

## Homogeneity in language Bangladesh, West Bengal help reduce fertility rates

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion yesterday observed that the homogeneity in language and other socio-cultural aspects between Bangladesh and West Bengal of India has helped reduce the fertility rates.

Held at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the dialogue on 'Fertility Behaviour in Bangladesh and West Bengal' was addressed, among others, by Sajeda Amin, Alaka Malwade Basu, Rob Stephenson, Professor Aminur Rahman, Swapan Adnan with CPD Chairman Professor Rehman Sobhan in the chair.

Referring to her draft study report, Sajeda Amin said that there was strong evidence of higher contraceptive preva-

lence in the bordering districts of Bangladesh and the Bengali speaking districts in India.

She mentioned that there is a wide range of overall method use from less than 25 per cent to about 75 per cent in the border districts of both Bangladesh and West Bengal.

Other discussants said that though the family planning programmes in Bangladesh and West Bengal are quite different, the level of contraceptive prevalence in border districts was almost same.

The cross border communication of the people in different ways create some sort of similarity in socio-cultural arena, that help reduce fertility rates, they observed.



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Khaleda Zia held a meeting with party MPs at her Minto road residence yesterday. —Star photo

### One robber arrested in Narayanganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Feb 7: A petrol team of 'Bandar' thana police arrested a robber after cross-firing with the group of robbers on Sunday night in Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Police said that around 2.15 am on Sunday a group of 10 or 15 robbers blocked the Dhaka-Chittagong highway near 'Madanpur'. A police patrol team reached the spot and chased the robbers who threw bombs to them. The police shot four rounds of bullets and managed to hold arrest only one of the robbers named Nuruzzaman, 28. They recovered a hand-made bomb from him. The others escaped.

A case has been filed under 'Bandar'.

### 33 held

CHITTAGONG, Feb 7: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested 33 alleged miscreants from different parts of the city during the last 24 hours, ending 6 pm today, reports BSS.

Kotwali police recovered one light gun, three cartridges and two foreign made daggers from a brief case thrown away from an autorickshaw at Station Road.

Absconders, violators of CMP act and terrorists were among 33 arrested miscreants.

### BMSSS hails President's decision

Bangladesh Muktioddha Smriti Sangrakhan Sangsad (BMSSS) has thanked President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed for not giving audience to hated war criminals including Jamaat chief Golam Azam despite repeated requests by Jamaat leaders, reports BSS.

A delegation of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, one of the four-party opposition alliance led by BNP, sought president's appointment to talk with him about the Public Safety Act, which was passed in the parliament recently.

The chairman of BMSSS M Ubedur Rahman and secretary general Md Ziaul Huq Kabi in a joint statement on Sunday said the killers of around 30 lakh people during the country's Liberation War in 1971 and the women repressors have been united in the name of rendering services to the country and its people.

"They are intended to render services through killing, looting and violating women like 1971 and '75 by scrapping the newly enacted Public Safety Act," the BMSSS leaders said.

They said the anti-liberation forces are opposing the most popular "Public Safety Act" to create unrest in society.

### BCL, CU unit formed

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 7: A five-member convening committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Chittagong University unit, was formed last night with Mohammad Kalim, general secretary of BCL CU as convenor.

The last committee was formed in 1993. No committee of the organisation was formed due to internal grouping for quite a long time.

The members of the committee are Nasiruddin Mohammad Babul, Ali Murtaza, Zahiruddin Mahmud Lipton, Zillur Rahman Juwel and Shafiqur Rahman. The convening committee will form a full-fledged committee within three months.

### Teenager commits suicide in old Dhaka

By Staff Correspondent

A teenage girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at Dhakeswari Rd in old Dhaka following a quarrel with her parents yesterday morning, police said.

Father of the victim said that he and his wife were not in the house when the incident occurred.

"We came to the house and found her body hanging from the ceiling," the father said, adding that she was immediately rushed to the DMCH.

### Call to refrain from political programmes on Swaraswati Puja day

Mohanagar Sharbojanin

Puja Committee yesterday appealed to all political parties to refrain from launching any political programme on February 10 which coincides with Swaraswati Puja, one of the greatest religious festivals of the Hindu community, reports BSS.

Hundreds of devotees on the day will offer their prayers to Swaraswati, the goddess of education, in different places across the country including over two hundred puja mandaps in the capital, a press release said.

### DAAD seminar on German academic exchange Feb 11

Bonn-based German academic exchange service — Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst — has organised a seminar at a local hotel marking its 75th jubilee celebration, reports BSS.

The seminar titled 'Academic and Scientific Exchanges and their Impact on Development' will start at 5 pm at Rajmoni Isha Kha Hotel at Kakrail in the city on February 11, a DAAD release said.

German Ambassador to Bangladesh U Schramm, Chairman of Bangladesh University Grants Commission Prof ATM Zahurul Huq, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury and Regional (Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) Director of DAAD Ms Hannelore Bossmann, among others, will attend the inaugural session.

### UAE envoy presents credentials

The newly appointed Ambassador of UAE Sayeed Mohammad Sultan Al-Zaabi presented his credentials to President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Welcoming the Ambassador President Shahabuddin said that Bangladesh's relations with UAE are built on strong foundations. Shared experience and mutual understanding bind the two countries, he said adding that they cooperate closely on matters of mutual interests.

He mentioned UAE's preference given to Bangladesh manpower and hoped that it will recruit more skilled and semi-skilled manpower from Bangladesh in future.

The president conveyed his sincere thanks to his highness Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, the president of the UAE, for his abiding interest in the welfare of the people of Bangladesh. He hoped that he would be able to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time. He also thanked the government and the people of UAE for their continued support for Bangladesh's economic development.

The newly appointed Ambassador of UAE Al-Zaabi recalled with satisfaction the existing brotherly ties between the two countries and hoped that the relations of friendship and cooperation would be further developed in future.

Earlier, on his arrival at Bangabhaban, the ambassador was given a guard of honour by the President's Guard Regiment. He took salute and inspected the guard.

### SAARC congress of cardiology concludes

By Staff Correspondent

The first two-day SAARC Congress of Cardiology ended with a renewed call for greater coordination, knowledge sharing and raising awareness about cardiac diseases and its risk factors and making its treatment more economical in the region.

Speakers said that some developing countries like the SAARC members are deprived of the outcome of modern science despite numerous success in the field. What we need right now is greater cooperation among ourselves with specific focus on prevention and control of cardiac diseases that may become number one killer disease in the region.

They reiterated the need for public education, promotion of physical activities, advocacy of health diets, legislation on tobacco which is considered the major risk factors for heart ailments.

Experts from SAARC countries agreed that incidents of heart diseases are increasing every year. With the development of modern technology the treatment cost of cardiac patients is also decreasing but it's still out of reach of mass people.

Some of the participants urged the policy makers to consider cutting tax on life-saving devices and accessories. "Tax evasion would not only bring down the cost of treatment in the region but also encourage research," said a cardiologist from India.

The congress, organised by SAARC Cardiac Society and Bangladesh Cardiac Society, focused on scientific sessions, special lectures, plenary sessions, symposiums, and slide and overhead projector shows.

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## VACANCY

The University of Asia Pacific invites application for the post of Assistant Director of Accounts/Accounts Officer:

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Candidates are requested to submit their application to the Administrative Officer UAP with detailed C.V Last date for submission of application is 20<sup>th</sup> February 2000.d

The University of Asia Pacific  
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Tel:966-4952-3  
Fax no.: 966-4950

## NOTICE

In the Court of Artha Rin Adalat No. 3, Dhaka.  
Title Suit No. 44/99

ANZ Grindlays Bank Limited  
2, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

.....Plaintiff

- Versus -

1. Oscar International Ltd.  
House No. 500/A, Road No. 7 (Old) 18 New,  
Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka.

2. Mr. Samiur Rahman Khan  
Managing Director  
Oscar International Ltd.  
House No. 500/A, Road No. 7 (Old) 18 New,  
Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka.

3. Mr. Nurul Majid Mahmud,  
Director,  
Oscar International Ltd.  
House No. 500/A, Road No. 7 (Old) 18 New,  
Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka.

4. Oscar Fashion wear Ltd.  
BSCIC Industrial Estate, Sagorica Road,  
Chittagong and its Head Office, House No. 500/A,  
Road No. 7 (Old) 18 New,  
Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka.

5. Mrs. Dil Afroze Khan  
Director of M/S. Oscar International Ltd.  
Wife of Mr. Samiur Rahman Khan,  
House No. 500/A, Road No. 7 (Old) 18 New,  
Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka.

6. Mr. Obaidur Rahman,  
Director, Oscar International Limited,  
House No. 500/A, Road No. 7 (Old) 18 New,  
Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka.

.....Defendants

The above suit was filed against you on 10.08.99 by the plaintiff Bank for realisation of Tk. 18,59,670.50 upto 12.06.99. You are notified to appear in the above suit pending before the Court on 24.02.2000 at 10:00 A.M. either in person or through an authorised Advocate failing which the suit would be exposed of ex-parte.

By order

Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan

Sharestadar

Sub-Judge, Artha Rin Adalat-3, Dhaka.

## OBITUARY



We are deeply shocked and sad at the sudden demise of our teacher Mr. A.K.S. Stephen who died on Monday, Feb 07, 2000. He was one of our longest serving teachers. May his soul rest in peace. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. May God give them courage to bear the loss.

Teachers, Staff & Students

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Interested persons are requested to send in application with resume along with a recent passport size photograph to reach the Human Resources Director by 17 February 2000. Copies of certificates & testimonials should NOT be enclosed with the application. The name of the position applied for must be mentioned on top of the envelope.

Only short listed candidates will be called for an interview.

Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited  
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