

Cairo population confce opens

From Page 1 Col 4
other population controversies today at the start of a big UN conference in Cairo.

Most world leaders preached compromise and tolerance while two women Prime Ministers, Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway and Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, set the limits for an abortion debate likely to continue throughout the nine-day meeting.

US Vice President Al Gore told a seminar the best course was to agree to disagree while trying to make the conference 'programme of action' as rigorous as possible.

Behind the scenes some of the 3,500 government delegates are working on language to placate Catholics and Islamists who object to large sections of the draft programme because it does not take a moral stand against abortion and extramarital sex.

Four mainly Muslim states - Iraq, Sudan, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia - are boycotting the meeting, but others including Iran and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, say Muslims should come and put their views.

Egypt's own Muslim militant organisation, the Gama'a al-Islamiya, has told foreigners to stay away for their own safety but so far militant gunmen and bombers have not attacked.

Thousands of police lined streets to the Chinese-built conference centre, where some 8,500 delegates and activists from more than 150 states have gathered to map out a population strategy for the next 20 years.

Gro Harlem Brundtland cut through the initial mood of cosy compromise set by male Arab leaders. She demanded abortion be legalised and accused religious opponents of hypocrisy.

"Morality becomes hypocrisy if it means accepting mothers, dying in connection with unwanted pregnancies and illegal abortions and unwanted children," she said.

"None of us, whatever our religion, can disregard that abortions occur and that where they are illegal or heavily restricted the life and health of the women is often at risk. Decriminalising abortion should therefore be a minimal response to this reality," she added.

The Vatican has welcomed the EU proposal to find compromise language but few details have yet emerged. "The

Dhaka population doubles in 10 yrs

The population of capital Dhaka increased by more than 100 per cent during the last 10 years, State Minister for planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan told the House yesterday.

Repeating to a written question from Sheikh Ansar Ali (Jamaat), the State Minister said Dhaka's population in 1981 was 34.40 lakh and it rose to 60.30 lakh just five years ago in 1989.

Replying to a supplementary question from Moulana Ataur Rahman Khan, Moyeen Khan said when the country's total population is growing by 2.17 per cent, the population growth rate of Dhaka city is about 7.29 per cent.

She argued that Islam approved of family planning but would never accept abortion or non-traditional forms of families.

"Regrettably this conference's document contains serious flaws striking at the heart of a great many cultural values in the North and in the South and in the church and in the mosque," said Bhutto, the only one of the three Muslim women prime ministers who originally planned to come.

Delegates said the European Union had drafted a new version of sensitive sections, especially the chapters on reproductive rights, health and family planning, morbidity and mortality.

The Vatican has welcomed the EU proposal to find compromise language but few details have yet emerged. "The

game is still wide open," a senior Vatican official told reporters.

In the opening session UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali urged the delegates to accept each other's religious beliefs and social customs but said this should not make the conference declaration so weak it is meaningless.

"Tolerance must be shown in the strongest possible way, for it should not lead to... half-measures, vague solutions or, still worse, statements that hush us into complacency," he added.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said the delegates should seek a common denominator through dialogue.

"We want our dialogue to avoid dogmatism and fanaticism, for extremist opinions should remain outside the framework of the development of societies," he said.

Outside the official forum, more than 3,000 activists of all kinds have gathered at a nearby stadium to lobby the delegates and peddle their views to anyone who will listen.

Groups from around the world set up booths there to advocate anything from routine family planning to the Kundalini yoga path to health and happiness.

Nowhere was the divergence more apparent than at booths 93 and 94 where representatives from Marie Stopes International, vocal campaigners of women's rights to family planning - including abortion services - sat next door to the International Right to Life.

Dhaka siege

From Page 1 Col 8
organisations from Dhaka city and the districts of Dhaka, Manikganj, Gazipur, Mymensingh, Tangail, Narsingdi, Munshiganj and Comilla (North and South) at 29 Minto Road in the afternoon.

The Awami League president said hard-won democracy failed to take institutional shape because of the ruling party's failure, inefficiency and widespread corruption.

This government has repeatedly violated its promises made to the people and pushed the country towards ruin, she said, adding that the government has lost moral rights to remain in power in view of the present situation.

Cabinet okays

From Page 1 Col 5
mation of a highway patrol police force and reorganisation of traffic police units of the police department.

The Cabinet reviewed the traffic system in the metropolitan cities and directed the concerned authorities to take all necessary measures to streamline traffic control by strictly enforcing the laws regulating movement of vehicles, including removal of unauthorised bus-stands and other forms of encroachment of the city roads.

DU VC

From Page 1 Col 4
I have been totally finished, totally devastated."

Speaking on limitations of the university authorities to check terrorist activities on the campus, Prof Ahmed pointed out that most of the armed terrorists were outsiders who could easily make their way into the campus. They could not be traced when the halls were raided by police, he added.

Besides, he said, running the university with the help of police could not be imagined in a civilised society. "What is needed is to create hatred among the general students against the terrorists."

Admitting that violence took place in presence of police, the VC said, "I cannot blame the police and decry their activities since they are only playing the role of an auxiliary force. But I believe they could play a better role."

"How can I blame the police when my students don't abide by my instructions. So I am to be blamed."

Replying to a question on various probe bodies formed following terrorist activities, he said, "We can take action against the students only. But we can't do anything against those outsiders, mostly found involved in campus violence."

Regarding the DU Teachers Association's demand for a judicial inquiry into the August 4 violence in which a teacher was shot and injured and two others were assaulted, Prof Ahmed said such an inquiry was beyond his jurisdiction. He, however, said he had already informed the higher authorities of the DUTA demand.

The VC said that he had been proceeding in a planned way with some priority steps aimed at removing session jam, developing the university and strengthening its academic activities since he took over two years ago. "But terrorism is affecting all these steps."



Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain welcomed the members of a British parliamentary delegation at Zia Airport in the city yesterday. — PID photo.

Mohammedans held 1-1

From Page 1 Col 5
matches.

The 37th league battle between the two most popular names in domestic soccer once again underlined the malady Mohammedans have been plagued with; an awful want of lady luck's benevolence.

On a heavy, rain soaked ground their four-man midfield roused and paved the way for a deserving first-half lead.

Nurul Huq Manik, who joined Mohammedans from Brothers only this year, was inspirational and instrumental for the 39th-minute penalty awarded to them by Malaysian referee Ishaq Bin-Ismael.

Manik played a lovely one-two with Zahid to storm into the box when Abahani's skipper Monem Munna, sensing impending danger, scythed him down from the side and the foreign official, aided by his compatriots on the line, had no hesitation in pointing to the dreaded spot.

Andrey Kazakov, one of Mohammedans' two Russian players coolly converted the spot kick to raise his individual league goal tally to seven, the highest so far in this year's ten-team fray.

Handicapped by the absence of their injured playmaker Rumman bin-Wali Shabbir and an ailing Russian midfielder Vitaly for violent conduct, Mohammedans yesterday adopted a five-four-one combination to deadlift their dwindling hopes. Their defence played tight, at least in the first half, leaving no room for undesirable courtship with danger.

Their midfield was mobile to say the least, winning balls and ensuring a steady stream of balls down the middle. But with only Kazakov around to find the target, the front line was short-handed without a doubt. So there were plenty of balls in the first 45 minutes of play but not enough men to reap the result.

To compound their problems their stop-gap skipper Mahbub Hossain rosy missed a sitter after the tireless Manik had laid a perfect through on his path.

Abahani, who followed a more familiar 4-3-3 system, stepped up pressure in the second half. They were helped by a withering Mohammedan midfield which ran out of gas.

Companies Act

From Page 1 Col 3
the rural people rushing to the capital for work.

Environment Minister Akbar Hossain told the House that his ministry had taken up a massive tree plantation programme in the divisional headquarters to contain environmental pollution.

In another notice, Miah Mohammad Mansur Ali, BNP, Chuadanga, urged the government to ensure the security and protection of the rural people.

NGO staff shot dead at Srimangal

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Sept 5: An NGO official was shot dead at Srimangal town thana headquarters of Moulvibazar district yesterday morning.

The victim Jashimuddin Baset, 40, field coordinator of a France-based NGO named 'Enfante de Mondo' was asleep in his rented house at Moulvibazar Road of Srimangal town in the night following Saturday. At about 3-30 am Sunday some unknown assailants entered the house and shot at him. He was immediately rushed to a private clinic where the physicians declared him dead.

UK parliamentary team in city

A six-member British parliamentary delegation led by Conservative Party MP Michael Colvin arrived in the city yesterday on a six-day visit, reports UNB.

Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain welcomed the delegation at Zia International Airport. Whip Ashraf Hossain and British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Peter Fowler were present.

Other members of the delegation are: Jack Aspinwall MP (Conservative), Andrew Bennett MP (Liberal), Roger Goddard MP (Labour), David Hinchliffe MP (Labour) and Viscount Waverley, a member of the House of Lords.

During the visit, the delegation will call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina.

Dhaka team

From Page 1 Col 4

delegation led by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Hossain is also attending the ICPD '94. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who was scheduled to speak at the opening plenary session cancelled her trip.

The inaugural ceremony which started amid strict security was a full house as heads of states and government, leaders of different delegations including one from the Vatican, and representatives of different UN organisations and NGOs.

A seat of ancient civilisation, the Cairo city, with its 14 million populace, wore a festive look. Flags flew along the wide garden-frilled avenues of the Egyptian capital while placards and banners greeting the guests of Hosni Mubarak displayed at all prominent places.

Security police cordoned off the whole Nasr City area of Cairo, site of the ICPD '94 while jeeps bristling with heavy weapons hid discreetly behind trees.

Endless metal detectors, police dogs sniffing bags for explosives and thorough frisking of the delegates were also arranged to deter a possible threat from extremists to disrupt the last population conference of this century.

The Midnight File

Turkish air raid kills 51 Kurds

ANKARA, Sept 5: A Turkish air raid on a suspected Kurdish rebel camp across the border in northern Iraq on August 29 killed 51 guerrillas, the military said Wednesday. The air strike, the seventh such attack since July 26, took place last Monday in the region of Hakurk, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of the Turkish border. The guerrillas use bases in northern Iraq for hit-and-run attacks inside Turkey in their decade-long battle for autonomy. The rebels belong to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), reports AP.

India to sign extradition treaties with US, Canada

NEW DELHI, Sept 5: India will sign extradition treaties with the United States and Canada later this year to combat the menace of terrorism, India's interior minister said Monday. "The modalities for signing such treaties are being worked out in consultation with these countries," Interior Minister S B Chavan told reporters in New Delhi, reports AP.

Political will for admin reform lacking

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers in a dialogue on public administration reform severely questioned the government's willingness to make the administration accountable and pro-people and pointed out that implementation of the reform is more needed now than just identifying and justifying it.

They also agreed that political will, transcending party interests, is needed most now to bring about changes in the civil service that is characterised by secrecy, red-tapism and non-responsiveness.

The discussion session, organised by the Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB) at a local hotel, was attended by some 40 Members of Parliament, donor representatives, bureaucrats, professionals and academicians.

Governments since the late 80s had initiated a number of studies on administrative reform for changing the present bureaucracy. These include one USAID-funded study, one UNDP-funded and four reports of secretaries.

However, none of the recommendations had been implemented although there were much in common among these reports.

Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam, who is also a member of the ministerial committee on administrative reform, while inaugurating the discussion said, reform of the public administration demands top priority for delivering re-

sponsive service to the people.

He also stressed the need for a national consensus on the proposed reform and said, "The role of the Opposition is very important and it is hoped the Opposition will extend full cooperation to us regarding these reforms."

The tone of the seminar was set by the key-note paper presented by a visiting Fulbright scholar Ahtesham Chowdhury.

Chowdhury, in his paper, said fundamental reform of the public service is required to achieve a higher economic growth and sustainable development.

The bloated size of the bureaucracy, its non-transparent system and non-functional economic regulatory environment are stagnating public investment, the paper maintained.

S A M S Kibria, former foreign secretary and now an Awami League adviser, said Parliament had never any chance to debate the proposed administration reform.

BNP MP Abdur Raif Chowdhury, himself a former civil servant, said the oversized bureaucracy must be downsized by at least one-third within the next five years.

Professor Mohabbat Khan of the Public Administration Department of Dhaka University said, "The government has miserably failed to implement any of the recommendations on reforms because of lack of political will."

বাংলাদেশ হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন

বার্ষিক হিসাব বিবরণী

১৯৯৩-৯৪ অর্থ বছরের হিসাব বিবরণী (মাসিক ঋণ) বিবরণী প্রস্তুত করা হয়েছে এবং কর্পোরেশন ভবনের ৪র্থ তলায় কম্পিউটার শাখা থেকে এখনই সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। সাধারণ ঋণের বার্ষিক হিসাব বিবরণী ৭-৮ তারিখ নাগাদ বিবরণী প্রস্তুত হয়ে যাবে বলে আশা করা হচ্ছে। এরূপ ঋণের গ্রহীতাগণও তখন তাদের হিসাব বিবরণী সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন।

☐ আপনি জানেন কি?

- ☐ কর্পোরেশন ইতিমধ্যে ঢাকা ও চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটন এলাকা ব্যতীত দেশের সকল এলাকার জন্য ১০%, ১১% এবং ১০.৫% হার সুদে গৃহীত ঋণের সুদ ১০% দার্য করেছে (ব্যাংক ঋণের ৭.৮৭% সমতুল্য)। ঢাকা ও চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটন এলাকা ১০% ও ১৬% হার সুদে গৃহীত ঋণের সুদ হ্রাস করে ১২%- দার্য করা হয়েছে (ব্যাংক ঋণের ৯.০৬% সমতুল্য)।
- ☐ খেলাপী ঋণ গ্রহীতাকে কোন অবস্থাতেই হ্রাসকৃত সুদের সুবিধা দেয়া হবে না। তবে খেলাপী গ্রহীতাগণ যদি ৪টি অরিজিনাল কপি সমগ্রমাণ অর্থ জমা করে সমস্ত ঋণ দাখিল করেন তাহলে তাদেরকে রিসিডিউলিং (কিপিপুনর্নির্ধারণ)-এর সুবিধাসহ হ্রাসকৃত সুদের সুবিধা প্রদান করা হবে।
- ☐ ফ্রাট কেনার সুবিধা: কর্পোরেশন থেকে ঋণ নিয়ে এলাকাভেদে ১০০০, ১৫০০ ও ১৮০০ বর্গফুট পর্যন্ত আয়তনের ফ্রাট কেনা যাবে। এজন্য যথাক্রমে সর্বোচ্চ ৭.৮ লক্ষ, ৯.০ লক্ষ ও ১২.৯৬ লক্ষ টাকা ঋণ পাওয়া যাবে।
- ☐ ছোট আয়তনের ফ্রাটবাড়ি নির্মাণের জন্য সিলিং বাড়ানো হয়েছে। সর্বোচ্চ ১০০০ বর্গফুটের ৪টি ইউনিট নির্মাণের জন্য জমির অবস্থান ও বিনিয়োগের উপর নির্ভর করে ১৪.৬৫ লক্ষ টাকা ঋণ মঞ্জুর করা হবে।
- ☐ হ্রাসকৃত হারে সুদের কিস্তি পুনর্নির্ধারণ:
 - বর্তমানে ১০% ও ১৬% হারে গৃহীত ঋণের কিস্তি ২টিকে একত্রিত করে ১২% হারে নির্ধারণ করে ১টি কিস্তি করার ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হচ্ছে। সকল ঋণ কেসের হিসাব নিকাশ সমাপ্ত করে পুনর্নির্ধারিত কিস্তির উপদেশপত্র অক্টোবর/নভেম্বর '৯৪ নাগাদ সবাই পেয়ে যাবেন বলে আশা করা হচ্ছে।
 - প্রায় অর্ধ লক্ষ ঋণ কেসের কিস্তি পুনর্নির্ধারণ যথেষ্ট সময় সাপেক্ষ হবে বিধায় অক্টোবর নাগাদ (১৯৯৩-৯৪ সনের হিসাব সমাপ্তির পর) পুনর্নির্ধারিত কিস্তির উপদেশপত্র সংশ্লিষ্ট গ্রহীতাগণ পেয়ে যাবেন বলে আশা করা হচ্ছে। উপদেশপত্র পাওয়া পর্যন্ত পূর্বকার কিস্তি জমা দিতে থাকুন যা পরে নতুন কিস্তির সাথে সমন্বয় করা যাবে।
- ☐ নিয়মিত ঋণ পরিশোধকারীদের সুবিধা:
 - ৯৪-৯৫ অর্থ বছর হতে রিসিডিউলিং সুবিধা গ্রহণকারীসহ সকল শ্রেণীর নিয়মিত কিস্তি পরিশোধকারীদেরকে চার্জকৃত সুদের উপর বহরাতে ১০% হারে ইনসেনটিভ প্রদান করা হবে এবং বাৎসরিক হিসাব বিবরণীতে তা দেখানো হবে।
- ☐ এককালীন সম্পূর্ণ ঋণ পরিশোধকারীদের সুবিধা:
 - এককালীন সম্পূর্ণ ঋণ পরিশোধকারীদের ঋণ ভোগের মেয়াদ ভেদে সুদের ব্যালেন্সের উপর ৫%-২০% এবং থানা পর্যায়ের ৫% হার সুদের ঋণের ক্ষেত্রে ১৫%-৫০% সুদ মওকুফের ব্যবস্থা চালু রয়েছে। এ সুবিধার আওতায় সম্পূর্ণ ঋণ এককালীন পরিশোধ করে দায়মুক্ত হতে পারেন এবং দ্বিতীয়বার ঋণ গ্রহণের সুযোগ নিতে পারেন।
 - যৌথ ঋণ গ্রহীতাগণ ফ্রাটভিত্তিক ঋণ বিভাজনের মাধ্যমে ঋণ পরিশোধ এবং ফ্রাট হস্তান্তরের সুযোগ পাবেন। একক নামীয় গ্রহীতাগণকেও ফ্রাট হস্তান্তরের ক্ষেত্রে ঋণ বিভাজনের সুযোগ দেয়া হচ্ছে। এ বিষয়ে সংশ্লিষ্ট অফিসের সাথে যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন।
 - রিসিডিউলিং-এর সুবিধা গ্রহণ না করে যারা এখনও খেলাপী রয়েছেন তাদের বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হচ্ছে। পর্যায়ক্রমে খেলাপীদের নামের তালিকা প্রকাশিত হবে।

বিত্তাশ্রি এড়ানোর লক্ষ্যে এইচবিএফসি পুনরায় জানাচ্ছে যে কর্পোরেশন সরকার নির্ধারিত পদ্ধতিতে সরল সুদ চার্জ করে। মূল ঋণের ওপর সুদ এবং মূল ঋণ (প্রিন্সিপাল) ব্যাংকের ন্যায় একত্রিত করা হয় না।

সময়মত কিস্তি পরিশোধ করে নিজে লাভবান হোন ও অপরকে ঋণ পাবার সুযোগ দিন

DPP-3658-4/9

JP opposes bilateral

From Page 1 Col 7
the Jamaat and the JP), we now know what the opposition parties demand. We hope we will be able to sit together with a broader agenda." Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury told reporters after yesterday's meeting.

"We tried to read the Opposition's mind during the meeting," he added.

Prof Chowdhury said that the JP had declined to discuss the caretaker government issue on a one-on-one or bilateral basis. Instead, the issue should be discussed with the representatives of all opposition parties, the JP leaders were quoted as saying.

The Deputy Leader of the House said he would try to talk with the Opposition leaders again within two days.

He said that the September 10 Dhaka siege programme did not come up at the discussion.

In a separate press briefing, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said the JP informed the ruling party leaders of its reservation about discussing the issue of a caretaker government at any bilateral meeting.

Bureaucracy

From Page 1 Col 7
the chair.

The state minister said government officials should put in their best efforts to utilise foreign aid to ensure sustainable development based on poverty alleviation and human resources development.

Aminul Huq also said the officials should conduct aid negotiations in such a way that the conditions of the loans do not go against the interest of the country.

Shahidul Alam, who is also Convenor of the BIAM, said the country's foreign aid management is extremely poor. This has been delaying the implementation of foreign aided projects, he said.

Chief Technical Adviser to the ERD Balliram Babal and Assistant Chief Zakir Hossain jointly presented a paper on "Flow of External Resources into Bangladesh" at the working session of the workshop.

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