials said that this was the first such accident at ZIA and the salvage operation was completed using conventional methods since the airport lacked modern recovery equipment.

The salvage operation was started on Saturday after representatives from the manufacturers McDonnell Douglas, engine-makers General Electric and insurers Iloyds reached

Dhaka and inspected the aircraft on site.

The operation was coordinated by an expert from McDonnell Douglas, Michael Majerus, the officials said, adding that the Bangladesh authorities provided the logistic support.

During the operation, a 1200x58 ft road was constructed with six lakh bricks and 500 truckloads of sand to link the accident spot to the runway.

The nose of the aircraft was placed on a French-made 36 wheeler tank transporter using air cushion jacks and then dragged by a tank commissioned by the army.

The manufacturers and insurers would start their assessment work from Wednesday, officials said.

"It will take at least one week to assess the extent of damage," one Biman official said.

Plea to reduce import duty on TV spares

Bangladesh TV Manufacturers Association yesterday urged the government to reduce import duty on spare parts of television sets which was enhanced recently by National Board of Revenue, reports UNB.

In a press conference Tuesday afternoon at Jatiya Press Club, leaders of the association said the duty on an average was only 35 per cent before it was enhanced to 75 per cent causing sharp rise in the price of black and white television sets.

They said that they paid 38 to 45 dollars earlier to the

foreign suppliers as the price of spare parts of 14 inches black and white television sets. But the Valuation Division of the Customs in Chittagong fixed the import price at 57 dollars, they added.

They thought a large number of television set assembling plants would be closed due to heavy import duty on spare parts.

The price of 14 inches black and white TV is now Tk 4,000. The price will shoot up to Tk 6,000 if the enhanced import duty imposed on spare parts is not reduced, they added.

Hajj team leaves

An eight-member high-level Hajj delegation headed by State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan left Dhaka for Saudi Arabia yesterday, reports UNB.

The delegation members during their stay in Saudi Arabia will call on Saudi King, Saudi high officials and the representatives of different delegations from Muslim countries and exchange views with them.

They will also look after the Bangladeshi pilgrims at Makkah, Medina, Mina, Arafat and Musdalefa and ensure necessary facilities.

The other members of the delegation are Serajul Islam, MP, Golam Rabbani, MP, Abdul Wahab, MP, Sheikh Ansar Ali, MP, Dr Gazi Abdul Hoq, Secretary General of Bangladesh Medical Association, Moulana Mohammad Nurul Islam, Khatib, Satgambuj Mosjid, Bagerhat, and Rashiduddin Zahid, Headmaster of Motijheel Government Boy's High School.

Sanjay Chakma freed on bail

A tribal student leader of the Dhaka University was released on bail today after three months of detention in the Central Jail here, reports UNB.

Sanjay Chakma, an Honours examinee of Political Science and the Convenor of DU unit of Chhatra Federation, was arrested from the Jagannath Hall on March 16 for his alleged connection with outlawed Shantibahini.

Chhatra Federation sources said Sanjay, also a top leader of Pahari Chhatra Parishad, was released on bail following their appeal to the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia during a meeting with student leaders on May 20.

340 arrested in Khulna Div

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 25: Police arrested more than 340 wanted criminals and recovered 20 arms and a huge quantity of ammunition in the last five days as part of a country-wide special operation from ten districts of Khulna Division. The arms include shotguns, pipe-guns, country-made rifles and pistols.

According to the additional DIG, Khulna Range, the operation, launched on May 19th last to curb crimes, will continue. The arms were mainly recovered from Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, and Khulna districts.

Meanwhile, 134 persons were detained on various charges by the police under a special operation launched in Khulna city since May 20 last.

Khulna Metropolitan Police sources said that the operation has been launched as a precautionary measure to prevent crimes in the city as the Eid-ul-Azha approached.

Armed smugglers, villagers clash: 25 injured

PABNA, May 25: A clash between an armed group of smugglers and the inhabitants of river-front village Shadhir in Sadar thana of Pabna district today (Tuesday) left 25 people injured, six of them seriously, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the smugglers, armed with cut rifles and pipe guns, opened 10 rounds of gunshots at the inhabitants of Shadhir when the villagers resisted them in smuggling Indian cows by boat through the Ichhamati.

The smugglers escaped with their boatload of cows before further help could reach the village, witnesses said.

Hasina shocked

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of Fatikhari thana Chhatra League leader Moktar Hossain. Moktar, a brilliant student, succumbed to his injuries at the Suhrawardi Hospital yesterday after an alleged attack by Jamaat-Shibir activists recently, reports UNB.

Fazlul Haq

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Ustad Fazlul Haq received the coveted Ekushey Padak for music.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday condoled the death of Ustad Fazlul Haq.

In a statement she recalled his contribution to classical music and said his death was an irreparable loss for the nation.

The Prime Minister expressed her sympathies to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahanaara Begum in a condolence message expressed her profound shock and grief at the sad demise of the Ustad.

The Midnight File

NATO backs policy to contain Bosnia crisis

BRUSSELS, May 25: NATO Defence Ministers backed a controversial new western policy to contain the Bosnian conflict today and discussed how to protect Muslim enclaves designated as "safe areas" with troops and air power. But the United States told allies at the meeting that tougher options, such as air strikes against Bosnian Serbs and arming the beleaguered Muslims, should be kept open if the current strategy fails to bring peace, reports Reuter.

8 shot dead in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, May 25: Indian security forces shot dead eight members of Kashmir's most powerful Muslim guerrilla group in a gunbattle today, police and rebel sources said. The eight were killed in an area around Wullar Lake, nearly 40 kilometers (25 miles) from here, after security forces launched a combine operation to flush out the rebels, reports AFP.

Crackdown on black leaders

JOHANNESBURG, May 25: In pre-dawn raids nationwide, police Tuesday arrested dozens of leaders in the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), a militant black group, linked to recent mass attacks against white civilians. It was the biggest crackdown on black political leaders since President FW de Klerk launched reforms in 1990 to end apartheid, reports AP.

PM: Break cycle

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The Prime Minister emphasised on the need for strengthening the movement for education and poverty alleviation all over the country.

She mentioned that poet Nazrul through his works had called for the development of the country's women farmers, workers as well as the working class people.

"Our solemn duty is to continue the work for implementing the ideals and dreams of the poet," she added.

Spelling out different programmes initiated by her government for preservation of and research on the works of the National Poet, Begum Zia pointed out that increased exercise of Nazrul's thoughts might add a new dimension to the renaissance of our national life.

The rebel poet's social responsibilities and conscience would foster life to the nation-building efforts, she said.

Earlier, the State Minister for Cultural Affairs presented the Prime Minister with copies of the complete works of Kazi Nazrul Islam published by the Bangla Academy and also an anthology of Nazrul's lyrics and dictionary.

Prof Jahanaara Begum said that the government was pledge-bound to preserve the works of the poet and promote those across the boundaries.

Aging litterateur and editor of the monthly Saugat, Muhammad Nasiruddin urged the government to continue the development of the Nazrul Institute.

The four-day Nazrul Jayanti Programme includes musical sessions, dance-drama, recital, exhibition and Nazrul 'mela'.

Some 26 portraits of Nazrul by noted painters like Joyrul Abedin, Kayum Chowdhury Murataza Bashir, Mostafa Monwar, Rafiqunnabi and Hashem Khan were displayed.

A total of 100 photos of Nazrul and 20 in colour by Dr Nawajesh Ahmed letters, manuscripts, clothes and personal belongings of the poet were also put on display at the exhibition.

A total of 35 stalls with traditional handicrafts were set up at the Nazrul 'mela'. The exhibition and the fair will remain open to all from 3 pm to 8 pm till May 28.

After the inauguration of the national programmes, eminent singers including Firoza Begum, Sohrab Hossain, M Asafuddaulah, Ferdousi Rahman, Khalid Hossain, Fatema-tuz-Zohra and grand daughter of the poet Khil Khil Kazi rendered Nazrul songs.

In the morning, people in silent procession visited the mazar of the National Poet near the Dhaka University Central Mosque.

They placed wreaths and offered fatcha at the mazar. The visitors included the members of the poet's family.

The Vivekananda Shikha-Sanskrit Educational and Cultural Parishad organised a voluntary blood donation programme at the mazar of the poet. The DU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed opened the programme.

Barisal doctors demand police officer's trail

BARISAL, May 25: Doctors at a press conference here today demanded immediate trial of a police officer for allegedly assaulting a doctor at the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, reports UNB.

They condemned the incident which occurred on Sunday and urged the authorities to ensure security of all officials and employees of the medical profession.

They also expressed the determination to continue their strike until their demand for punishment of the police officer is met.

The doctors went on strike on Monday after Additional SP Hemayetuddin allegedly roughed up Dr. Osman Gani over treatment of his child. The authorities closed the college for indefinite period since Monday as tension mounted over the incident.

Naval officer

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cas of the port city since January 2.

Earlier, 19 Navy personnel including four officers and fifteen sailors were dismissed while five other BN officers and eight sailors were court-martialled for their involvement in the incidents.

Sources said the trial by the court martial had recently been completed, but details of the trial could not yet be known.

A one-man enquiry commission formed by the government with Justice Sultan Hossain Khan probed into the incident from January 14 to February 3 and submitted its report to the Defence Ministry in early April, a highly placed source informed this correspondent.

Sources said some top brass of the Chittagong Naval Base were reportedly also faulted in the findings of the inquiry commission which is yet to be published.

The Halishahar Adhikar Punaruddar Committee (rights restoration committee), meanwhile, in a statement issued to the press, has demanded the publication of the Justice Hossain inquiry commission reports without further delay.

Yangon releases 25 Bangladeshi fishermen

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 25: Twenty four Bangladeshi fishermen who were abducted by Myanmar security forces, were released, an official source from Cox's Bazar said today.

The release of the fishermen who were taken at gunpoint from Bangladesh territorial water recently came after a Company Commander-level flag meeting held on May 22 at a border outpost between the border guards of the two countries.

Yangon

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ence of over a quarter of a million refugees were causing untold problems on the developing economy of Bangladesh. He said that the presence of the refugees was also creating problems for the local population.

The Bangladesh Minister informed his Myanmar counterpart about the memorandum of understanding that Bangladesh signed with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to involve it in the repatriation process. He said the involvement of the UNHCR remains entirely non-political and humanitarian in nature.

The Bangladesh team leader said that Bangladesh, as a neighbour, was keen to develop trade relations with Myanmar for the common benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

He also suggested exploring the possibilities of trade in items like timber, wooden poles, bamboos and railway sleepers from Myanmar and jute goods, pharmaceuticals, crockeries, electrical wire, toiletries and light industrial products from Bangladesh.

He said the two neighbours could explore joint ventures in the development of fish resources and cooperation in other areas, too.

The Bangladesh Home Minister also suggested that the two countries could cooperate in the protection and development of forest resources and maintenance of environmental balance.

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