



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 Meshquddin also attended this seminar.

British cyclist in city

A British citizen, Ian Owen, arriving 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 Halibari 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.

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 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 healthcare 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 measures, he added.

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

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.

Earlier, a colourful process-

sion 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.

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Modernisation of madrassah education underscored

BARISAL, July 11: Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdulla has called upon the madrassah teachers and Imams to equip themselves with modern knowledge to cope with the changes of the 21st century, reports BSS.

He said the government has taken up a number of schemes for the development of madrassahs for the expansion of religious education.

Hasanat said this while distributing 15,000 copies of the Holy Quran, received from the Saudi mission, among the students of different madrassahs, mosques and people of Gourndi and Agaibhara thanas of the district on Saturday as the chief guest in the Gourndi Parashava conference room.

He also said the government has taken up measures against corruption and management in some madrassahs of the country. But some vested quarters are acting against these steps for political gains and spreading rumours that the government has been conspiring to stop madrassah education, he added.

The chief whip said those who use Islam in politics are not real Muslims.

Assuming BNP of anti-Islamic activities along with other political parties, he said, they are working against the government and the Awami League to hide their real images.

He expressed deep satisfaction that Imams and Musallis are playing a vital role in removal of poor training and edu-

cation from society through their joint efforts.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner M Alauddin, the function was addressed, among others, by Divisional Commissioner Yeahia Molla, District Awami League Office Secretary Talukder Md Yunus, Gourndi Parashava Chairman Golam Sarwar Farook, Agaibhara Thana Awami League Leader Md Rabi Serniabat, Gourndi Thana Jam-e-Masjid Imam Alhaj Qari A Majid, Tarki Bandar Jam-e-Masjid Imam Maulana Abdul Awal, Saudi mission representative Abdul Mannan Sarkar and Police Super Mostafijur Rahman.

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 Agha 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.

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 it 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.

'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 which is on way out.

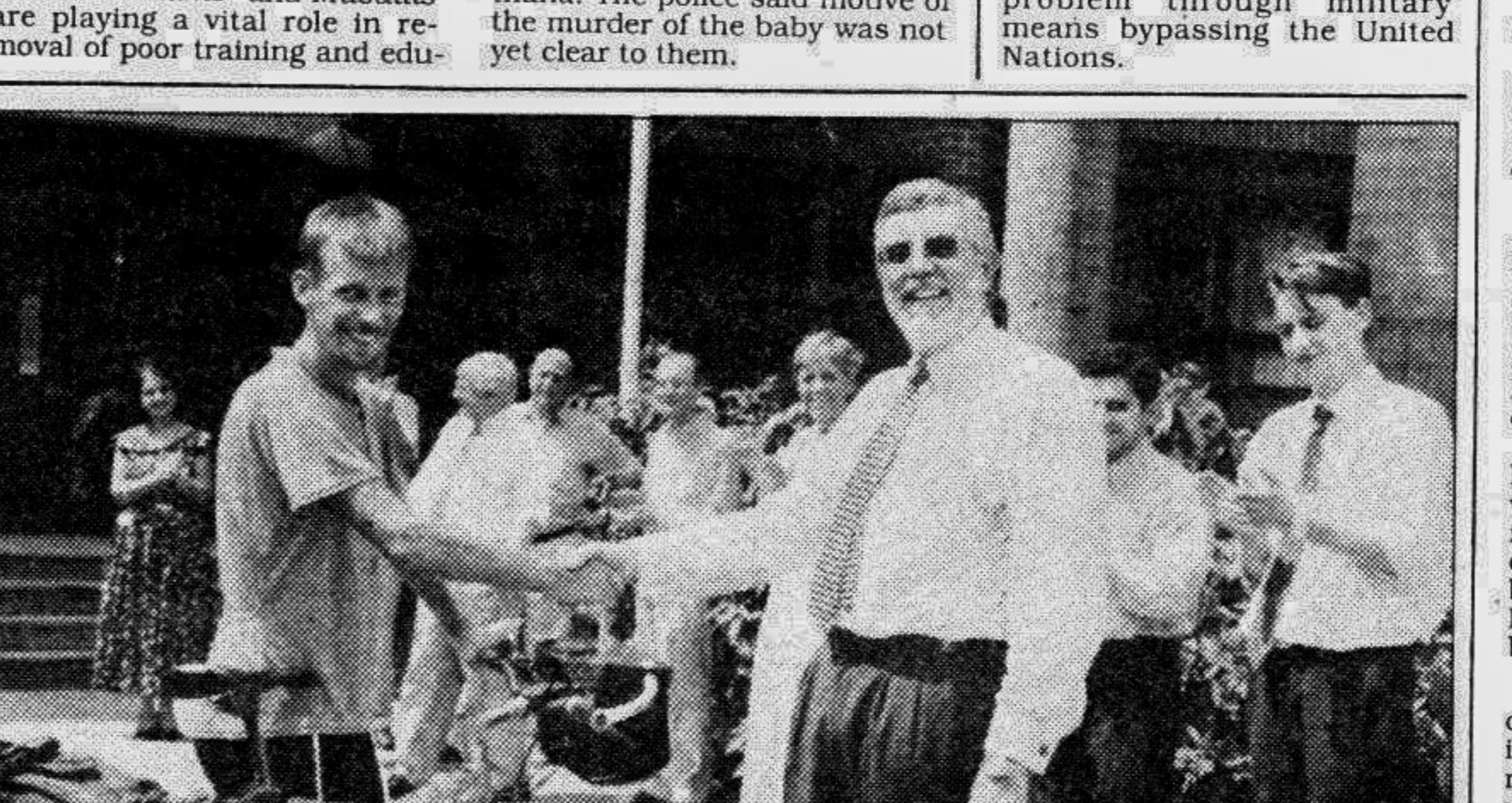
Speaking at World Council of former Foreign Ministers in Moscow on Friday, Chowdhury said these (SAARC and ASEAN) cooperative organisations have the potentials to play important role in solving problems, a message from the Russian capital said. He dwelt on the failure and success of diplomacy of the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

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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. 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 the occasion of World Population Day 1999.

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 degeneration of environment. It will result in increase in infant and maternal mortality, morbidity and poor health and malnutrition in the country."

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 colourful rally was also brought out on the DU campus led by DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury.

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

DU Proctor and chairman of

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

From Page 1

the power problem in the country. "In last three years, we have increased power generation by 750 megawatts and taken plans to generate power 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 interests 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 step 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 Airbuses are landing in Sylhet after further expansion of the runway. Boeing from London will be able to land there.

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