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Down to Earth Orphanages Playing Useful Role

By A S M Nurunnabi

An orphanage is an institution for rearing orphans by meeting their various needs for living in a good environment. There is no doubt that it plays an important role in promoting their social welfare and security. In a poor country like ours with its low level of socio-economic conditions, an orphan lives an uncertain life, being deprived of the provisions of the basic human needs. Besides, the insecurity in physical and mental terms to which he is exposed makes him an easy prey to various social evils. In this context, the useful role of orphanages, though circumscribed by various factors including financial and management problems, may be viewed. Besides, our religion puts great emphasis on taking care of orphans.

sources of these non-government institutions are augmented from private donations, zakat money, and proceeds from sales of hides of sacrificial animals during Eid-ul-Azha obtained as charity from members of the public. To ensure proper utilisation of the funds of these institutions, the Department of Social Welfare is said to have suitable mechanism. The designated officers are also responsible for looking after other aspects of administration of these orphanages. Besides, the non-government ones, there are three orphanages in the city under government management. One is located at Tejgaon with accommodation capacity for 200 girls; the second one is at Mirpur for 100 boys and the third one is at Azampur with accommodation for 100 girls. It is understood that in most of the orphanages, both government and non-government facilities are provided for general and religious education and for vocational training in several trades. An inmate is allowed to stay in the orphanage till the age of 18 years or when he/she passes the secondary school certificate examination. Those inmates who acquire knowledge, skills and experience in any trade or vocational field are helped by the authorities of the orphanages in getting employment outside. There are government instructions to follow the 10 per cent quota for the orphans and the disabled in non-gazetted government posts. Besides, government organisations and NGOs are sympathetic to the cases of youths from orphanages in the matter of offering credit facilities on easy terms for utilisation under poverty alleviation programme.

The management of the non-government orphanages are encouraged by the government to take advantage of the opportunities for the inmates of their orphanages made available under the poverty alleviation programmes run by the ministries of Children and Women's Affairs, Youth and Sports, and Labour and Manpower. The orphans are also encouraged to take part in various training programmes organised by the government. In this important sphere of social welfare, the efforts of the government alone in dealing with the problems of welfare of the orphans are not considered enough. In these circumstances, it is felt necessary that the affluent sections of the society should come forward to help the orphanages with their financial support. It is also necessary that the managers of the orphanages should ensure that the orphans under their charge are not deprived of their just needs. It is further felt by some observers that the amount of capitation grant at present given to the orphanages is rather low. And it is generally considered desirable that government give greater attention to the question of provision of larger allocation of funds by way of capitation grants to these institutions so that their larger number of inmates are assured of better living conditions and facilities. The cause of humanitarian service for orphans may be served better in this way. At the same time, it needs to be ensured that the funds so placed at the disposal of the management of these institutions are not misused in any way, for which regular monitoring is felt essential.

3 held on charge of forcing girls in flesh trade

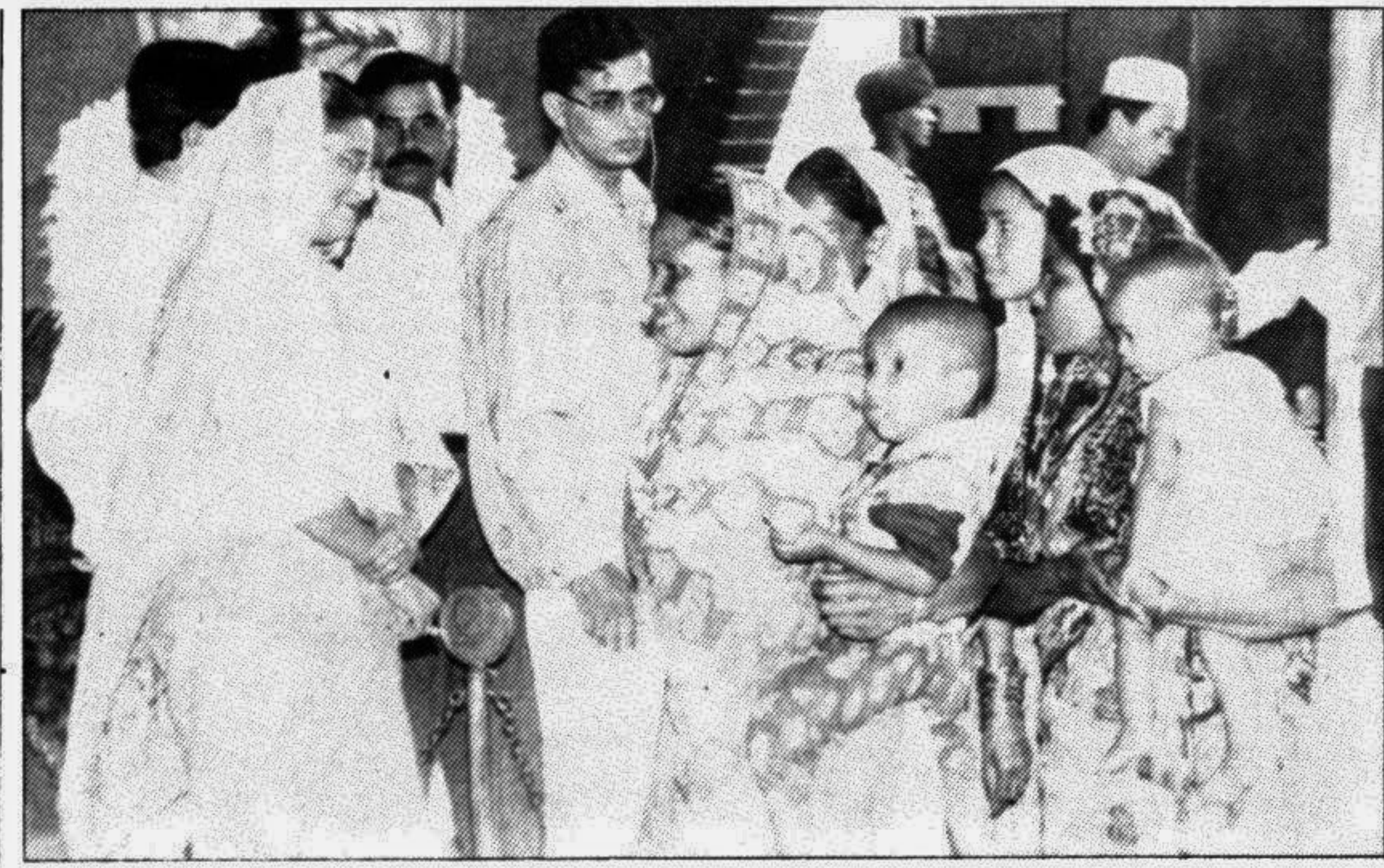
By Staff Correspondent

Three persons including a woman were arrested from a city house on Thursday on charge of forcing young girls in flesh trade. Mita, Babul and Shahabul Alam were arrested from a house in New DOHS. Police arrested them after a 16-year-old girl, who escaped from their custody on Thursday, lodged a complaint against four persons. In the complaint that the girl said the gang had detained her in the house since April 4 and forced her to have sexual intercourse. The teen-aged girl escaped from their custody on Thursday. While conducting raids in the house, police also rescued two other teen-aged girls. Police said Mita was a professional in this line and she was involved in the business earlier in a rented house at Gulshan. The middle-aged woman, Mita, who separated from her husband Shamsul Islam long ago, had hired house at New DOHS for a monthly rent of Tk 21 thousand. The arrested persons were sent to jail custody and the victims were sent to safe custody.

2 alleged rapists remanded

By Staff Correspondent

Police on Thursday arrested two persons in connection with the rape of a three-year-old child at Dargah Government Primary School at Mirpur Section one on April 6. The arrested persons are Akkas and Jasim. They were produced in court which placed them on a day's remand, police said. Meanwhile, the child was transferred to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital Tuesday night. Daughter of a carpenter, the child was raped at the toilet of the school. The child was admitted to the DMCH on the day of the incident and was operated upon. The child is now out of danger and is improving at the Intensive Care Unit of the CMH, sources said. The one-storey school building near the kitchen market at North Bishil at Mirpur Section one has only one entrance. Nobody generally enters the school premises during the holidays, people of the locality said. The school building is few minutes' walk from the house of the girl.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanging Eid greetings with people at Ganabhaban on Wednesday. —PID photo

Eid-ul Azha

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society at Bangabhaban. Ministers, MPs, political leaders, judges of the Supreme Court, senior army and military officials and diplomats were present. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanged Eid greetings with her cabinet colleagues, politicians, diplomats, high civil and military officials as well as common people at Ganabhaban from 9.30 am to 10 pm. Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia exchanged greetings with politicians, diplomats and common people at her official residence at Mintoo road. National flag was hoisted atop all public and private buildings. The main city thoroughfares from Airport to Bangabhaban and road islands were decorated with miniature flags and banners inscribed with 'Eid Mubarak'. Special diet was served in hospitals, jails, orphanages, baby homes, vagrants' homes and distressed welfare centres. After the Eid congregations, screening of films and cultural programmes were held in different parts of the city. Besides the main one, four congregations were held at Baitul Mokarram mosque. The last congregation in the capital was held at Azampur Daira Sharif.

Miscreants kill jeweller, loot shop at Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 10: Armed miscreants killed a gold trader and looted his shop in the city's K C Dey Road on Tuesday afternoon, police and traders said. A group of miscreants stormed into the jewellery shop of Naresh Chowdhury, 50, at 2-15 pm, killed him and decamped with gold ornaments and cash money. The four miscreants came by a private car. The jewellers in city brought out procession and held a rally at Anderkilla crossing in the evening protesting the killing.

2 Sarbahara party men shot dead in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 10: Two activists of the Sarbahara Party were shot dead by some unidentified persons at Kashinathpur village in Shaikakupura thana in the early hours of today, police said. The dead were identified as Dablu alias Suja Mia, 32, and Nilu Dutta, 30. Later, police seized a private car from Majumdarpara and arrested two persons including its driver in this connection. A gun was also recovered from the car.

Road accidents

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near Barisal town in the afternoon. Another old man, aged over 100, was killed in a road accident at Katabaria in Kishoreganj on Wednesday. Police said Sirajuddin Bhuiyan, 120, of Katabaria village was hit by a Mymensingh-bound passenger bus at 4 pm while he was crossing the Kishoreganj-Mymensingh highway. Hasina, Khaleda call on President Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed separately at Bangabhaban on Wednesday, reports UNB. The prime minister and the opposition leader stayed with the President for some time and exchanged Eid greetings with him. BCL activists Md Ismail, 23, a day labourer and Nurul Alam Belal, 20. Two other villagers also sustained bullet wounds. Police said some 40 BCL activists attacked the house at 5 am yesterday and started firing. But Humayun was not there at that time. Hearing the gunshots, hundreds of villagers rushed to the spot and chased the attackers. While retreating from the angry villagers, the attackers opened fire, killing two persons on the spot. However, none was arrested in this connection.

One killed, 35 hurt as storms lash two districts

By Staff Correspondent

One person was killed and 35 others were injured when storms lashed Lalmonirhat and Kushtia district on Eid day. One girl was killed and ten others were injured in the severe storm which swept three thanas of Lalmonirhat district. About 1200 houses and standing crops on a vast area were damaged. The storm hit nine unions of Aditmari, Kaliganj and Hatibandha thanas at around midnight. It lasted for about an hour. A 10-year-old girl died in the hailstorm. Another storm lashed Kushtia on the Eid day injuring at least 25 people and damaging houses and crops.

Nepalese PM resigns

By Staff Correspondent

KATHMANDU, Apr 10: King Birendra of Nepal today accepted the resignation tendered by Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa, the state-run radio announced, report agencies. The official announcement said the King asked Thapa to continue as prime minister until a new government is formed. An emergency meeting of BNP Standing Committee will be held at 7 pm today at 29 Minto Road, reports UNB. The BNP-led seven-party alliance will also hold a meeting at the same venue at 5 pm today. Another report says: The meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party will be held tomorrow, instead of today at the Sangsad Bhaban.

6 security men

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was accompanied by his brother Asif Sultan. Sources in BNP said there were four vehicles including the police van in Begum Zia's convoy. Begum Zia's car and the car in front escaped the accident by turning left but the police van behind Begum Zia's car was hit. The seriously injured policeman, Abu Taher, was admitted to the Pangu Hospital. Others were released after first aid. Both the brothers were arrested. A case was filed under Sections 239, 337, 338 and 427. Police could not confirm the ownership of the white private car. Begum Zia visited the injured policeman at the hospital.

2 minor girls

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filed on Thursday with Mirpur thana accusing four persons. The rapists broke into the house of the girl, took her to a nearby slum and raped her, police said. The victim was sent to 'safe custody'. The accused persons are: Nevi, Towab Ali, Ohab Ali and Zakir Hossain. Wahab Ali was arrested yesterday.

Abeda Hafiz

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An operation, she expired. The body of Abeda Hafiz was brought back to Dhaka yesterday morning by a Bangladesh Biman flight. Her namajejanaza was held at Dhammondid Eidgah Maidan after Juma prayers yesterday. Qulkhwan of Abeda Hafiz will be held today at her residence at 4.30 pm after Asr prayers. Her relatives, friends and well-wishers have been invited to attend. Abeda Hafiz was born on October 15, 1926 in Calcutta. She passed her BA examination in 1944 with honours, standing second in first class from Calcutta University. She passed her MA in 1947 in Persian standing first in first class securing record marks and was awarded a gold medal. She joined Lady Brabourne College, Calcutta, as a lecturer in 1949. After partition, she joined Dhaka Eden Government College in 1951. She held various important positions including those of Principal, Khulna Govt Girls' College, and Principal, Badrunnesa College. She retired from service in 1985 as Principal of Eden Girls' College. She was conferred with PhD degree in 1967 by the Dhaka University. She was a member of the Academic Council of Dhaka University and was connected with many cultural, educational and research organisations. She is survived by her husband, one son and three daughters.

Malaysia

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manpower recruiting rackets as well as scrupulous employers. Clackdown on foreign workers having no legal document was also continuing. Meanwhile, officials in Dhaka said that the authorities were desperately trying for waiving of the compoand. But one official noted, 'We have no locus standi to fight for the causes of workers who went to Malaysia illegally, be it because of their faults or because of unscrupulous recruiting agents.' Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan told this correspondent, 'We are trying to plug loopholes, taking advantage of which rackets export people illegally that earns a bad name for Bangladesh.' He contested a recent claim by Malaysian human rights activist Irene Fernandez that 5,000 Bangladeshis were in jails. Mannan said, 'There are hardly 1,500 Bangladeshis in different jails in Malaysia and most of them fell prey to unscrupulous employers.' He, however, added that a detailed report on the latest condition of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia would be available to him shortly.



Entrails of sacrificial animals piled up on a road in Azimpur area of the city. —Star photo

Lightning kills 2 in Jessore, 2 others in Barisal

By Staff Correspondent

Lightning killed two persons in Jessore on Thursday and two others in Barisal on Tuesday. Our Jessore Correspondent says, two persons of a family were killed, and another one was seriously injured by lightning at Kongsaripur of Chougacha thana of the district during storm on Thursday evening. The identity of the victims could not be ascertained immediately. In Barisal, an unidentified woman and her minor son were killed by lightning at Char Aicha village under Sadar thana Tuesday afternoon.

Sec 144 at Dighinala

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Ruhul Amin, 8 and Monowara Begum, 11, son and daughter of Moutaz Ali, a settler farmer of Madhyha Betchari village of Dighinala thana were allegedly drowned in Maini river by masked tribal youths, sources in the area said. The children were gathering green chillies from their farm. Their brother Khalilur Rahman managed to escape and informed the villagers which created tension since Tuesday when settlers staged protests in front of the TNO's office. Both the settlers and the tribesmen staged separate protests accusing each other for the killings. Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari A.K.M. Zafrul Hossain said the situation was brought under control. The DC, other high officials and military officials visited Dighinala. Police are investigating the killings. Sources in the area claimed that the killings were sequel to a dispute between the children's father and his tribal neighbour over a piece of land. Shahajuddin and Abdul Momen, leaders of the Sarbodoloyi Oikkyo Parishad condemned the killings and demanded punishment to the persons responsible. The DC, other high officials and military officials visited Dighinala. Police are investigating the killings. Sources in the area claimed that the killings were sequel to a dispute between the children's father and his tribal neighbour over a piece of land. Shahajuddin and Abdul Momen, leaders of the Sarbodoloyi Oikkyo Parishad condemned the killings and demanded punishment to the culprits. Meanwhile, The Pahari Gano Parishad, backed by Jana Sanghati Samity, held a rally at Koraitala in Kahgrachhari in observance of the

Hasina greets

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congratulations on your great success in achieving a settlement of the longstanding Northern Ireland problem.' She said, 'the breakthrough made in the Northern Ireland is a tribute to your determined and far-sighted leadership. The sincerity and goodwill shown by all the parties including the Irish government and the various groups in the Northern Ireland has made it possible. It is our hope that the accord would usher in a new beginning and era of peace, stability and harmony in the region.' Stressing on negotiations to solve any problem, the Prime Minister said, 'It has always been my firm conviction that given goodwill, understanding and sincerity of purpose, all problems can be solved through peaceful negotiations.'

3 Bangladeshis

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Sheikh Hasina has expressed her deep shock at the loss of lives in Meena on Thursday. In a message of condolence to King Fahd, the Prime Minister conveyed her heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved families. Sheikh Hasina prayed to the Almighty Allah for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

Vehicles

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during the period. Vehicles like jeep station wagon numbered 18,090 in 1989 and their number rose to 41,102 in the next eight years. The figure for motor car was 41,340 in 1989 and it shot up to 72,478 in 1996. The number of bus and minibus was 11,734 and 7542 respectively in the base year while in 1996, it stood at 13,287 and 11,052. The number of tempo was 1,20,301 in 1989 and it jumped to 1,68,669 in the next eight years.

Bill Richardson

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The Twenty-First Century' at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies on Monday. He will visit a Grameen Bank Micro-credit project at Narayanganj the same day. Richardson will stay at the residence of the US ambassador during the visit. He will pay a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed, meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Abus Samad Azad. He is also scheduled to meet Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia.

Peace deal

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hold a parallel referendum on the same day. Queen Elizabeth II is 'delighted' by the outcome of the Stormont talks, at which a peace agreement on Northern Ireland was reached, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said today. British Prime Minister Tony Blair today praised the signature of a Northern Irish peace deal for having the courage to overcome their differences. 'I believe today that courage has triumphed', Blair, who played a crucial role in brokering the deal, said in a statement. Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern today said the Northern Ireland peace deal marked a new start for peace across the British Isles. 'Today's historic agreement marks a new beginning for all of us, in Northern Ireland, the island of Ireland and across these islands,' he said after the announcement of the peace deal.

150 Hajj pilgrims

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The agency quoted Indian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Mohammad Hamid Ansari, as saying the Indian victims included 13 women. Three Bangladeshis pilgrims also died in the stampede. The stampede took place in the desert plain at Meena, about five kilometers from Makkah. Thursday was the final day of the pilgrimage. Ambulances rushed to the scene, and Saudi television showed soldiers carrying a body out on a stretcher. One soldier was trying to revive another casualty whose face was covered by an oxygen mask. Another offered water to an elderly man, who grabbed the bottle with a trembling hand. Hundreds of pilgrims lined up outside Meena hospitals Thursday night, anxious about the fate of their relatives. Last year, fires driven by high winds tore through a sprawling, overcrowded tent city at Meena, trapping and killing more than 340 pilgrims and injuring 1,500.

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