

Only democratic system can ensure economic, social dev

JS Speaker addresses C'wealth parliamentary confce

er Humayun Rasheed said democratisation is the defining feature of the civilisation at the beginning of the 21st century and hoped the Commonwealth would support democracy as the only form of governance, reports UNB.

"A broad consensus has been reached that only democratic systems can foster the environment necessary for economic and social development," said the Speaker addressing the opening plenary of the 46th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in London yesterday.

Possibly, he said, one of the most important facilitating factors in fostering democracy has been the unprecedented communications technology progress experienced over the past decade, generating what has been termed a new industrial revolution, the IT revolution.

The Speaker, in his speech, said the communications industry is flourishing in Bangladesh and destined to play an increasingly important part in

the development of the democratic process, building bridges between the people and their elected representatives.

"Our print media have now developed into a strong, free and independent voice reflecting many different opinions and views," he told the parliamentarians of the Commonwealth.

In addition, Bangladesh is in the process of opening up television industry to private operators, providing for television to become the most important means of communication and education for people throughout the country.

"We are estimating that by the end of the year 2000, more than 50 million people will have access to the broadcasts of our television channels," Humayun Rasheed said. These are the voters and consumers of today and tomorrow who would be influenced to a large extent by what they see and learn from the media.

Information highway is fast becoming the primary distribu-

tion channel for information and knowledge. Governments themselves are using technology to improve the quality and efficiency of public service, creating demonstrative and capacity building effects that encourage spread of innovation, the Speaker observed.

He said Bangladesh Parliament, for example, is striving to make documentation and information about the activities of the institutions available freely and easily for the public and, of course, for the members themselves.

This has begun with the Constitution and the Rules of Procedures and is continuing with the addition of the acts of Parliament and proceedings.

"We are also establishing a form of e-governance within and among our members by providing e-mail accounts to all members thus making them more accessible to their constituents and faster in the discharge of their parliamentary duties," Speaker Humayun Rasheed said.

Information should not be a luxury available to only a few, rather it should give opportunity of bringing knowledge to people at all levels throughout the world.

Funds raised for Amit's treatment

FARIDPUR, Sept 22: A popular vocalist has raised Tk 50,000 from a concert here for the treatment of ailing schoolboy Saikat Rahman Amit, reports UNB.

The 12-year-old boy has been undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in Dhaka since being attacked by the rare wild polio virus.

Vocalist Even organised the programme titled 'Concert for Life' at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall in the town in collaboration with Faridpur Reporters' Unity, enthraling a large number of crowds for 100 minutes.

Even and Rana handed over the proceeds to the Deputy Commissioner of the district for the treatment of Amit.



Convener of BNP city unit Sadek Hossain Khoka leading a procession of BNP's greater Noakhali district unit in the city yesterday. They were protesting the abduction of party leader advoate Nurul Islam.

— Star photo



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Indian Dance and Music Festival from Sept 26-28

A three-day Indian Dance and Music Festival will be held in three divisional headquarters of the country from September 26 to 28, an Indian High Commission press release said, reports BSS.

The Dhwani Khatak Group led by Vaswati Misra, a renowned choreographer and student of Pandit Birju Maharaj, will perform classical dance at National Museum in Dhaka on September 26 and Zilla Parishad Hall in Rajshahi on September 28.

Deepak Chowdhury, a lead-

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ing Indian sitar player and disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar, will present a sitar recital at Muslim Hall in Chittagong on September 26 and National Museum in Dhaka on September 27.

Complementary passes for the programme in Dhaka will be available from the Information and Cultural Wing. High Commission of India while passes for the performances outside Dhaka can be collected from the Assistant High Commissioners of India in the respective cities.

Other chairman candidates are Mofazzal Hossain, Abu Taher Chowdhury, Ajit Kumar, Nurul Islam and Lutfur Rahman.

The visit is aimed at gathering knowledge about women development projects of China and establishing a relationship between the two apex bodies to cooperate in the field of poverty alleviation of women of both the countries.

China has put in commendable efforts during the last 15 years to mitigate the sufferings of the Chinese women and have been running successfully over three thousand women entrepreneurship development projects.

According to insiders, president of upazila unit of Awami League, Kazi Abdul Majid and office secretary Sukumer Das were expelled from the party on Sept 12 as they were contesting the election against party candidate Eshak Hossain in definition of its decision.

The other chairman candidates are Mofazzal Hossain, Abu Taher Chowdhury, Ajit Kumar, Nurul Islam and Lutfur Rahman.

Rotarians have been requested to attend on time.

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held at Dhaka Club Ltd at 5.30 pm today, says a press release.

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