



Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury delivering inaugural speech at an open discussion on "Year of Six Billion: Choices and Responsibilities in the Next Millennium" at TSC auditorium yesterday. Department of Population Sciences of DU organised the discussion on the occasion of World Population Day 1999.

APSU demands judicial probe into BUET crisis

By DU Correspondent

All Party Student Unity (APSU) at BUET brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus yesterday demanding reconsideration of expulsion order of some students for their involvement in the April 25-26 violence incidents.

The other demand of the APSU is formation of a judicial probe body for an "impartial and neutral" investigation into the massive vandalism of April 25 and 26 which led the BUET authorities to close down the university for an indefinite period.

APSU, a platform of four student organisations of BUET had earlier rejected the probe body report terming the report of the probe body as "partial and motivated".

The procession paraded through the campus where the APSU activists chanted various slogans against the BUET authorities.

Later, addressing a rally at the Shaheed Minar, the APSU leaders warned that they would continue their movement on BUET campus if the authorities failed to meet their demands.

Meanwhile, APSU will organise a press conference at the BUET cafeteria today afternoon to declare its final course of movement.

Sources said that the APSU leaders at the press conference will declare going for an indefinite hunger strike from tomorrow to press home their demands.

"Meet the leaders" seminar held at NSU

AIESEC in NSU organised a seminar named "Meet the Leaders" yesterday, says a press release.

Syed Humayun Kabir, chairman of Renata Limited was present as the key speaker for the occasion. The programme was open to all students of North South University and started off with a power point presentation on AIESEC and Leadership.

Kabir spoke on the differences between entrepreneurship in the fifties and in the nineties and highlighted the advantages and disadvantages on both areas. Other issues discussed were "people's skills", "mindset to achieve", "respect for others" etc.

The discourse was followed by queries from participants. NSU faculty Quazi Mahmud also spoke how committed self leadership helps individuals to achieve. He emphasised on the ability to observe and learn and adapt skills from others. Faculty advisor to the club Dr ANM Meshquatuuddin also attended this seminar.

British cyclist in city

A British citizen, Ian Owen, arrived in the city (Thursday) completing "The High Road to Dhaka Expedition", by cycling 4,619 km from Lahore, Pakistan, via India and Nepal to raise funds for cancer treatment, says a press release.

The British Acting High Commissioner, Stephen Turner, received Owen at the British High Commission in Baridhara at the end of his charity cycle ride. Members of the British High Commission Staff and the British community in Dhaka also warmly welcomed the brave cyclist for his six-month long expedition.

Owen started the expedition from the Pakistani city of Lahore before crossing into India near Amritsar. He then climbed into the Himalayas, passing en route Kulu, Simla, Ghansali and Askot before entering Nepal. He arrived in Pokhara using mountain roads and reached Kathmandu using a series of high altitude roads. He crossed into India again and reached Bagdogra before proceeding to Darjeeling. Finally he entered Bangladesh at Haldibari on his way to Dhaka.

The High Road to Dhaka Expedition, organised and coordinated by the One Planet Expedition, is an attempt by Owen to raise 10,000 pounds sterling for "The Shooting Star Appeal".

The Shooting Star Appeal was launched by Wrexham Maelor Hospital in Britain to raise 2 million pounds sterling to build and equip an integrated specialist cancer treatment facility, which will include a specific area dedicated to a women's clinic.

Owen, who lives in Wales, returns to Britain later this month.

World Population Day observed

Population of Bangladesh will be 210m by 2020

The World Population Day '99 was observed in Bangladesh as elsewhere across the world yesterday with a pledge to contain the burgeoning population especially in the developing countries, reports BSS.

The theme of the day was "Focus on the upcoming day of six billion to be observed in late this year, barely 12 years since the day of five billion."

Addressing the day's main programme at the Osmani Memorial Hall auditorium, Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf said world population is expected to reach six billion by October 12 this year. One billion people have been added to the global population between 1987 and 1999, mostly in the developing countries, he added.

Referring to the country's population of 120.50 million with a rising rate of 1.6 per cent in an area of 1,47,570 square kilometres, the minister said it would reach 210 million by 2020.

Identifying population as the number one problem, the governments had taken up a number of steps to contain population boom, he said, and adding that family planning activities of Bangladesh has now achieved a remarkable headway among Muslim states.

The government has taken up various steps in the on-going five-year plan to create a successful social movement to ensure mother and child health-care facilities to the teeming

millions, the minister said. A package programme titled "Health and Population Sector Activities 1998-2003" has also been taken up to ensure necessary medicine, he added.

The minister said the initiative of constructing a service centre or community clinic in every union is going on to ensure health-care facilities to every 6,000 people. Massive programmes are being implemented to provide safe mother care across the country, he added.

Presided over by Health Secretary MM Reza, the function was also addressed, among others, by State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof Dr M Amanullah, UNFPA Country Representative Shuyun Xu, Director General of Health Directorate AKM Nurul Anwar, and Director General of Family Planning Directorate Dhiraj Kumar Nath.

The health and family welfare minister distributed awards and certificates among the best government field-level family welfare assistants, two each from six divisions. One best Union Parishad and one best NGO from each division also received awards and certificates for their contribution to the national family planning, maternal and child health-care respectively. Later, the minister inaugurated a fair to mark the day, at Osmani Memorial Hall.

Earlier, a colourful procession

was brought out from the National Museum at 7.30 am that ended at the National Press Club. Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf led the procession while State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof Dr M Amanullah and Health Secretary MM Reza participated.

UNESCO Club

The role of teachers including primary and madrasah teachers in family planning has been stressed at a seminar in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The speakers at the seminar marking the World Population Day called upon the authorities to introduce appropriate curriculum at the primary and secondary education level.

They also urged all sections of the society, especially the teachers, to come forward to help contain the population growth. The objective of arresting the growth rate cannot be achieved without their involvement in the programme, said the speakers.

Bangladesh National UNESCO Club Association organised the seminar on Role of Teacher Community for Containing the Population Boom at the Bureau of Education.

Chaired by general secretary of the Association Mahbub Uddin Chowdhury, Advocate Golam Kibria, Muhammad Sharif, M Enayetur Rahman and Gias Kamal Chowdhury, among others, spoke at the seminar.

'ASEAN, SAARC can play vital role'

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury has expressed the hope that bodies like SAARC and ASEAN could play important role in resolving interstate, bilateral and regional problems in the coming century, reports BSS.

Speaking at World Council of former Foreign Ministers in Moscow on Friday, Chowdhury said these (SAARC and ASEAN) cooperative organisations have the potentials to play important role in solving problems, a message from the Russian capital said. He dwelt on the failure and success of diplomacy of the century which is on way out.

Over forty renowned foreign ministers attended the meeting which began on Wednesday. Former Indian Prime Minister who was also Foreign Minister I K Gujral and Pakistan's top-most diplomat and former Foreign Minister Aga Shahi were among the prominent foreign ministers from the sub-continent.

The speaker was confident that the countries of the region by overcoming communalism and being imbued with the spirit of SAARC and based on friendship and cooperation would be able to resolve the existing bilateral and regional problems, the message added.

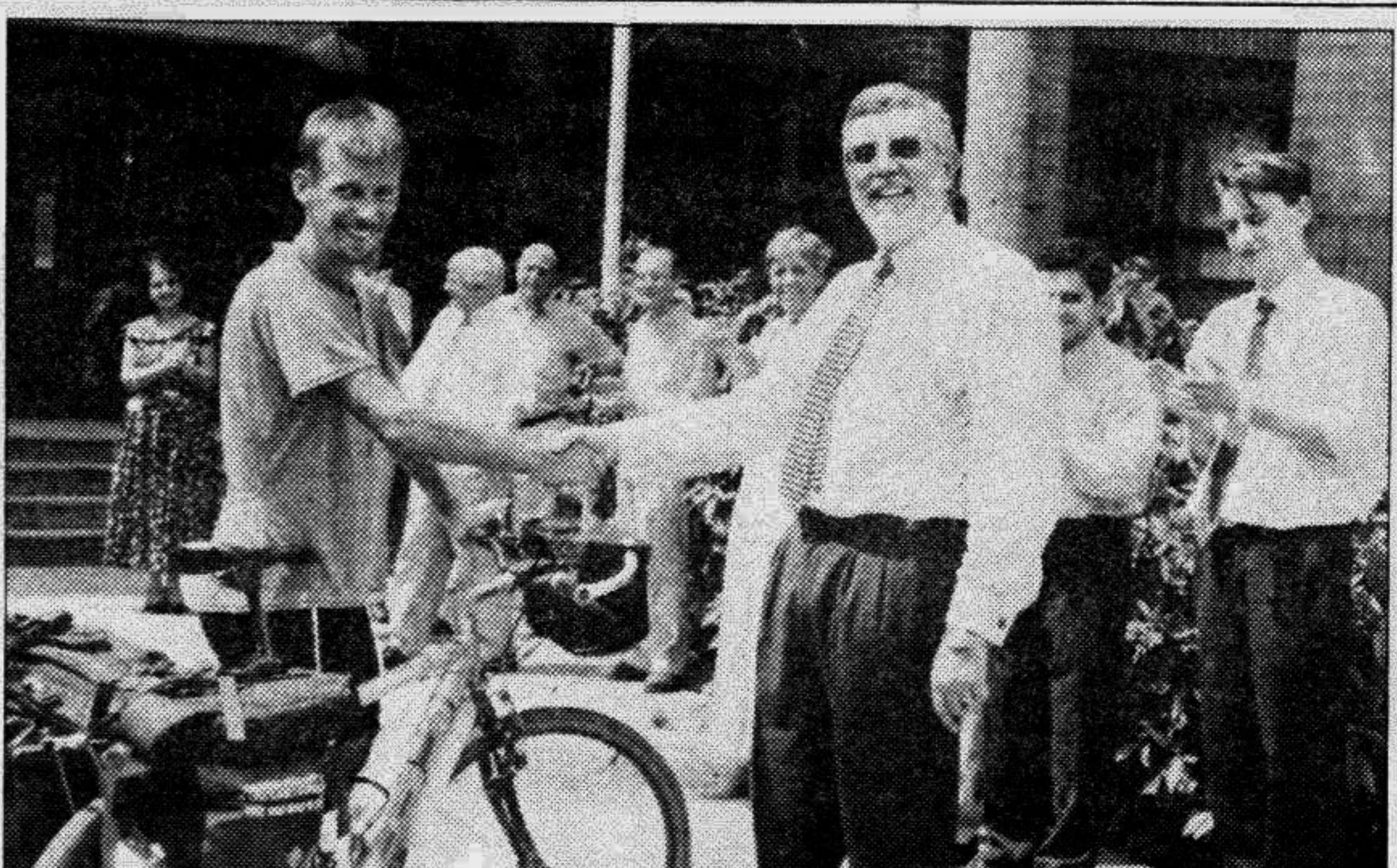
The conference exchanged opinion on the NATO move to unilaterally resolve Kosovo problem through military means bypassing the United Nations.

Beheaded body of 2-year-old girl recovered

BAGERHAT, July 11: The police recovered beheaded body of a two-year-old girl from a pond in village Apar Moubhob under Fakira thana today, reports UNB.

Residents and police suspect that the baby, Sonia, was lifted by unknown assailants from the bed close to her mother, Khodeza Begum, who were sleeping at night in the thatched house. The brutes beheaded the baby and threw into the pond. The body floating on the pond was recovered by the police this morning.

A case was filed with Fakira thana. The police said motive of the murder of the baby was not yet clear to them.



The British Acting High Commissioner to Bangladesh Stephen Turner (right), received a British cyclist, Ian Owen (left), at the British High Commission in Baridhara on Thursday at the end of his charity cycle ride from Lahore to Dhaka. Members of the British High Commission staff and the British community in Dhaka were present on the occasion to welcome Owen, who arrived in Dhaka completing the 'High Road to Dhaka Expedition' by cycling 4,619 km from Pakistan, via India and Nepal to raise funds for cancer treatment.

Speakers say Population growth rate must be controlled

By DU Correspondent

Speakers at an open discussion yesterday underscored the need for proper education, elimination of religious superstition and equal distribution of human resources to check the country's high population growth rate.

Identifying the population problem of the country as a curse, they said that if we fail to educate women properly and eliminate superstition about control of births, we will face a dire consequences in near future.

They were addressing the discussion on "Year Six Billion: Choices and Responsibilities in the Next Millennium" at the TSC auditorium yesterday. Department of Population Sciences of DU organised the discussion on occasion of World Population Day with DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

The speakers also stressed adopting tools and techniques in broad socio-economic perspective to check the high birth rate in the country.

"The ratio of population to food production cannot be maintained if the situation is not controlled," renowned economist Prof. Rehman Sobhan said while discussing various problem causes related to over population.

He said, "We have to go a long way to reduce and control the high birth rate in South Asia particularly in Bangladesh."

Prof Khaliqzaman said that the population problem should be given priority as it become a serious problem for the country.

DU Proctor and chairman of

the Department of Population Sciences Prof AKM Nurul Nabi in his keynote paper said that our future will be threatened if the current rate of population growth continues into the next century.

He said we entered the current century with less than two billion people but at present we are leaving it behind with more than six. "If we don't take immediate measures the population of the country will be nearly 220 million soon at the current growth rate of 17 per cent."

Prof Nabi said the implications of increased population growth would have a serious bearing on the country's social and economic development, manifestations of which are to come in the form of crime, and unemployment. "Poverty will be perpetuated through degradation of environment. It will result in increase in infant and maternal mortality, morbidity and poor health and malnutrition."

Among others, UNFPA Bangladesh representative Shuyun Xu, Prof Abul Barkat, Prof Nazrul Islam, Prof. Badrudduza, Prof Nurul Islam and Rahat Khan addressed the discussion.

A debate on "Effective Management of Population is the Key to Development" was also arranged on the occasion.

Earlier in the morning, a colorful rally was also brought out on the DU campus led by DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, The Proctor, different faculty deans, university teachers and students also took part at the rally.



Amra Kuri, a children's organization brought out a colourful rally in the city yesterday marking World Population Day.

PSC: Violation of rules

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omended appointment of 29 assistant professors, 28 associate professors and 23 professors of medical colleges last year by accepting their "current charge" as "regular experience".

As per rule, current charge is not acceptable as regular service tenure or regular service experience.

When contacted, a senior official of the Establishment Ministry requesting anonymity said that considering current charge as regular experience was "gross violation of rules". Asked how PSC considered current charge as regular experience, he said PSC does not have the authority to decide it. Any appointment accepting current charge as regular experience is "illegal and a clear violation of government rules", he said.

Health Secretary MM Reza also said, according to government rules, there is no scope to accept current charge as regular experience.

When contacted, retired PSC member Dr Moshir Rahman who was in charge of the recruitment process said the appointments were made as per approval of a meeting of the PSC with its Chairman in the chair.

"There is no question of violation of rules because the appointments clearly stated that any experience termed equivalent by the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) would be considered," he said.

"Since BMDC's suggestion is owned by the government, there is no question of violation of rules and the appointments were made as per government rules. Moreover, the issue was approved by the Health Ministry," he said.

He also cited the case of one surgeon, Dr SR Khan, who was appointed Professor earlier though he did not have a single day's experience as Associate Professor.

When contacted, Registrar of BMDC Dr SM Nuruzzaman said BMDC did not forward any certificate of equivalence regarding current charge of doctors. "The issue of certificate of

equivalence regarding current charge is irrelevant in this case as it is only applicable in case of degrees obtained from abroad," he said.

The entire selection procedure which was started in 1996 was completed last year. It was alleged that service rules were violated in all the cases of appointments under the Ministry of Health.

Embankment

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for permanent settlement". The Dhaka flood protection embankment from Tongi to Killarmor in the west is about 30 kilometres.

"Due to this massive settlement on the embankment, we can not even carry out emergency work on it, let alone periodic maintenance," said an engineer of the WDB.

The WDB is now planning to build an eight-kilometre road from Satmasjid to Killarmor spending nearly Tk 16 crore of borrowed money. But it is already in trouble with thousands of families who have settled on the embankment.

An official of the WDB said negotiations are underway to pay "some compensation" to the encroachers and make way for the road which will lead to Mitford Hospital.

As the WDB is trying to negotiate a passage through the embankment, up to four rows of shanties have been built on it. Several thousand poor families are living on the embankment and open-pit latrines, toxic waste from the tanneries, lack of drinking water and proper schooling facilities for their children.

Most of these families said they are paying rent to mas- taans who built those shanties. WDB engineers said the design of the embankment suffered as the settlers dug holes in the slopes to construct their shanties.

The solution is not forced eviction but rehabilitation of these people elsewhere," said one engineer.

Student leader

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road in front of Aziz Hall, hit him with hockey sticks and iron rods. They also stabbed him with machetes and, at one stage, shot him several times.

Hospital sources said that Sohel sustained bullet injuries at his chest, back and legs and that he died on the spot. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

No case, however, was filed with police in this connection till filing of this report late last night.

PM: AL success

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the power problem in the country. "In last three years, we have increased power generation by 750 megawatts and taken plans to generate more in accordance with the future demand."

She said the government made parliament effective and introduced the prime minister's question hour in the House. "But the Leader of the Opposition does not attend the sessions of Parliament and ask question during the question hour," she regretted.

About the opposition hartals in protest of the budget, Hasina said the budget aims to protect interest of the poor rural people, the deprived section of society which is not being liked by the opposition parties.

Prices of essentials did not rise after the budget, and this is a good sign, she noted, explaining budgetary measures. Provision of allowance for the poor elderly people has been kept in the budget and special allocation has been made for the poor widows of the rural area.

"We have given Tk 3270 crore as agricultural loan, created housing funds, taken steps to reach health care services to the doorstep of the people and spread education," Hasina told her overseas supporters.

The highest allocation has been made in the budget for education sector. The opposition probably does not like it and so it has indulged in hartals.

Referring to the development of Sylhet, the prime minister said huge development programmes had been taken for the division. She mentioned steps for the infrastructure development, including upgrading the airport to international level. Now Airbus are landing in Sylhet after further expansion of the runway. Boeing from London will be able to land there.

Fresh flood

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The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said the Ganges along with the Brahmaputra, the Meghna and south-eastern hill systems are in spate. Though the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna remained below the danger mark the Karatoa in the Ganges Basin, Dharla at Kurigram in the Brahmaputra Basin, the Surma at Kanaighat and Sunamganj and in the south-eastern hill basin at Parsuram the Murti are flowing above their red mark, the FFWC added.

The rains and swelling of the rivers have triggered panic among the people living in fear that the rivers will burst their banks if they continue to rise, correspondents reported.

BSS news agency quoting WDB officials said that river erosion which forced hundreds of people homeless, took a serious turn across the country due to incessant rains and strong current in the Brahmaputra, Padma, Meghna and Jamuna.

WDB officials said that erosion in Bhupur, Sariakandi, Fulchari, Rajshahi, Munshiganj, Chandpur, Luxmipur, Manikganj, Pabna, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Sunamganj remained unabated due to the rains and strong river current, BSS added.

The FFWC said in its forecast that the Padma at Bhagayati in Munshiganj is likely to flow 7 cm and 20 cm above danger mark today and tomorrow. The river will remain below danger level at Hardinge bridge and Goalundo, today and tomorrow.

Other rivers are also expected to rise but will stay below danger level.

Rain

Met office said that Chandpur recorded the highest fall of 358 mm, and Dhaka city 144 mm fall, the highest this monsoon since it began late May.

The rains falling in the city since Friday night and after a pause Saturday afternoon continued throughout yesterday.

It widely disrupted normal life with low areas and many streets going under water, clogged drains and overburdened sewerage failing to clear the excess load.

The day long showers made it difficult for the city's poor to find work, hawking fish and vegetables and other goods or pedal rickshaws, leaving most people crowding the limited number of auto-rickshaws and buses available on the streets.

The temperature also came down with the rains leaving the city dank and cool.

Babul on remand

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lice near the Zero Point on the night of July 7.

Police yesterday produced Shamsuddin Ahmed and Babul before the CMM's court at about 1 pm. The police prayed for granting a ten day remand for Babul and a seven day remand for Shamsuddin.

The DB earlier interrogated Shamsuddin after a two-day remand on Friday last.

Lawyers of the arrested moved bail petitions on behalf of their clients. Metropolitan Magistrate Abdus Salam Miah, appearing both sides granted a four day remand for Babul and a two day remand for Shamsuddin.

Storm hits Peshawar: 12 killed

PESHAWAR, July 11: At least 12 people were killed and more than 200 injured today as a storm hit the northern Pakistani city of Peshawar, officials and hospital sources said, reports AP.

Hundreds of houses were damaged and trees were uprooted by the strong wind and heavy rain that swept through Northwest Frontier province.

Four members of a family, including three children, died when a house collapsed in Sulatanabad, a poor neighbourhood of Peshawar, a district official said.

The storm also disrupted electricity supplies in the provincial capital.

Khaleda

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built up by one's performance among the people... For getting party nomination, you'll have to prove your worth in serving people and the country," she told the district leaders.

Begum Zia said BNP would win elections and run the country if the party workers and leaders work together to earn the confidence and trust of the people.

Referring to press reports, the BNP chairperson said the ruling party was involved in scandal while allotting plots in the capital. "This government is busy making fortune for their partymen instead of resolving the crises related to basic needs of the people."

She asked the district leaders to inform people in their respective areas about the "misdeeds and misuse of the Awami League government" through posters, leaflets, rallies and public contact.

The BNP chairperson will exchange views with the party's Habiganj district committee tomorrow.

Fertilizer situation reviewed

The government has fixed the target of Urea demand at 23 lakh tonnes for the current fiscal, official sources said yesterday, reports BSS.

The target of urea demand was 21.79,000 tonnes last year. The government has increased the target this year to further encourage the farmers in view of the better Aman productions last season.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Fertiliser Distribution Advisory Committee with Prime Minister's Food and Agriculture Advisor M Anisuzzaman in the chair.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed and Minister for Food and Agriculture Begum Motia Chowdhury attended the function.

The meeting expressed satisfaction over overall fertiliser situation in the country after an elaborate discussion on its production, supply, stock and pricing.

The meeting also decided not to allow from today opening of letter of credit (LC) for importing powdered Single Super Phosphate (SSP) and gypsum fertiliser.

Re-union of Girls' Cadet College students

The 1st re-union of ex-cadets of Girls' Cadet College will be held on March 19, 2000, says a press release.

All ex-cadets have been asked to register their names with one of the following members:

Ummi Rumana Khanam (Phone: 860991), Rumana Sohan (9120163), Mili (9334268), Sonia (9331221), Shifa (507413), Nurat Jahan (9120498), Manna (912750), Nurat Mou (371585), Zenifar Alam (865678), Sabina Lipi (892021), Sheuli (415003), Jui (802052), Sonia Gafur (819611).

Militants

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India and Pakistan have been talking with each other on the telephone for the first time they met in person.

The meeting went on for more than two hours and was still in progress late today at an Indian border post in Atari in the state of Punjab, army spokesman Major Gen JJ Singh told reporters in New Delhi. Details of the talks were not immediately known.

This morning, Indian infantry soldiers held back fire in all the four sectors of Kashmir where the fighting has raged. The move apparently was to allow the intruders to climb down the mountains and cross back into Pakistan.

Liaison body

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committee demanded immediate withdrawal of the 'false' cases and release of BNP leader and DCC ward commissioner Jahiruddin Babul, arrested in connection with the cases.

The statement said that being isolated from the people, the government was now hatching conspiracies against the Opposition to cling to power. Killing of the policeman and efforts to shift the blame on the Opposition are part of those conspiracies, it added.

The liaison committee further said it is now clear to the people that this government can resort to any evil practice to stay in power.

The committee prayed for salvation of the departed soul of Farhad and expressed sympathy for the bereaved family members. It also demanded adequate compensation for the victims.