



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a meeting organised by the Awami League unit in the UK at Camden centre in London on Sunday. - AFP photo

Metropolitan

Pry teaches submit memo to President

A seven-member delegation of the Bangladesh Government Primary School Teachers' Association called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Association president Mohammad Abdul Awal Talukdar led the delegation.

The members of the delegation submitted a 15-point memorandum to the President, which includes amendment to appointment rules for primary teachers, introduction of school timing from 6 am to 2.30pm, promotion facilities, and free primary education up to class VIII.

In the memorandum, the

teachers also asked the authorities concerned to give them second class status and adopt a quota system for the wards of primary teachers when recruiting primary teachers.

The teachers requested the President to look into the matter and said they are keen to develop the primary education in the country.

They also apprised the President of their problems in discharging their professional duties.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed gave them a patient hearing and said that he would advise the authority concerned to look into the matter.

Cage aquaculture can help poor raise living standard

By Staff Correspondent

Tilapia fish could fetch more than Tk. 2,400 a year.

The technology is widely used across Asia but it has not spread in Bangladesh, he said. "This is due to high cost and poor quality of commercially available feeds." As a result, production of cage fish was only marginally profitable with returns of Tk. 890 per cage.

Colavito underscored the need for improving the quality of feeds for expansion of the cage aquaculture in Bangladesh.

Kenny McAndrew and Dr. Jean Yves Mevel also presented papers on the topic. Organised by Bangladesh Rural Enterprise and Agricultural Development Project (BREAD) and CAGES Project of CARE-Bangladesh, the workshop was held at a city hotel.

Colavito said a single cage of one square-metre producing

the past decade, cage aquaculture has found its way from the cold water of Northern Europe to warmer waters in this region.

He said in recent years commercial cage aquaculture has exploded across Asia with numerous success stories in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and China.

Fisheries contributed 3.3 percent of the GDP and employ 5 per cent of the country's labour force, experts said.

The Bangladesh Rural Enterprise and Agriculture Development (BREAD) project supported by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and implemented by Winrock International has recently conducted a feasibility study for the expansion of Cage Aquaculture in Bangladesh to increase food production.



CHEVENING SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME 2001/02

The British High Commission Dhaka invites applications for the Chevening Scholarship Scheme for the academic year beginning October 2001.

The scheme, run by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the United Kingdom, is open to first class degree holders only wishing to undertake one year's Masters study or equivalent level study in the United Kingdom. Candidates should be no older than 35 years old on 31 December 2000.

Applications which do not meet these criteria will not be processed.

Candidates are chosen strictly on the basis of merit. Successful candidates will show genuine potential and ambition to play a significant role in Bangladesh in the future. They will also be expected to demonstrate that they have the motivation, personality and academic ability to benefit from their chosen course of study in the United Kingdom.

Initial Application Forms should be obtained from the British Council at 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka 1000, or GPO Box 161, Dhaka 1000, and completed and returned by 1 November 2000.

Interviews will be held at the British High Commission in December 2000.

Continued from page-1

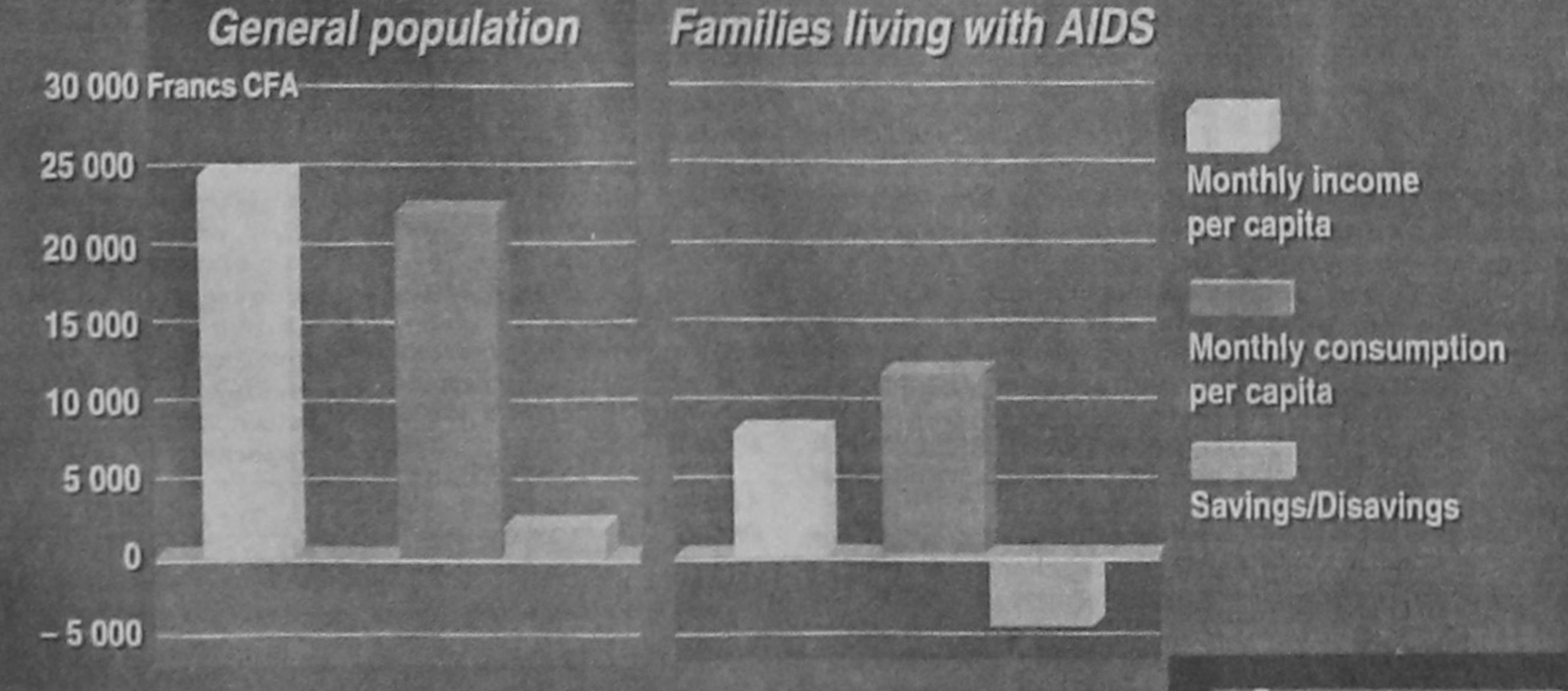
this takes the form of sex-work, but even otherwise women working as casual labour, as domestic help, and in many other jobs are subject to sexual abuse and exploitation. In such a situation they have no control over the circumstances under which sexual activity occurs, and cannot protect themselves. Violence in an intimate relationship is experienced by 47% of the women in Bangladesh (UNFPA, 2000). This indicates the risk women face as well as their lack of power to change the situation.

At the community level we find that poverty, or lack of resources, leads to inability to provide services which can prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. This includes essential services like safe blood, availability of disposable syringe, infection prevention measures, as well as more specialised services like special education, provision of clean needles and syringes for drug users, or STD treatment and condoms for sex workers.

Poverty, therefore, increases vulnerability and the likelihood of contracting HIV, as well as decreases the opportunities to prevent infection.

In poor households where there is no economic buffer and protection to absorb the effect of the high costs of repeated illness, loss of job due to absenteeism, or lack of income because the main earner cannot go to work due to AIDS, the impact is lasting, and affects the next generation. Households incur high debts, children are withdrawn from schools (or do not enrol). A UNICEF study in CAR showed that while school enrollment is 60% for the community as a whole, it is only 39% among children who

Impact of HIV/AIDS on urban households, Côte d'Ivoire



have lost one or both parents to AIDS).

At the community level, there is a drop in all productive activity. Agricultural production declines. In Zimbabwe maize production has declined by 61%, vegetables by 49%. For people living at the

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subsistence level, this leads to a significant drop in nutrition, as well as in community income. The education sector is affected as skilled manpower is not available. Manpower in transport sector is affected, which impacts on the entire economy. However, the impact is greatest among households and communities where resources to contain the epidemic and to meet the immediate needs are not available.

At the macro level, too costs are extremely high. In India, the cost of providing palliative care for opportunistic infections for one patient with HIV for a year, (with no special drugs like anti-retrovirals or protease inhibitors given), is sufficient to provide primary education for TEN children (The World Bank, 1997). The burden on the health sector is tremendous, with high costs for the recurrent infections that persons with AIDS experience.

Expenditure on HIV/AIDS of rural households, Thailand

	Group A	Group B
Spending on medical treatment	\$ 974	\$ 883
• hospital care (in/out)	\$ 441	
• drugs	\$ 242	
• private clinics	\$ 196	
• traditional healers	\$ 86	
• traditional herbs	\$ 50	
• local health centres	\$ 50	

Annual Income = approx. \$1,000

UNAIDS-Impact-April 1999

Source: Kongsin S., 1997



Another major cost that the epidemic imposes on countries is the cost of prevention. The cost of outreach and services for a single sex worker or drug user in Dhaka (as calculated jointly by the Government AIDS/STD Programme and an NGO doing extensive work in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention) was about \$60 per year. Mass education materials, air-time for TV and radio and other mass media costs are not included in this calculation. The total cost of prevention is thus enormous.

(Sponsored by UNDP)