

## Dhaka Day by Day

## Bangladesh's Place in a New World Vision

by Naila Sattar

Dr Gerald O Barney, the Founder-Director of the Millennium Institute, was on his first visit to Bangladesh last week. Dr. Barney, who lives in Arlington, Virginia, prepared the US government's 'Global 2000 Report' at the initiative of former US president Jimmy Carter. It was published in 1980.

This report, the first of its kind by a national government, outlines the economic, demographic, resource, and environmental future of all countries of the world. An updated edition of this report entitled 'Global 2000 Revisited: What shall we do?' was prepared for the 1993 Parliament of World Religions in Chicago and addresses some critical questions of the 21st century. Dr Katherine Esty, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Millennium Institute, and Dr Barney together have travelled to about forty countries and worked towards 'promoting long-term integrated global thinking.' They have assisted research teams in a fifth of the world's countries in preparing '21st century studies' — long-term strategic studies of their option for sustainable development and security. They feel that it is important to include spiritual leaders in the process of preparing such studies because these leaders have 'vital contribution to make to a country's reflections on sustainable possibilities for the future.'

Dr. Barney and Dr Esty believe that 'the entry into the 21st century and the new millennium needs to be understood as an anniversary of the earth in which all people participate. The year 2000 should be a time for humans to pause and reflect about where we have come and where we are going. It should be a time for us to build identity with the earth and with other nations and to create a catalogue of things needed on earth,' says Dr Esty. Dr Barney asks for a fast shift towards interdependence and the creation of a global network of people to create an awareness of the impending challenges. Both would like to see each nation send representatives to a selected meeting place, as we enter the 21st century, to discuss the future and to give the earth something from their country or from their own faith, tradition, that will help 'change the course of the earth.'

This visit from Dr. Barney and Dr Esty was sponsored by UNICEF. Dr. Roll Carriere, the country representative of UNICEF in Bangladesh heard the speech that Dr. Barney gave at the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago last year, and felt that Bangladesh would benefit from his and Dr Esty's insight and assistance. Dr. Carriere arranged for the visitors to meet with several people involved in development work in Bangladesh. Dr

Barney and Dr Esty talked with several people about doing a study on where Bangladesh will be about 30 or 40 years from now and about creating a global awareness of the absolute necessity of handing the earth and her resources with the utmost care. They talked about sustainable development and the earth's capacity to support a human population of approximately 12 billion by the year 2150. Dr Barney also delivered a lecture at the ICDDR,B on Tuesday, the 18 January.

The critical issues that require examination include population growth and its related problems such as hunger, poverty and strife, the availability of arable land and increasing agricultural output, the environment, and the exhaustion of the world's oil resources. Dr Barney is trying to get spiritual leaders from different faiths and traditions to examine all these issues also and to talk about what their religions say in favour of conservation, tolerance, family planning, and so on.

Coming to Bangladesh was a positive experience for both visitors. They spoke of the resilience of the Bangladeshi spirit and the strength of Bangladeshi in overcoming hardship. They hope that they will be as successful here as they were in China. There, ministries and persons in positions of authority have, with assistance from Dr. Barney and Dr Esty, done studies on the future, which is sustainable but less taxing. They would like to bring together a 'broad spectrum of interests and to get a more holistic multi-dimensional picture of the Bangladeshi.' Dr. Esty feels that there are too many divisions in governments — too many people with too many different functions, who do not interact with one another frequently enough. Common goals must be identified and ministries, NGOs, banks, educationists, must all work together to achieve them. Dr Barney feels that a critical problem that Bangladesh may face in the next few decades is the shift in the rural-urban balance, that is, migration of people from rural areas to urban areas in search of employment. A point in favour of Bangladesh is that the country is not heavily dependent upon fossil fuel

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subsidy.

Dr. Barney and Dr Esty are both committed individuals who believe that things will improve for Bangladesh if a national consciousness is aroused and the correct choices are made at the correct time. They stressed that they visited Bangladesh because they care about what happens to this country as well as to others, because ultimately all countries are connected and therefore interdependent. They look forward to returning soon and hope that they can assist in doing a study on Bangladesh as it enters the 21st century.

## UNESCO Club Award introduced

The UNESCO Club of Dhaka City has introduced a children's award: UNESCO Club Award '94, reports BSS.

The club will give 10 awards this year to children artists for their performance in various branches of the fine arts.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A joint venture company having franchise for internationally reputed consumer products require young, intelligent, dynamic, hard working and self-motivated people for immediate appointment.

## Position

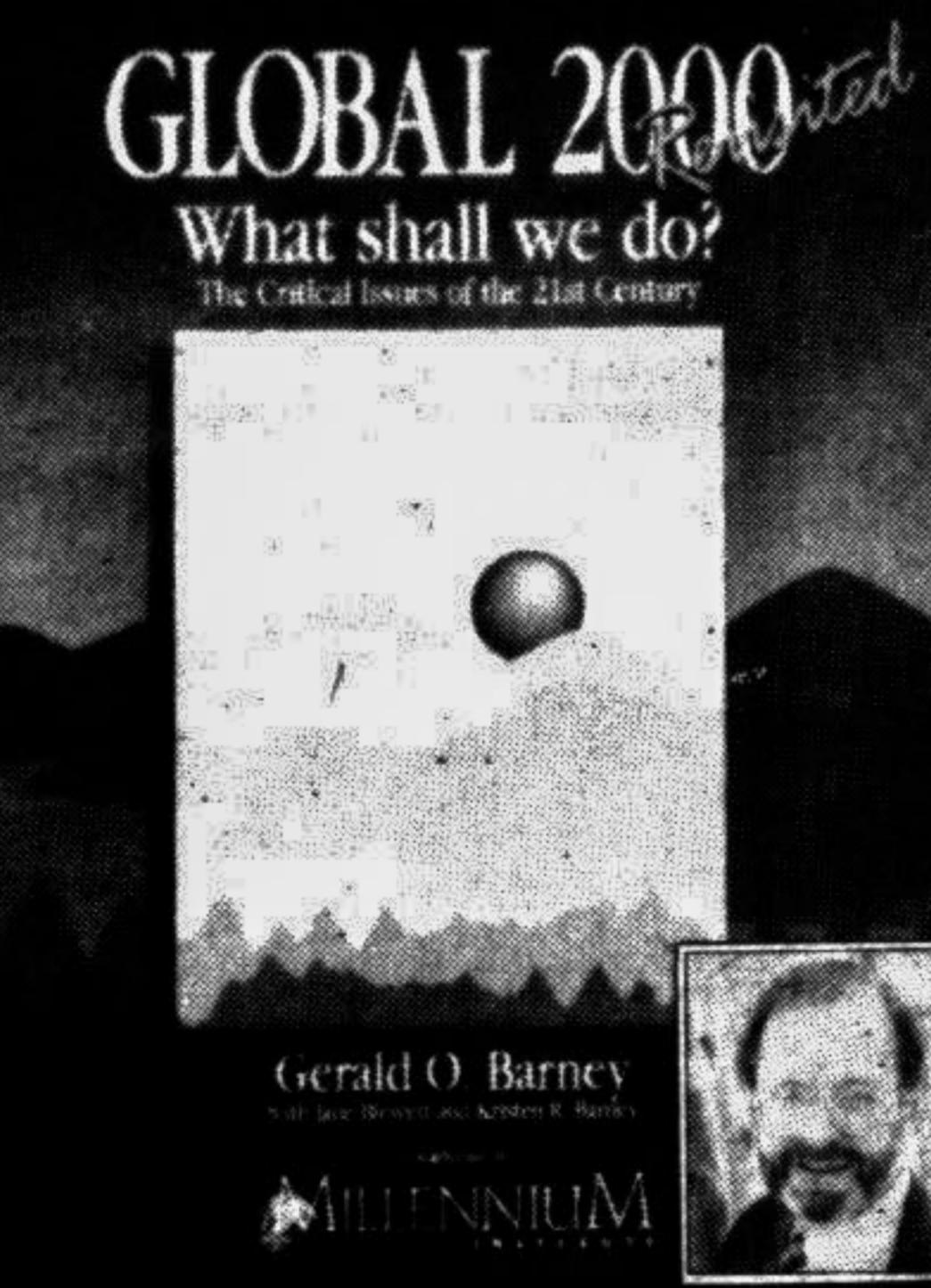
## Age

## Qualification

## Experience

## Job description

## Reportable to



An election symbol, Key of a commissioner candidate attracting attentions of kids of city's Rayer Bazar area. The picture was taken yesterday. — Star photo

**BTV**  
Monday

8.45 Opening announcement Al-Quran  
Programme summary  
9.00 Live telecast of one-day exhibition cricket match from National Stadium-1 between Bangladesh and Pakistan

4.45 Educational programme: Can You Do It?  
5.25 Sports programme: Football  
6.30 Moder. Garab Moder Asha

7.00 Open University  
7.25 Nazrul songs  
8.00 News in Bangla  
8.30 Shukher Thikana

9.00 Vara Nadir Bankey  
10.00 News in English  
10.30 Comedy series: Murphy Brown

11.00 Musical show: Disco Rally, Khabar/The News

11.30 Tomorrow's programme summary  
11.40 Cox's Bazar

11.45 Closing



Commerce Minister M. Shamsul Islam speaking at a meeting of the ambassadors and high commissioners of Bangladesh to different countries of Middle East at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday. — PID photo

## Stalls to be doubled in Ekushey book fair '94

About 900 book stalls will be set up this year at the upcoming Ekushey Book Fair of Bangla Academy scheduled to begin from February 1, reports UNB.

The book stalls will be doubled this year, Bangla Academy informed this yesterday to State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum when she was visiting the Academy to inspect the ongoing preparation of the 'Ekushey Book Fair'.

The state minister, speaking at a convocation ceremony, later, called upon all concerned quarters to materialise the slogan 'Write Bengali in Correct Spelling.'

The convocation ceremony

of the computer training courses was organised by Technical Division of the Academy.

Prof Jahan Ara said government has made a special call in December last to write some Bengali words including 'sradhanjali' in correct spelling.

As a result, she observed, consciousness in this regard has increased remarkably. She urged all to be more conscious in the future.

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## Sundarban Development Programme undertaken

KHULNA, Jan 23: An integrated Sundarban Development Programme has been undertaken by the government to develop the socio-economic and living condition of the masses especially the fishermen of the area, reports BSS.

A study team in this respect has been working in co-operation with the foreign consultants under the financial assistance of UNDP. The programme would provide for education, health and medicare facilities to the people of the Sundarban area and extend tourism facilities.

This was stated by Minister for Environment and Forests Akbar Hossain while inaugurating the Sheba Hospital, set up by the Bangladesh Islamic Ummah Corporation, an NGO, Alorokul Zafars Point, Sundarbans yesterday, about 125 kilometres away from Mongla.

The hospital has already started functioning and would be transformed into a full-fledged hospital in near future to ensure medical facilities for about 50 thousand fishermen of Alorokul, Mehar Ali, Dublar Char, Nilkomol and Hiron Point area of Sundarbans. The government has earlier sanctioned 250 metric tons of wheat for excavating two ponds to supply fresh water for the people around the area.

The minister said that all possible help would be provided to the NGOs who would undertake such humanitarian programmes in the remote and less developed areas of the country.

Conservator of forests, Khulna, Nurul Islam Hawlader, chairman of Islamic Ummah Corporation Major (Retd) Zainul Abedin and director, Brigadier (Retd) Mosharaf Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

## Create awareness to prevent STD'

Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday called for improvement of preventive health care through proper utilisation of health personnel, reports BSS.

He was addressing a seminar on advancement of public health movement in Bangladesh jointly organised by Bangladesh Health Education and Public Health Association of Bangladesh at the auditorium of National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM) in the city.

Prof B Chowdhury stressed the need for creating awareness for prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and AIDS through spread of health education.

Prof Emeritus Dr A K M Kafil Uddin presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

## Commitment's programme held

Speakers at a discussion meeting Saturday emphasised on mass awareness through cultural programmes highlighting environmental issues, reports BSS.

National voluntary organisation Commitment has organised the programme titled 'Prangone Mor Shirish Shakha' at the Biswa Shahitya Kendra in the capital in evening.

Presided over by the President of the organisation Abul Kalam Azad, the discussion was addressed by Commitment Adviser Dr S M Imamul Huq and poet Mofazzal Karim.

Addressing the discussion meeting Dr Huq called upon people of all walks of life to help create mass awareness through cultural programmes particularly through arranging folk-dance programmes.

## Weather

## Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with a clear sky is likely to prevail over Bangladesh in the next 12 hours commencing 6 pm today (Monday).

The Met Office forecasts night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Country's highest temperature of 27.9 degrees Celsius was recorded in Teknaf and the lowest of 8.4 degrees Celsius was recorded in Srimongal and Chuadanga yesterday.

The sun sets today at 5.39 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6.42 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and relative humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	25.5	9.0	61	61
Chittagong	25.0	12.4	69	57
Rajshahi	24.8	9.2	52	66
Khulna	25.2	10.4	64	62
Bardia	24.6	9.5	73	67
Sylhet	26.5	11.8	82	65
Dinajpur		10.0	77	57
Cox's Bazar	27.0	15.5	56	57

## Chapara Centre team meets Biswas

A 25-member delegation of Chapara Displaced People's Rehabilitation Centre near the capital called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

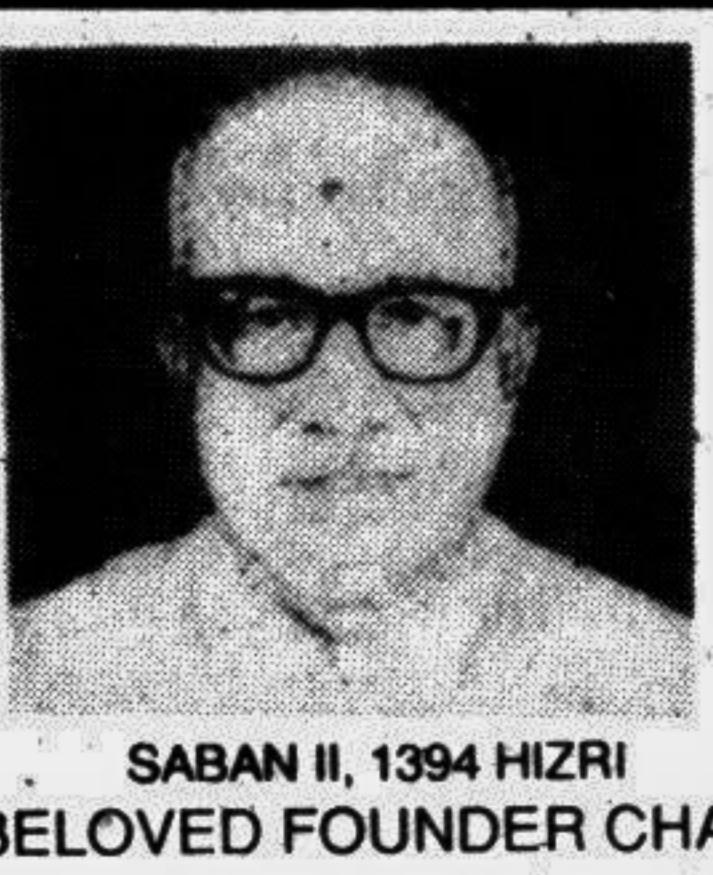
In a memorandum, the members of the delegation, apprised the President of some of their difficulties including their permanent set-

tlement and right to voting in the union council election.

The delegation was led by Latu Miah Chowdhury, president of the Displaced People's Permanent Settlement Implementation Sangha.

President gave them a patient hearing and assured to advise the authorities concern for sympathetic consideration of their problems.

## In Revered Memorium



SABAN II, 1394 HIZRI  
OUR BELOVED FOUNDER CHAIRMAN  
**DR. HABIBUR RAHMAN**

LEFT US FOR EVER. WE RECALL HIS MEMORY WITH DEEP REVERENCE TODAY. AS IN THE PAST, HE REMAINED SUPREME SOURCE OF INSPIRATION TO US, SO HE IS NOW AND MAY ALLAH GRANT HIS SOUL ETERNAL PEACE.

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Dhaka, Bangladesh.

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## Address:

**Dr. Abdul Hamid Abu Sulayman, Rector**  
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P.O. Box: 70, Jalan Sultan 46700 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.  
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Fax: (603) 7571006

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