

Ethnic violence claims six in Karachi

KARACHI, Sept. 17: Sectarian and ethnic violence erupted in this southern port city overnight, leaving six people dead in different incidents, hospitals here said today, reports AFP.

The men killed late Friday were members of the Sunni Muslim group Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP), a spokesman for the group said, charging rival Shi'ite sect Tehrik-e-Jafria Pakistan (TJP) with Friday's killings, no comments were immediately available from TJP.

Shooting continued throughout the night in the central and eastern districts of the city, witnesses said. A major hospital also came under attack by snipers, where the shooting victims were being treated, hospital sources said.

Sounds of gunfire were also reported from Azizabad district, near the headquarters of the ethnic-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM). The shooting continued all night, a resident said.

3 killed, 60 hurt in road mishaps

From Our Correspondent

SAVAR, Sept. 17: Three persons were killed and 60 others injured in three road mishaps on the Dhaka-Arria highway today. Two of the dead were identified as Abdul Jalil (30) and Abdul Latif (20). The other deceased, a man (25), could not be identified.

Another coach hit two baby taxis at the Savar bus stand at 8 am injuring ten passengers critically.

In another incident, a truck lost its control and plunged into a ditch near the Jorapool of Savar killing Abdul Latif.

The injured have been sent to the Savar Health Complex, the Dairy Farm Clinic and other hospitals.

Amended Act

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wide powers to take any decision on the distribution of khush lands.

Khushi Kabir said, the amendment would not only be used for evicting the poor people from khush land, it would also create scopes for using the agri-land for non-productive purpose.

She said, the government should discuss the matter with the organisations working at the grass-roots level.

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman said, any amendment to the land laws should be made to support the land and agrarian reform policy of the government. But this amendment was made without considering these aspects.

The seminar spread over three sessions was also addressed by Nurur Rahman of BAWPA, Abdul Kader of SAMATA, Taslimuddin of BFPAB and Abul Hossain of BIDS. Zead Al Malum, Advocate, Supreme Court, Saiful Haq, General Secretary of Bangladesh Khetmajur Union and M Shamsul Huda, Executive Director of ALRD presented keynote papers.

CU students

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and railway sources said.

When the railway employees tried to resist the attackers, they also fell victims to the wrath of the agitating students, the windowpanes of the railway offices, telephone sets and some parked vehicles were damaged.

The agitators dispersed when a large contingent of police from Kotwali thana went to the spot.

BSS adds: Meanwhile, the general manager of the Railway's Eastern Zone M A Matin, in a hurriedly called press conference at his office, claimed that three employees were injured, of them Mohammad Yusuf (Traffic) and Mainuddin (Accounts) were admitted to the Railway Hospital.

He further said at least ten telephone sets were also looted away and 12 others were damaged by the miscreants.

A Taka four-crore project for renovation of the Chittagong University rail route has been undertaken by the Railway authority, he said, adding that the authority will demand compensation from the university authorities for Saturday's damage to Railway property.

Matin said an enquiry committee will be constituted soon to probe the incident and a case will be filed on behalf of the Railway authority in this connection.

The general manager appealed to the students in particular and the people in general to stop the recurrence of such incidents in future.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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DUCSU Vice President and MP Amanullah Aman speaking at a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club organised by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal to mark Education Day yesterday.

Students observe Education Day

By Staff Correspondent

'Education Day' was observed yesterday with the ruling party's student wing highlighting the government steps for the expansion of education and the anti-government student's bodies demanding increased budgetary allocation for the education sector.

The day is observed every year in memory of Mostafa Babul, Wajidullah and others who had laid down their lives while protesting against the Hamdud Rahman Education Commission Report on this day in 1962.

To mark the day, different students' organisations held rallies and brought out processions in the city.

The BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club with the JCD President, Fazlul Haq Milon, in the chair.

DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman, MP, JCD general secretary Nazimuddin Alam, Quamruzzaman Ratan, Monwar Hossain and Zakir Ahmed also addressed the rally.

Amanullah Aman highlighted various programmes — Education-for-All, Food-for-Education, and free education for female students up to Class VIII — taken up by the present government and said the people had started getting benefits of these programmes.

He said the setting up of universities in the private sector during the BNP government was a revolutionary step towards expansion of higher education in the country.

Aman called upon all, irrespective of party affiliation, to work unitedly for the eradication of illiteracy and achieving the goal of education for all by the year 2000.

Aman said when the whole nation is marching forward towards development under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the main Opposition Awami League is trying to disrupt the political process by joining hands with the ousted autocratic forces.

He said the Awami League is afraid of the smooth democratic process in the country because of its fear that it would not get the people's support in the next elections. That is why it is trying to disrupt the democratic process in the country in the name of a caretaker government, he said.

Aman expressed his firm belief that the people will not be misguided by the politics of destruction.

Aman also said that the students and the people had shed their blood during the nine-year long struggle against autocracy. Hence they will not tolerate any alliance with the ousted forces, he said, and urged the Awami League to sever relations with the anti-people forces.

Fazlul Haq Milon in his speech blamed the Opposition parties for 'creating anarchy' in the country, being envious of the BNP government's development activities.

The JCD's popularity among the students was increasing day by day, he claimed.

The pro Awami League Chhatra League (S-P) held its rally near the Aparajeyo Bangla statue on the DU campus.

Enamul Haq Shamini, president, and general secretary Ishaq Ali Khan Panna were among those who addressed the rally.

The Chhatra League leaders accused the BNP government of betraying the 10-point demand for which the major student bodies including the JCD had fought during the Ershad regime.

They urged the government to immediately fulfil those demands, including the introduction of a 'scientific' education policy.

The student leaders also demanded supply of educational materials at the subsidised rate.

The CPB-backed Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) handed over to the Education Minister the draft of an 'alternative' education policy after holding a meeting near the Secretariat around noon.

The BCU leaders, addressing a rally, demanded a 'scientific' education policy, reduction of tuition fees and education materials at fair price.

The Chhatra League (B-K), the Chhatra Federation and the Muktiyoddha Chhatra Command also held rallies on the DU campus in observance of Education Day.

Grameen Bank at Kanaighat set on fire

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept. 17: The Grameen Bank branch at Umargah under Kanaighat thana in Sylhet was set on fire early this morning.

A group of unidentified people set the bank branch on fire at about 3 am. Some furniture, valuable documents and papers were burnt. However, there was no casualty.

The Grameen Bank branch was distributing agricultural loans and providing vocational training to women.

A case has been lodged with police. No arrest has been made so far.

Another Grameen Bank branch at Chotul Bazar of the same thana was also set ablaze three weeks ago. None has been arrested.

PM apprised

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ministers and party leaders, meeting sources said. However, no decision was taken at the meeting as regards the Opposition stand. The ruling party negotiators would sit with the party chief shortly to finalise a response.

Samad Azad had written the letter in reply to Prof Chowdhury's September 9 letter proposing a dialogue.

Samad Azad's letter said the Opposition was willing to sit for a dialogue if and when the government agreed to a specific agenda — national elections under a caretaker government and creation of an atmosphere conducive to talks.

The Prime Minister at the meeting yesterday, discussed the major aspects of her scheduled speech over radio and television tomorrow on the occasion of the third anniversary of the restoration of parliamentary form of government.

Begum Zia's cabinet was freshly sworn in that day three years ago following the passage of the Twelfth Amendment of the Constitution. Achievements of the BNP government during the past three years would be highlighted in the address, meeting sources said.

The meeting was also attended by party Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Water Resource Minister M Majidul Huq, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam and Information Minister Nazmul Huda.

C'wealth Secy Gen

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lemate in Bangladesh, a Commonwealth member country. Chief Anyaoku lauded the success of Bangladesh in different fields, especially in economic readjustment and rice production.

He also praised the efforts made by the present government for the development of womenfolk and improvement of education in the country. Describing his own experiences of the Commonwealth countries, he said it is not possible for development programmes taken up by any government to succeed if political stability and congenial atmosphere are absent.

Welcoming the C'wealth Secretary General's visit to Bangladesh, the Prime Minister asked chief Anyaoku to provide more technical assistance and scholarships for Bangladeshis.

Begum Zia praised chief Anyaoku for his role as the Secretary General of Commonwealth.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister A N M Yusuf and Foreign Secretary M R Osmani were present during the meeting.

Bill in JS

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dressed by DCCI president A Rab Chowdhury, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, President of the CAB Borhan Ahmed, Chief Editor of Financial Express Rezauddin Ahmed and former DCCI president M Yunus.

Rab Chowdhury said, "Parliament is the institution of 12 crore people, this institution should protect both consumers' and manufacturers' interests."

He urged the political parties to help create a healthy business atmosphere and help enact laws to protect consumers' rights. Harshly on disrupt business activities, he added.

Mahfuz Anam said that the existing laws protecting consumers' interests in some ways should be properly implemented so that they become aware of their rights. He called for specific and concrete steps to ensure consumers' rights.

Rezauddin Ahmed stressed use of the electronic media to increase people's awareness of how to realise consumers' rights.

Borhan Ahmed called upon the traders and industrialists to make commitments through the DCCI for better consumer services.

The Midnight File

Russia against use of force in Haiti

MOSCOW, Sept. 17: Russia said today it would like the crisis in Haiti to be resolved without the use of force, adding that if things came to an invasion, it should not serve as an example of how to resolve conflicts in other states. A Foreign Ministry statement published by Interfax news agency also said an invasion would be justified only if the military rulers refused to leave the country, reports Reuters.

NATO plans to deploy ground troops in Bosnia

BRUSSELS, Sept. 17: NATO is drawing up contingency plans to deploy ground troops in Bosnia if United Nations peacekeepers come under attack while withdrawing from the battle zone, alliance sources said Friday. "The (planning) process is now well engaged," said a NATO official after a week of intensive talks at the headquarters of the Western military alliance, reports AP.

Carter in Haiti

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the Dominican Republic. One pro-army businessman wore a T-shirt saying "No to Intervention" as he headed into the Dominican Republic on Friday.

The air incident appeared to be just the latest in a tense psychological campaign repeated nightly. Leaflets and radios have been dropped to Haitian residents, trying to prepare the groundwork for a US-led intervention to restore democracy and kick out coup leaders.

"We will resist" an invasion, the army chief of staff, Brig. Gen. Philippe Biamby, declared Friday. At army headquarters, soldiers were distributing rounds of ammunition to civilians and plainclothes troops.

While expressing defiance, the military also prepared to receive a last-minute proposal, to be delivered by Carter, Gen. Colin Powell, and Senator Sam Nunn.

"Their mission is to make one last best effort to provide a peaceful, orderly transfer of power, to minimise the loss of life and to maximise the chances of security for all Haitians and of course for our own troops," Clinton said Saturday in his weekly radio address.

"We still hope to end this journey peacefully," he added. Biamby called "absolutely false" reports of a compromise in which he, army chief Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras and Francois would step down if the invasion were called off and safety guarantees were given to them and GPR supporters.

Jean-Claude Roy, a conservative politician and Cedras confidant, called the Carter delegation's visit "a positive step."

"Cedras has always been willing to step down, but in exchange for something viable, through a frank conversation,"

Clinton at Pentagon

Meanwhile, Reuters reports from Washington: President Clinton today visited the Pentagon "War Room" for a briefing on the threatened invasion of Haiti.

Accompanied by National Security Adviser Anthony Lake and White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, Clinton visited the Defence Department's National Military Command Center, known as the "War Room."

Clinton at Pentagon

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Roy said.

Panama and Argentina said they would grant political asylum to Cedras if that would prevent a US invasion.

Even as it embarked on yet another diplomatic effort, Washington forged ahead with military plans.

An unidentified airplane circled the jittery capital at 2 am Saturday.

The Carter mission "does not alter by one minute or one second the timetable of our military preparations, our preparedness to act, or the urgency of the situation in general," a senior Clinton official had said Friday in Washington.

Chanting in cadence, thousands of young men — members of Haiti's auxiliary army — jogged through the capital in a show of force Friday. A relaxed-looking Biamby led the exercise.

Massing at army headquarters afterward, the sweaty recruits demanded weapons. Military officials said they would be provided, but didn't say when.

An army official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said later that there were about 30,000 weapons, which would be handed out after training. The arms were seized from the Tonton Macoute militia after the Duvalier dictatorship ended.

Many supporters of Aristide, fearful of a retaliatory massacre if US troops start landing, fled the slums of Port-au-Prince for the countryside.

"I'm scared out of my wits," said Maxim Lade, 38, a carpenter, from the top of a bus headed north to Gonaives.

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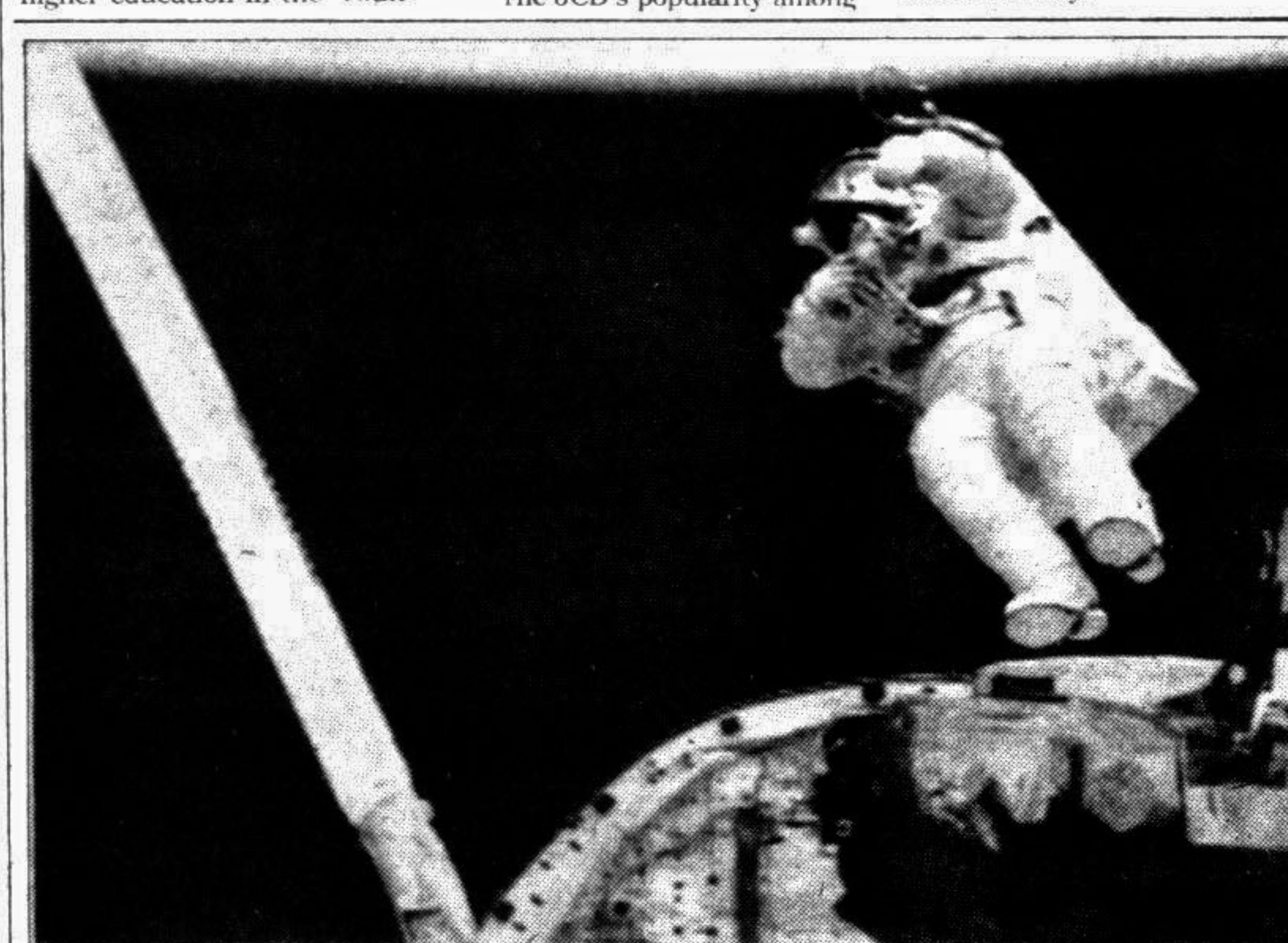
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Space shuttle Discovery astronaut Carl Meade rotates in space Friday using the new Simplified Aid for EVA Rescue (SAFER) unit above the shuttle's cargo bay with the edge of the Earth above his head. Meade, along with fellow astronaut Mark Lee, are evaluating the units during the first untethered space walks in America's space programme in ten years.

Confce on diarrhoeal diseases opens

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is living in seclusion in Sweden after fleeing in August from death threats.

"One thing the symposium will focus on the battle between fundamentalism on one side and tolerance on the other," Steen said.

A year ago, Norwegians were stunned when William Nygaard, the Norwegian Language publisher of Rushdie's books, was shot twice and severely wounded in Oslo.

Police have not solved the case. But Rushdie and Nygaard both suspect that the attack was linked to the publication of 'The Satanic Verses'.

During the symposium, seven Norwegian writers will present cases of seven persecuted writers selected by the International PEN writers group.

The seven are: Rushdie, Nasrin, Hwang Suk-yong of South Korea, Ken Saro-Wiwa of Nigeria, Mansur Muhammad Ahmad Rajih of Yemen, Yndamiro Restano of Cuba and Bozor Sobir of Tajikistan.

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof A Q M Badrud-Doza Chowdhury yesterday said a people-oriented health policy which is simple, understandable, economic and achievable was needed for survival of patients and good health of the people, reports BSS.

He said people-oriented health personnel who include doctors, nurses, paramedics, health educators, as well as people-oriented electronic and print media were also needed to achieve the objective of such a health policy.

Prof Chowdhury was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural function of the 7th Asian Conference on Diarrhoeal Diseases (ASCODD) at the Engineers' Institute auditorium in the city. The theme of the conference is "1994 — the diarrhoeal prevention year through social mobilization."

Hosted by the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and co-sponsored by the WHO, UNICEF and ICDDR,B the objective of the three-day conference is to suggest measures for social mobilization to increase the acceptance of Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) by the people as a treatment of all diarrhoea cases.

Several hundred doctors from the host country Bangladesh and about 80 doctors and specialists from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Saudi Arabia and the United States are participating in the conference. Earlier, the conference was scheduled to be held in February this year.

The inaugural session was also addressed by UNICEF country representative Rolf C Carriers, WHO acting representative Prof Myo Thew — ICDDR,B director Prof D Habte, secretary general of BMA Dr Gazi Abdul Hoque, secretary general of international organising committee of ASCODD Dr K M S Aziz, Chairman of reception sub-committee of the conference Prof T A Chowdhury and vice-president of BMA Prof A B Bhuiyan also addressed the inaugural session, BMA president Prof M A Majed was in the chair.

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