

FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMME Achievements and Challenges

by A K M Rafiquz-Zaman

Look at the initial demographic in 1972 will help emphasize the progress that the family planning programme has made so far. In 1972 the total population was 73 million and the population density was 489 people per square kilometer...

wide wider pre and post natal care to women, increase school enrollment rates for girls and increase their educational level, and create employment opportunities for women.

In 1975, the government declared that solving the population problem was the highest priority. In 1976, population policy was declared. To prevent the acceleration of population growth beyond the carrying capacity of the country...

Challenge three is how to strengthen the structure of the family planning programme so that quality services can be delivered effectively.

In comparison with several Muslim countries, Bangladesh has done very well in raising its contraceptive prevalence rate. Its pace is similar to that of Indonesia and faster than that of Egypt, Jordan, and Pakistan.

The fourth challenge involves funding for future family planning activities. What effect would the strengthened programme have on the cost of family planning?

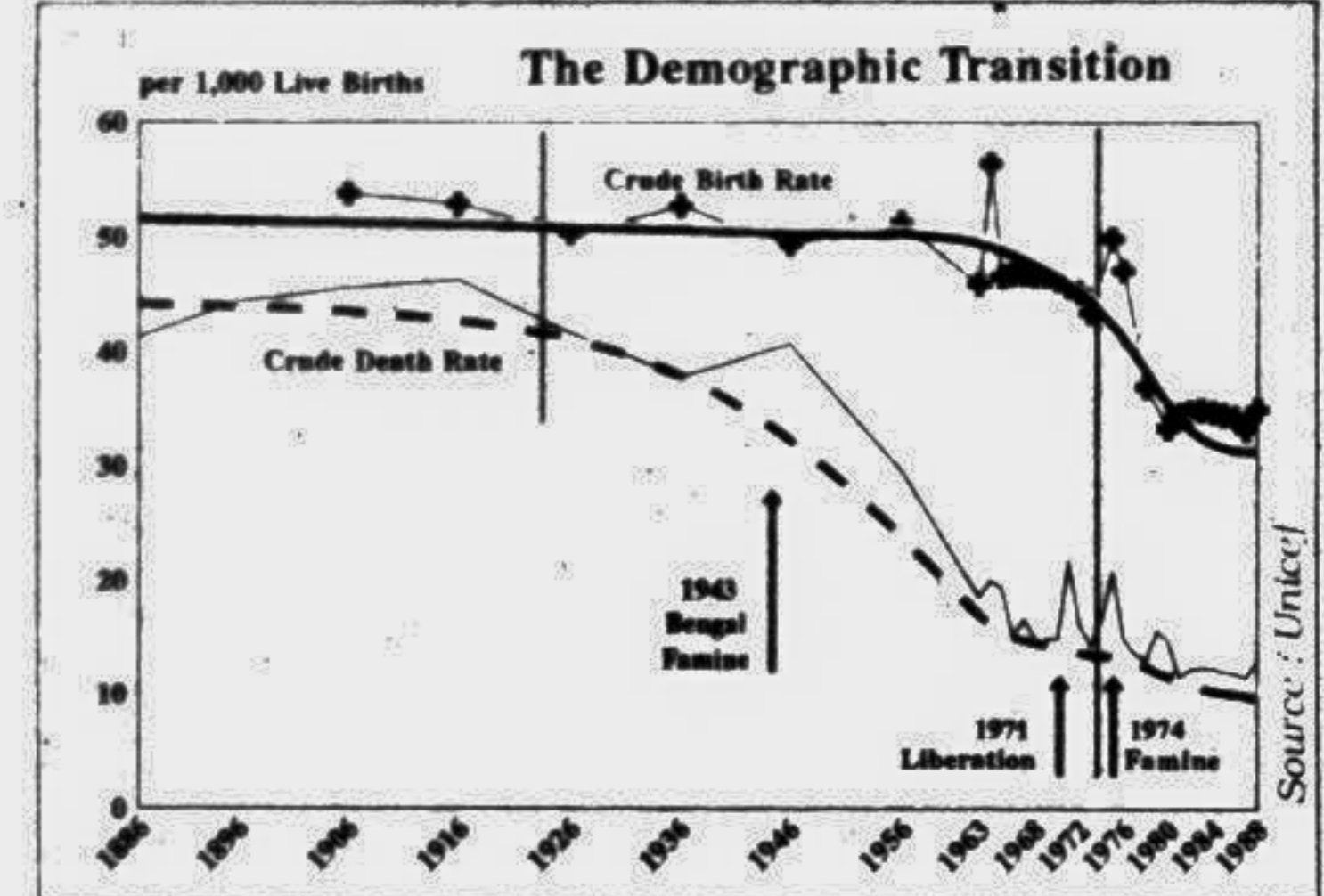
This increase in contraceptive prevalence rate caused the fertility rate to drop from 6.4 in 1972 to 4.2 in 1991.

Currently our government provides 37% of the total cost and donors provide the rest. Challenge four, therefore, is how to improve the financial

This resulted in a population in 1992 of 112 million and a population density of 755 people per square kilometer. Population growth was reduced to 2 per cent a year and the population doubling time had increased to 35 years.

The change of total fertility from 6.4 to 4.2 had slowed down Bangladesh population growth by 10 million by 1991.

The Bangladesh family planning programme can certainly be called a success. The success of the programme is the direct result of programme factors such as: 1. A strong population policy...



Some development factors also contributed to the success of the programme by creating a favorable environment in which couples are motivated to adopt family planning. The infant mortality has decreased from 140 to 90 infant deaths per thousand live births...

The cumulative cost of the strengthened family planning programme over the next 30 years is estimated to be 21,700 crore taka.

To increase the contraceptive prevalence rate to 2% a year in the next 15 years is a formidable task. This presents four major challenges to the programme and requires immediate actions within the family planning programme...

Through 6,000 crore Taka is not an insignificant figure, the savings to the individual sectors would be 5,200 crore taka for health, 36,400 crore for education, 5,500 crore for other social services and 2,700 crore for housing under the low fertility scenario.

Challenge one is how to motivate current non-users to become users, particularly those who have indicated that they intend to limit or space their children.

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Actions are needed to make family planning acceptable and desirable to more couples. First, we need to continue improvement in child survival. When child mortality is low enough, couples will no longer feel a need to have an extra number of children as insurance...

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Second, we need to continue to improve the status of women so that attractive alternatives to childbearing are available to them. For this, we need to pro-

strengthen the FP-MCH programme based on the personal experience of the MPs. Promotion of female education, delayed marriage, motivation of workers to work hard, more involvement of males and popularization of male methods, and reward small families were some of the measures recommended by the MPs.

The writer is Director General, Directorate of Family Planning.

Population and Development



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated a conference of parliamentarians on 'Population and Development' in the morning, while leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina was the chief guest at the concluding session at the Osmani Auditorium in the city on December 11, 1993.

PARLIAMENTARIAN CONFERENCE

'National Consensus is Needed to Attain the Demographic Goal'

by Rashed Mahmud Titumir

THE Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with Pathfinder International held a day-long Conference of the Bangladesh Parliamentarians on 'Population and Development' on December 11 at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

far in family planning and MCH programme. He, however, observed that people from all walks of life including Parliamentarians must work unitedly and sincerely to attain the demographic goal of 2-child family by the year 2005.

commitment of his party. Awami League to work Unitedly with the government to combat number one problem of the nation. Shahjahan Siraj, MP presented a detailed paper containing various roles that the Parliamentarians can perform at different levels...

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HIGHLIGHTS of the RESOLUTION

- Affirmed that the principal aim of social, economic and cultural development, is to improve the levels of living and enrich the quality of life of the people of Bangladesh. We reiterate the necessity of linking population and family planning programmes with development programmes.

POPULATION GROWTH The Changing Landscape

WORLD population, which will reach 5.48 billion by 1998, is growing faster than ever before: three people every second, more than 250,000 every day. At the beginning of the decade the annual addition was 93 million; by the end it will approach 100 million.

11.6 billion — over twice its present level. But if fertility declines more slowly, following the less optimistic 'high variant' projection, the world might reach that level before the middle of the next century.

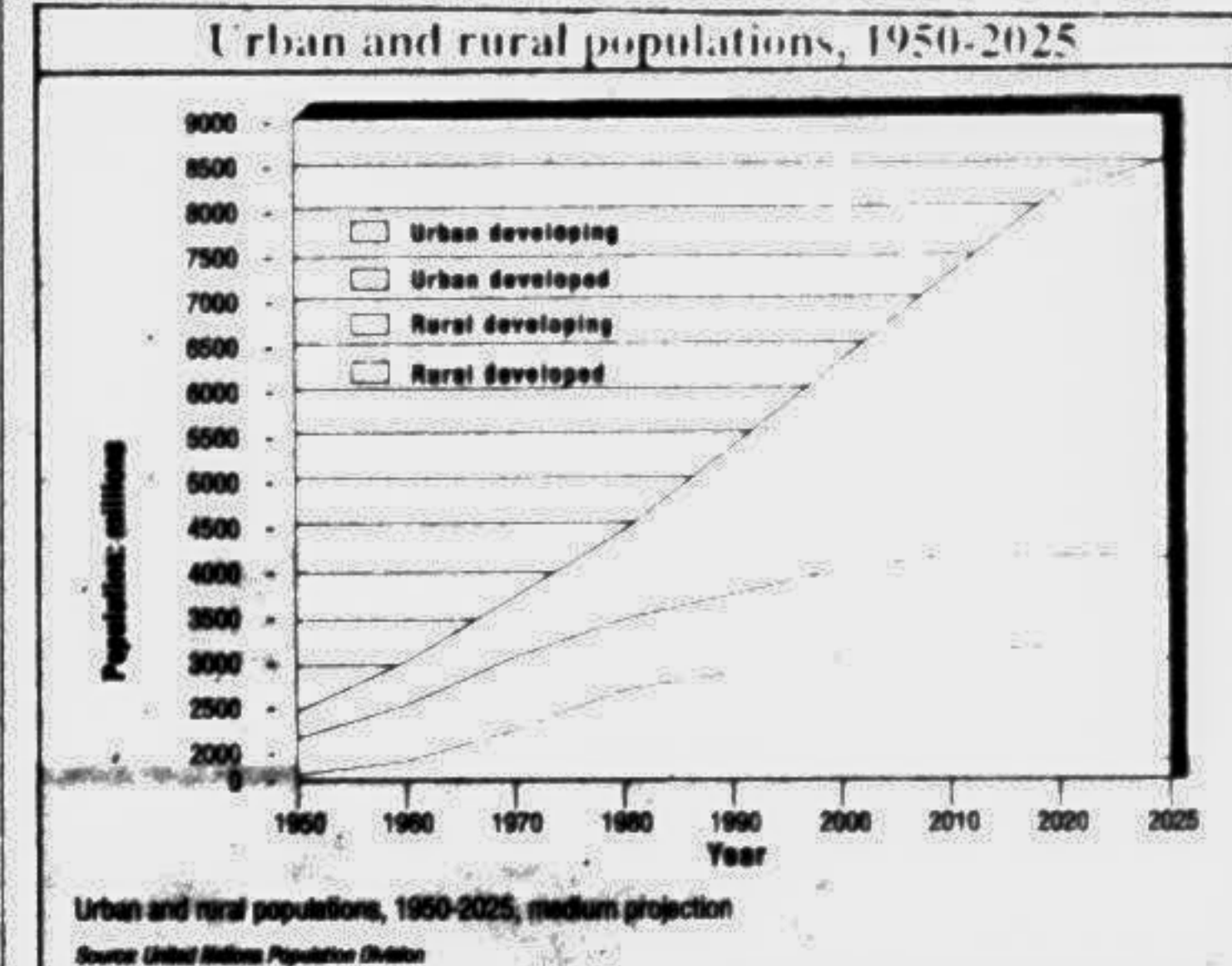
A Changing Balance

The population of developing countries has more than doubled in 35 years, increasing from 1.7 billion in 1950 to 4.1 billion in 1990. By 2000, it will reach nearly 5 billion — an expected world total of 6.26 billion.

By contrast, the developed countries (Europe, including the former Soviet Union, North America and Japan) have increased from 633 million in 1950 to 1.2 billion in 1990 — with 1.26 billion expected in the year 2000.

These increases will move forward like a wave into the next century: more than half the developing world's population...

Continued rapid growth in developing countries has brought human numbers into collision with the resources re-



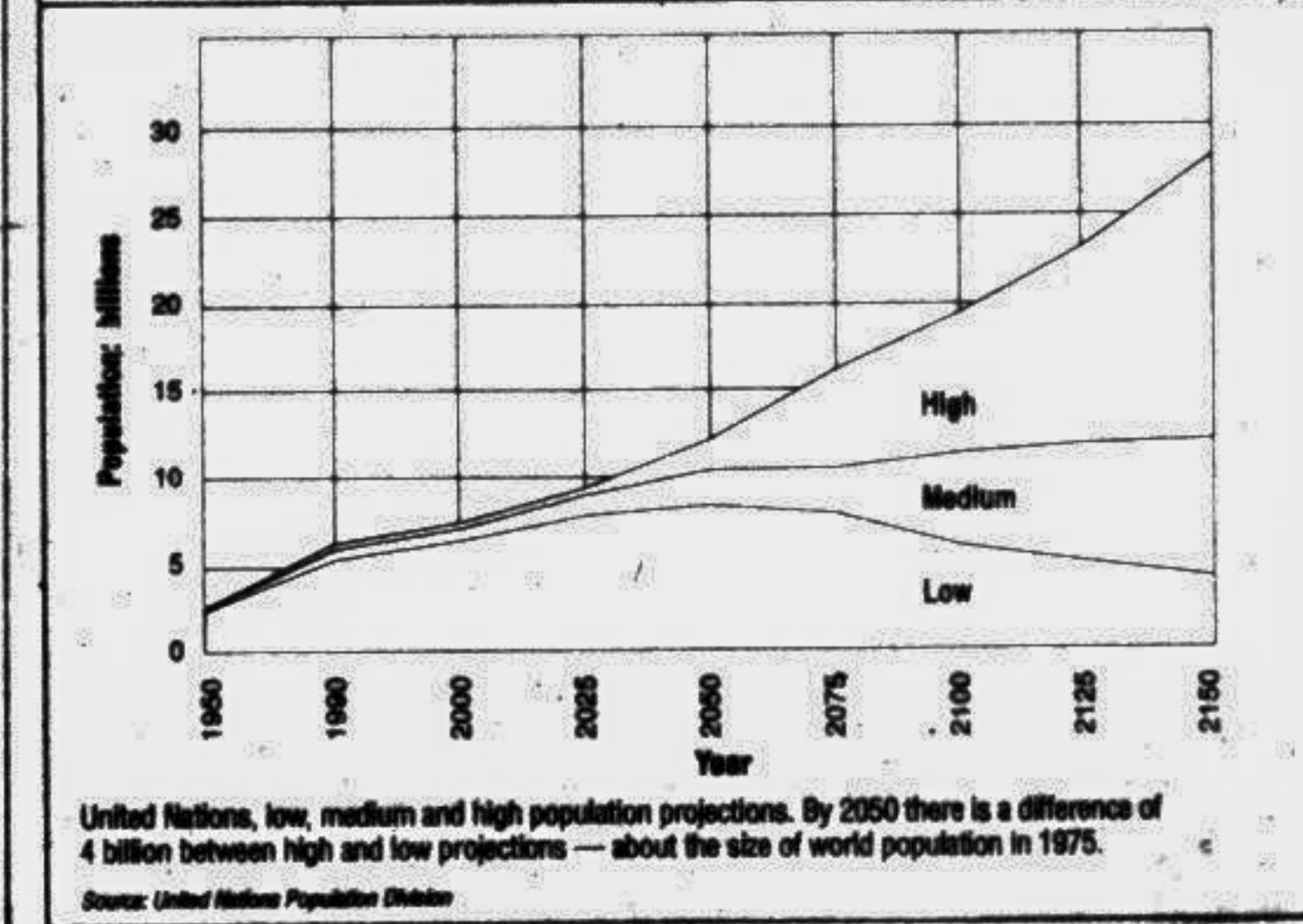
quired to sustain them and is among the many human-made treats to the 'global environment'.

The United Nations long-term projections of world population released in early 1992 have been revised upward. The 'medium variant' or most likely projection for 2100 is now 11.2 billion. This is 1.0 billion or 10 per cent larger than that predicted in the 1982 long-range projection.

The time it takes to add a billion people has become shorter and shorter. It took a century (1830-1930) to go from 1 billion to 2 billion people, 30 years (1930-1960) for the third billion, 15 years (1960-1975) for the fourth, and 12 years to grow from 4 billion to 5 billion.

Throughout the developing world these trends have spurred population policies aimed at balancing rural and urban populations and slowing rapid population growth. Increasingly, they are linked to economic and social development programmes, a linkage critical for the success of both.

Alternative futures: population projections to 2150



'Focus More on the Sources of Population Growth'

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

WITH additions of a quarter of a million people each day to the existing five and a half billion, the issue of how to check population growth in the wake of depleting resources, is the most immediate. While the Northern countries consume away, playing havoc with nature, the Southern countries have made their own contribution to environmental degradation by allowing their populations to grow to unsustainable proportions.

of the Population Fortnight, points out to the primary concerns of reproductive rights. Having specific targets, for example, often results in treating women as numbers driving family planning workers to emphasize quantity instead of quality.



developing countries. In this context how much responsibility lies with the Population Council which helped develop the drug?

Carlson agrees that women should be given better counselling services so that they know what they're getting into. "In the case of Norplant," she says, "we have worked with the company to develop protocols; when we do become aware of any lapses in the way the drug is administered or managed we talk to the company and try to work with the government in question."

Carlson says that women should be given better counselling services so that they know what they're getting into. "In the case of Norplant," she says, "we have worked with the company to develop protocols; when we do become aware of any lapses in the way the drug is administered or managed we talk to the company and try to work with the government in question."

Carlson adds that the Council has spent \$26 million to develop the drug and \$16 million to develop the manual, training the health workers, etc. "We also strongly advocate a wide choice of contraceptives," she says, "and try to make the risk as low as possible."

In addition, points out the former Assistant Secretary General of the UN, the Council is currently concentrating on a new male contraceptive with 50 per cent of the development research funds.

Child mortality being an important source, child care, especially equal child care for boys and girls, is also a vital is-