

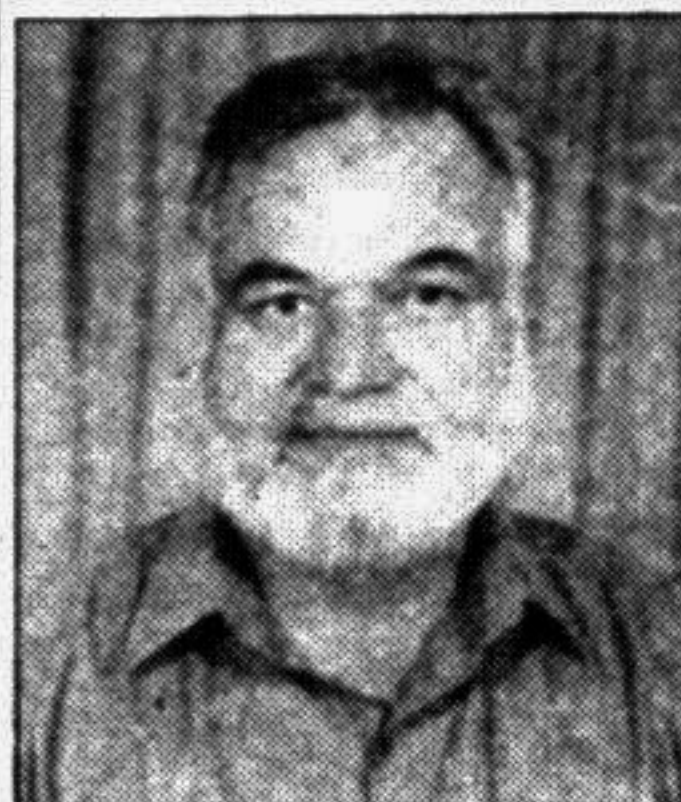
Expanded trade to cut imbalances: Inam

By Sohail Manzoor

President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) S M Inam Monday said the enormous trade imbalances among the South Asian countries could be reduced significantly by expanding their trade.

All the tariff and non-tariff barriers would have to be removed to make the region a potential market for the 1200 million people of the seven SAARC countries, he said.

In an exclusive interview



S M Inam

with The Daily Star at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday evening, S M Inam said, certain frameworks were being used to help develop economic cooperation among the SAARC countries.

Termining the SAARC Chamber as a very important forum for developing trade and commerce in South Asia, Inam said the countries of the region should work to establish a

SAARC Chamber

From Page 1 Col 4

comparative advantages.

Industries can also be developed in the region through joint ventures. The people of the region would be able to buy commodities at cheaper prices as a consequence of these cooperative efforts, she observed.

Welcoming the setting up of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Begum Zia said implementation of the SAARC economic cooperation programmes is of urgent necessity of the people of the region. Entrepreneurs, professionals, academicians, social and political leaders all are eager to expand cooperation in economic and other fields under the common umbrella of the SAARC, she pointed out.

Referring to the changes in the global economic scenario, the Prime Minister said enhanced trade and commerce among the developing countries is now an imperative in the light of this changed circumstances.

The function was also addressed, by the Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, SAARC Secretary General Yadav Kant Silwal, President of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry S M Inam of Pakistan and President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Mahabub Rahman.

Mostafizur Rahman said the inauguration of the SAARC Chamber is yet another significant step of the seven-nation body towards fulfilling the aspirations of the people of South Asia.

"It has a pivotal role to play in the promotion of cooperation among the seven sister nations of the regional organisation in the area of trade and commerce," he said.

Rahman also said the new SAARC Chamber is ideally poised to contribute towards regional development by encouraging increased intra-regional trade which, in turn,

Crisis over judges defused

From Page 1 Col 7

Chief Justice that it is important to let the people know that effective consultation had taken place, a member of the delegation said.

"We emphasised on the appropriateness and correctness of effective consultation, but conveyed to the Chief Justice that it is up to him to take a decision on the issue."

A similar delegation led by Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed later called on the Prime Minister at her Parliament chamber in the evening.

"We are hopeful that the Prime Minister will take appropriate steps to resolve the issue," a member of the delegation said. "We were assured that the consultation process will be revised and will be carried out in the future."

He added that the Bar Association delegation got "sure indication that the present problem will be resolved satisfactorily."

The Bar delegation included Dr Kamal Hossain, Kazi Golam Mahabub, President of the asso-

ciation, Mahabub Alam, Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan, Barrister Amirul Islam and Barrister K S Nabi.

Meanwhile, the SC Bar Association has convened an emergency meeting this afternoon to review the latest development over the appointments of High Court judges.

BSS adds: Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed initiated the discussion on behalf of the lawyers' delegation saying the provision of appointing judges in consultation with the Chief Justice was repealed in the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution in 1974.

But, Barrister Ishtiaque said, it was President Ziaur Rahman who had restored it as a convention to appoint judges in consultation with the Chief Justice.

He requested the Prime Minister to continue the convention set by Shaheed Zia.

Begum Zia gave a patient hearing to the members of the delegation and assured them that the convention set by Zia would continue.



The heads of the United Nations Joint Consultative Group on Policies (UN-JCGP) called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. UNDP Administrator James G Speth, UNICEF Executive Director James P Grant, UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik and IFAD President Fawzi H Al-Sultan are seen on her right. — PID photo

Norway praises economic growth

By Staff Correspondent

Norwegian Minister of Development Cooperation Karl Nordheim-Larsen yesterday said Norway would continue bilateral assistance to Bangladesh but it would phase out support from India and Pakistan.

The Norwegian Minister was addressing a press conference in the city yesterday evening before leaving for home at the end of a six-day visit to Bangladesh.

The 4.7 per cent economic growth achieved by Bangladesh last year was very significant and we are optimistic about the future of this country, she said.

About trade with Bangladesh, the minister said Norway would continue encouraging the export of textile goods from Bangladesh.

Head of Asia and Latin America of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, Berit Fladby, Assistant Secretary General, Foreign Affairs, Torild Skard and Tore Torangi of Norway's Dhaka Chancery were present at the press conference.

Among the South Asian countries, Bangladesh received most of the bilateral assistance from Norway, she said.

Last year the total Norwegian aid to Bangladesh was Norwegian Kroner 235 million, equivalent to Tk 1036 crore.

The Norwegian minister said, the aid given by her country to Bangladesh was being used satisfactorily.

"The economic growth rate of Bangladesh is exceeding the population growth. But at the micro-economic level, the country is facing some difficulties which, I hope, it would overcome in the near future."

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

expressed his happiness over the education programmes, particularly the personal campaign of the Prime Minister, which evoked enthusiasm among the people. "The present enrollment shows that Bangladesh will be able to achieve its goal in a very short time," he added.

Executive Director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Dr Nafis Sadik said remarkable progress has been made in the population control programmes. She, however, said that more social commitment was necessary to ensure the restriction for early marriage of girls.

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) James G Speth assured that his agency would expand its programmes in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said her government laid stress on education and development of the agriculture and health sectors. "All programmes are aimed at overall development of human resources," she added.

Begum Zia informed the Group that there was enough enthusiasm among the people in the education programmes but poverty was a hindrance in the way of their implementation.

She called upon the World Food Programme to assist the 'Food for Education' programme initiated by the present government. "Education is imperative for implementing all development programmes," she pointed out.

During the meeting, Begum Zia welcomed the group for holding the UN-JCGP meeting outside UN headquarters and for selecting Dhaka as its venue.

Besides attending a four-day meeting in Dhaka, which began on Sunday, the heads of the UN agencies made field trips to adjacent districts to see for themselves some ongoing socio-economic development projects of the government as well as different NGOs.

The Group lauded the government's efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of the people and said they were impressed to see the progress, particularly in education, population control, health and poverty alleviation.

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

expressed his happiness over the education programmes, particularly the personal campaign of the Prime Minister, which evoked enthusiasm among the people. "The present enrollment shows that Bangladesh will be able to achieve its goal in a very short time," he added.

Executive Director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Dr Nafis Sadik said remarkable progress has been made in the population control programmes. She, however, said that more social commitment was necessary to ensure the restriction for early marriage of girls.

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) James G Speth assured that his agency would expand its programmes in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said her government laid stress on education and development of the agriculture and health sectors. "All programmes are aimed at overall development of human resources," she added.

Begum Zia informed the Group that there was enough enthusiasm among the people in the education programmes but poverty was a hindrance in the way of their implementation.

She called upon the World Food Programme to assist the 'Food for Education' programme initiated by the present government. "Education is imperative for implementing all development programmes," she pointed out.

During the meeting, Begum Zia welcomed the group for holding the UN-JCGP meeting outside UN headquarters and for selecting Dhaka as its venue.

Besides attending a four-day meeting in Dhaka, which began on Sunday, the heads of the UN agencies made field trips to adjacent districts to see for themselves some ongoing socio-economic development projects of the government as well as different NGOs.

The Group lauded the government's efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of the people and said they were impressed to see the progress, particularly in education, population control, health and poverty alleviation.

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

Dhaka seeks more aid from UN agencies

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday sought increased assistance from the UN agencies for implementation of development programmes, reports UNB.

She made the plea when heads of five UN agencies composing the UN-Joint Consultative Group on Policies (UN-JCGP) called on the Prime Minister at her office in the afternoon.

Led by UN-JCGP Chairman and UNICEF Chief James P Grant, the group included Administrator of UNDP James G Speth, Executive Director of UNFPA Dr Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of WFP Catherine Bertini and President of IFAD Fawzi H Al-Sultan.

During the meeting, Begum Zia welcomed the group for holding the UN-JCGP meeting outside UN headquarters and for selecting Dhaka as its venue.

Besides attending a four-day meeting in Dhaka, which began on Sunday, the heads of the UN agencies made field trips to adjacent districts to see for themselves some ongoing socio-economic development projects of the government as well as different NGOs.

The Group lauded the government's efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of the people and said they were impressed to see the progress, particularly in education, population control, health and poverty alleviation.

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

expressed his happiness over the education programmes, particularly the personal campaign of the Prime Minister, which evoked enthusiasm among the people. "The present enrollment shows that Bangladesh will be able to achieve its goal in a very short time," he added.

Executive Director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Dr Nafis Sadik said remarkable progress has been made in the population control programmes. She, however, said that more social commitment was necessary to ensure the restriction for early marriage of girls.

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) James G Speth assured that his agency would expand its programmes in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said her government laid stress on education and development of the agriculture and health sectors. "All programmes are aimed at overall development of human resources," she added.

Begum Zia informed the Group that there was enough enthusiasm among the people in the education programmes but poverty was a hindrance in the way of their implementation.

She called upon the World Food Programme to assist the 'Food for Education' programme initiated by the present government. "Education is imperative for implementing all development programmes," she pointed out.

During the meeting, Begum Zia welcomed the group for holding the UN-JCGP meeting outside UN headquarters and for selecting Dhaka as its venue.

Besides attending a four-day meeting in Dhaka, which began on Sunday, the heads of the UN agencies made field trips to adjacent districts to see for themselves some ongoing socio-economic development projects of the government as well as different NGOs.

The Group lauded the government's efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of the people and said they were impressed to see the progress, particularly in education, population control, health and poverty alleviation.

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

expressed his happiness over the education programmes, particularly the personal campaign of the Prime Minister, which evoked enthusiasm among the people. "The present enrollment shows that Bangladesh will be able to achieve its goal in a very short time," he added.

Executive Director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Dr Nafis Sadik said remarkable progress has been made in the population control programmes. She, however, said that more social commitment was necessary to ensure the restriction for early marriage of girls.

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) James G Speth assured that his agency would expand its programmes in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said her government laid stress on education and development of the agriculture and health sectors. "All programmes are aimed at overall development of human resources," she added.

Begum Zia informed the Group that there was enough enthusiasm among the people in the education programmes but poverty was a hindrance in the way of their implementation.

She called upon the World Food Programme to assist the 'Food for Education' programme initiated by the present government. "Education is imperative for implementing all development programmes," she pointed out.

During the meeting, Begum Zia welcomed the group for holding the UN-JCGP meeting outside UN headquarters and for selecting Dhaka as its venue.

Besides attending a four-day meeting in Dhaka, which began on Sunday, the heads of the UN agencies made field trips to adjacent districts to see for themselves some ongoing socio-economic development projects of the government as well as different NGOs.

The Group lauded the government's efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of the people and said they were impressed to see the progress, particularly in education, population control, health and poverty alleviation.

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

expressed his happiness over the education programmes, particularly the personal campaign of the Prime Minister, which evoked enthusiasm among the people. "The present enrollment shows that Bangladesh will be able to achieve its goal in a very short time," he added.

Executive Director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Dr Nafis Sadik said remarkable progress has been made in the population control programmes. She, however, said that more social commitment was necessary to ensure the restriction for early marriage of girls.

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) James G Speth assured that his agency would expand its programmes in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said her government laid stress on education and development of the agriculture and health sectors. "All programmes are aimed at overall development of human resources," she added.

Begum Zia informed the Group that there was enough enthusiasm among the people in the education programmes but poverty was a hindrance in the way of their implementation.

She called upon the World Food Programme to assist the 'Food for Education' programme initiated by the present government. "Education is imperative for implementing all development programmes," she pointed out.

During the meeting, Begum Zia welcomed the group for holding the UN-JCGP meeting outside UN headquarters and for selecting Dhaka as its venue.

Besides attending a four-day meeting in Dhaka, which began on Sunday, the heads of the UN agencies made field trips to adjacent districts to see for themselves some ongoing socio-economic development projects of the government as well as different NGOs.

The Group lauded the government's efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of the people and said they were impressed to see the progress, particularly in education, population control, health and poverty alleviation.

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

expressed his happiness over the education programmes, particularly the personal campaign of the Prime Minister, which evoked enthusiasm among the people. "The present enrollment shows that Bangladesh will be able to achieve its goal in a very short time," he added.

Executive Director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Dr Nafis Sadik said remarkable progress has been made in the population control programmes. She, however, said that more social commitment was necessary to ensure the restriction for early marriage of girls.

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) James G Speth assured that his agency would expand its programmes in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said her government laid stress on education and development of the agriculture and health sectors. "All programmes are aimed at overall development of human resources," she added.

Begum Zia informed the Group that there was enough enthusiasm among the people in the education programmes but poverty was a hindrance in the way of their implementation.

She called upon the World Food Programme to assist the 'Food for Education' programme initiated by the present government. "Education is imperative for implementing all development programmes," she pointed out.

During the meeting, Begum Zia welcomed the group for holding the UN-JCGP meeting outside UN headquarters and for selecting Dhaka as its venue.

Besides attending a four-day meeting in Dhaka, which began on Sunday, the heads of the UN agencies made field trips to adjacent districts to see for themselves some ongoing socio-economic development projects of the government as well as different NGOs.

The Group lauded the government's efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of the people and said they were impressed to see the progress, particularly in education, population control, health and poverty alleviation.

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

expressed his happiness over the education programmes, particularly the personal campaign of the Prime Minister, which evoked enthusiasm among the people. "The present enrollment shows that Bangladesh will be able to achieve its goal in a very short time," he added.

Executive Director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Dr Nafis Sadik said remarkable progress has been made in the population control programmes. She, however, said that more social commitment was necessary to ensure the restriction for early marriage of girls.

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) James G Speth assured that his agency would expand its programmes in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said her government laid stress on education and development of the agriculture and health sectors. "All programmes are aimed at overall development of human resources," she added.

Begum Zia informed the Group that there was enough enthusiasm among the people in the education programmes but poverty was a hindrance in the way of their implementation.

She called upon the World Food Programme to assist the 'Food for Education' programme initiated by the present government. "Education is imperative for implementing all development programmes," she pointed out.

During the meeting, Begum Zia welcomed the group for holding the UN-JCGP meeting outside UN headquarters and for selecting Dhaka as its venue.

Besides attending a four-day meeting in Dhaka, which began on Sunday, the heads of the UN agencies made field trips to adjacent districts to see for themselves some ongoing socio-economic development projects of the government as well as different NGOs.

The Group lauded the government's efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of the people and said they were impressed to see the progress, particularly in education, population control, health and poverty alleviation.

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

expressed his happiness over the education programmes, particularly the personal campaign of the Prime Minister, which evoked enthusiasm among the people. "The present enrollment shows that Bangladesh will be able to achieve its goal in a very short time," he added.

Executive Director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Dr Nafis Sadik said remarkable progress has been made in the population control programmes. She, however, said that more social commitment was necessary to ensure the restriction for early marriage of girls.

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) James G Speth assured that his agency would expand its programmes in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said her government laid stress on education and development of the agriculture and health sectors. "All programmes are aimed at overall development of human resources," she added.

Begum Zia informed the Group that there was enough enthusiasm among the people in the education programmes but poverty was a hindrance in the way of their implementation.

She called upon the World Food Programme to assist the 'Food for Education' programme initiated by the present government. "Education is imperative for implementing all development programmes," she pointed out.

During the meeting, Begum Zia welcomed the group for holding the UN-JCGP meeting outside UN headquarters and for selecting Dhaka as its venue.

Besides attending a four-day meeting in Dhaka, which began on Sunday, the heads of the UN agencies made field trips to adjacent districts to see for themselves some ongoing socio-economic development projects of the government as well as different NGOs.

The Group lauded the government's efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of the people and said they were impressed to see the progress, particularly in education, population control, health and poverty alleviation.

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

expressed his happiness over the education programmes, particularly the personal campaign of the Prime Minister, which evoked enthusiasm among the people. "The present enrollment shows that Bangladesh will be able to achieve its goal in a very short time," he added.

Executive Director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Dr Nafis Sadik said remarkable progress has been made in the population control programmes. She, however, said that more social commitment was necessary to ensure the restriction for early marriage of girls.

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) James G Speth assured that his agency would expand its programmes in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said her government laid stress on education and development of the agriculture and health sectors. "All programmes are aimed at overall development of human resources," she added.

Begum Zia informed the Group that there was enough enthusiasm among the people in the education programmes but poverty was a hindrance in the way of their implementation.

She called upon the World Food Programme to assist the 'Food for Education' programme initiated by the present government. "Education is imperative for implementing all development programmes," she pointed out.

During the meeting, Begum Zia welcomed the group for holding the UN-JCGP meeting outside UN headquarters and for selecting Dhaka as its venue.

Besides attending a four-day meeting in Dhaka, which began on Sunday, the heads of the UN agencies made field trips to adjacent districts to see for themselves some ongoing socio-economic development projects of the government as well as different NGOs.

The Group lauded the government's efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of the people and said they were impressed to see the progress, particularly in education, population control, health and poverty alleviation.

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

expressed his happiness over the education programmes, particularly the personal campaign of the Prime Minister, which evoked enthusiasm among the people. "The present enrollment shows that Bangladesh will be able to achieve its goal in a very short time," he added.

Executive Director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Dr Nafis Sadik said remarkable progress has been made in the population control programmes. She, however, said that more social commitment was necessary to ensure the restriction for early marriage of girls.

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) James G Speth assured that his agency would expand its programmes in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said her government laid stress on education and development of the agriculture and health sectors. "All programmes are aimed at overall development of human resources," she added.

Begum Zia informed the Group that there was enough enthusiasm among the people in the education programmes but poverty was a hindrance in the way of their implementation.

She called upon the World Food Programme to assist the 'Food for Education' programme initiated by the present government. "Education is imperative for implementing all development programmes," she pointed out.

During the meeting, Begum Zia welcomed the group for holding the UN-JCGP meeting outside UN headquarters and for selecting Dhaka as its venue.

Besides attending a four-day meeting in Dhaka, which began on Sunday, the heads of the UN agencies made field trips to adjacent districts to see for themselves some ongoing socio-economic development projects of the government as well as different NGOs.

The Group lauded the government's efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of the people and said they were impressed to see the progress, particularly in education, population control, health and poverty alleviation.

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

expressed his happiness over the education programmes, particularly the personal campaign of the Prime Minister, which evoked enthusiasm among the people. "The present enrollment shows that Bangladesh will be able to achieve its goal in a very short time," he added.

Executive Director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Dr Nafis Sadik said remarkable progress has been made in the population control programmes. She, however, said that more social commitment was necessary to ensure the restriction for early marriage of girls.

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) James G Speth assured that his agency would expand its programmes in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said her government laid stress on education and development of the agriculture and health sectors. "All programmes are aimed at overall development of human resources," she added.

Begum Zia informed the Group that there was enough enthusiasm among the people in the education programmes but poverty was a hindrance in the way of their implementation.

She called upon the World Food Programme to assist the 'Food for Education' programme initiated by the present government. "Education is imperative for implementing all development programmes," she pointed out.

During the meeting, Begum Zia welcomed the group for holding the UN-JCGP meeting outside UN headquarters and for selecting Dhaka as its venue.

Besides attending a four-day meeting in Dhaka, which began on Sunday, the heads of the UN agencies made field trips to adjacent districts to see for themselves some ongoing socio-economic development projects of the government as well as different NGOs.

The Group lauded the government's efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of the people and said they were impressed to see the progress, particularly in education, population control, health and poverty alleviation.

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

expressed his happiness over the education programmes, particularly the personal campaign of the Prime Minister, which evoked enthusiasm among the people. "The present enrollment shows that Bangladesh will be able to achieve its goal in a very short time," he added.

Executive Director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Dr Nafis Sadik said remarkable progress has been made in the population control programmes. She, however, said that more social commitment was necessary to ensure the restriction for early marriage of girls.

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) James G Speth assured that his agency would expand its programmes in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said her government laid stress on education and development of the agriculture and health sectors. "All programmes are aimed at overall development of human resources," she added.

Begum Zia informed the Group that there was enough enthusiasm among the people in the education programmes but poverty was a hindrance in the way of their implementation.

She called upon the World Food Programme to assist the 'Food for Education' programme initiated by the present government. "Education is imperative for implementing all development programmes," she pointed out.

During the meeting, Begum Zia welcomed the group for holding the UN-JCGP meeting outside UN headquarters and for selecting Dhaka as its venue.

Besides attending a four-day meeting in Dhaka, which began on Sunday, the heads of the UN agencies made field trips to adjacent districts to see for themselves some ongoing socio-economic development projects of the government as well as different NGOs.

The Group lauded the government's efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of the people and said they were impressed to see the progress, particularly in education, population control, health and poverty alleviation.

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

expressed his happiness over the education programmes, particularly the personal campaign of the Prime Minister, which evoked enthusiasm among the people. "The present enrollment shows that Bangladesh will be able to achieve its goal in a very short time," he added.

Executive Director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Dr Nafis Sadik said remarkable progress has been made in the population control programmes. She, however, said that more social commitment was necessary to ensure the restriction for early marriage of girls.

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) James G Speth assured that his agency would expand its programmes in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said her government laid stress on education and development of the agriculture and health sectors. "All programmes are aimed at overall development of human resources," she added.

Begum Zia informed the Group that there was enough enthusiasm among the people in the education programmes but poverty was a hindrance in the way of their implementation.

She called upon the World Food Programme to assist the 'Food for Education' programme initiated by the present government. "Education is imperative for implementing all development programmes," she pointed out.

During the meeting, Begum Zia welcomed the group for holding the UN-JCGP meeting outside UN headquarters and for selecting Dhaka as its venue.

Besides attending a four-day meeting in Dhaka, which began on Sunday, the heads of the UN agencies made field trips to adjacent districts to see for themselves some ongoing socio-economic development projects of the government as well as different NGOs.

The Group lauded the government's efforts in improving the socio-economic condition of the people and said they were impressed to see the progress, particularly in education, population control, health and poverty alleviation.

Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P Grant

express