

OIC's Resolve and Reality

With a perfect sense of timing and a pronounced motivation at being aggrieved by certain international developments, Foreign Ministers from the 50-nation OIC sat in a 3-day extraordinary session which ended in Islamabad Friday last.

But the fratricidal war in Afghanistan was left out, except for a mention in the speeches — in deference perhaps to the UN initiative being launched by its Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali himself to revive the wrecked peace talks.

On Kashmir, the OIC has established a contact group. Its Secretary-General Hamid Al-Gabid is to be in touch with India, Pakistan and the 'true representatives of the Kashmiri people' to promote a just settlement of the issue.

On the Bosnian question, the OIC has been able to get its act together at a time when the situation has brightened now with policy changes emerging from the West itself.

The extraordinary session was aimed at unifying the positions of the member-states on the burning issues confronting them and take such common stances on to the floor of the United Nations.

But somehow considerations of bilateral relations and economic ties with countries outside the fold have often influenced individual OIC countries' approaches to problems which cried out for a collective posturing.

Staying in Poultry Farming

About 250 poultry farms in Satkhira district are on the verge of closing down. Continued losses incurred by the farms have forced them to take the unfortunate move.

Satkhira is not the only district running short of poultry feed. Other areas in the country are more or less beset with the problem.

That assurance has come to nought. The price has shot up to Tk 14 a half. It is exactly here that the predicament of the egg producers and traders can be clearly understood.

Unfortunately, the country has opted for modern poultry farming without developing a strong feed-producing industrial base. We are just paying for not thinking of a comprehensive plan required for the development of an industry full of prospects.

THE International Conference on Population and Development has opened in Cairo on 5 September, 1994. Unlike other global conferences organized by the United Nations on social issues, this one has attracted considerable public and media attention.

Since United States and some of the western countries, notably the Scandinavian nations, were in the forefront in drafting these recommendations, they have been pitched against the Vatican and the pro-life activists in many western countries.

They know that there will be a price to pay if they go their own way, and that is reason for hesitation.

Most supporters of separation believe that English Canada will have to negotiate with an independent Quebec and that there would be a common market and eventually a common currency.

But many anglophone Canadians warn that the rest of the country may see so upset that it will react irrationally — a veiled threat of violence.

But Quebecers are proud and able. An independent Quebec would rank about 15th in the list of the world's most powerful economies and would probably be an open, tolerant society.

How has this state of affairs come about? Quebec was very different 35 years ago, when the Catholic Church was extremely

The International Conference on Population and Development: The Bangladesh Perspective

Population policies and programmes are basically determined at the national level. So one may ask: what is the purpose of these elaborately organized and costly conferences?

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wasn't all a plot to keep them small and weak. By the time the second International Population Conference was held in Mexico City in 1984 the climate shifted dramatically.

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resource ratio as well as the current population growth rate. We have really no choice but to opt for a programme to reduce the growth rate.

frighting prospect! Under the circumstances, can Bangladesh afford the luxury of getting involved in the controversy? Our population programme must not only be maintained but expanded and broadened to make it more effective.

ON THE RECORD

by Shah AMS Kibria

ly planning programme in the poor countries, reversed its policies under Reagan and abruptly withdrew its support to such programmes.

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Love-Hate Struggle for Hearts and Minds

F Papineau-Riel writes from Ottawa

Ordinary Canadians, both anglophone and francophone, are tired of the seemingly endless debates on the status and future of the French-speaking province of Quebec.

The search for sovereignty

Infographic showing maps of Quebec, Ireland, Belgium, Czech Republic, and Slovakia with text boxes explaining their linguistic and political status.

influential and the Quebecers saw themselves as Canadians or at least Canadiens francis (French Canadians). After 1960, Quebec invested massively in education and health and used the provincial government and state-owned companies to "re-take" control of its own economy.

They generally consider themselves a majority (in Quebec) rather than a minority (in Canada). Most of the Quebecois media, apart from Radio-Canada, do not have correspondents in the rest of Canada.

government made French the only official language in Quebec for public signs and ruled that new immigrants settling in Quebec must send their children to French schools.

To the Editor...

Letters for publication in these columns should be addressed to the Editor and legibly written or typed with double space. For reasons of space, short letters are preferred, and all are subject to editing and cuts.

DU International Hostel

Sir, I'm an inmate of what is officially called the International Hostel situated in the Dhaka University campus.

whose unofficial results turned out to be false after the official results were published had to face extreme difficulty as the hostel authority had already thrown him out of the room, and ultimately he had to be a guest of another resident who was sympathetic enough to keep him until his final departure.

it has been very difficult to stay in the IH. In other words, it has literally become a jail in disguise with so much restrictions. Even the highest authority in Dhaka University, the honourable Vice Chancellor when approached, in this matter, he appeared to be of not much help.

Economic policy

Sir, We fail to understand the double faced economic policy for our country being pursued by our government and by the World Bank.

transfer of the management of Hotel Sheraton and Hotel Sonargaon from public sector to private sector.

Company secretary

Sir, Seemingly, absence of fair play by issuers to build investors' confidence, frequent incidents of virtual cheating, fake balance sheet, absence of

no stabilization of population, no solution to environmental, problems or true democracy as long as half the world population is the subject of gross discrimination and abuse.

While the family planning programme of Bangladesh must continue to receive the strong support from every quarter within the framework of a national population policy, it would be counter-productive to get involved in the controversy over abortion rights.

tween the supporters and opponents of abortion in the United States and other western countries. It is linked with the very rigid position of the Catholic Church which not only opposes abortion but condemns contraception as well.

There is no doubt that this Conference will leave a lasting imprint on the policies in this field.

Coaching centres

Sir, Bangladesh is a poor country. Here majority of the population are illiterate. Here it is hard for the middle class and lower middle class to maintain private tutors for their children.

tal market can grow spontaneously.

SEC is massively empowered to do so. In this context, we, the investors, urge upon the SEC to make it mandatory to appoint Company Secretary where the paid-up capital of a Public Ltd Company is Taka 2.5 crore or more and whose shares are quoted on Dhaka Stock Exchange.

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