

endeavour.

# Quest for Peace

Curtain comes down on the International Youth Peace Camp-2000.

By Tawfiq Ali

Anando, a non-governmental organisation, held a week-long International Youth Peace Camp from October 16 to 22 at Shanti Niketon, Jalechatra. The closing ceremony of this camp was held at the Anando Training Centre, Banani, Dhaka on October 29 at 6:30 in the evening. The participants of the peace camp came from India, Nepal, Germany, Japan, Thailand and host Bangladesh.

After the camp was over, campers got back to Bangladesh and visited many remote places of the country to exchange views and share experiences with the local people. Representatives of different organisations of home and abroad spoke of their camping experiences at the closing evening. The distinguished guests present at the occasion comprised of the first secretary to the Thai Embassy in Bangladesh, Chairperson of Anando's executive body and Professor of Philosophy, DU, Dr Anisuzzaman, Father Tim of Notredame College and Prof. Abdullah Al-Amin, Director Anando.

The closing evening began with the campers expressing and sharing their views on the youth camp. They also highlighted various aspects of the multicultural get together. Bijon from



Artistes rendering traditional song

Nepal said that the 21st century had just started. We had to encounter various challenges of the new millennium. "We are the descendants of such great souls as Buddha and Ghandji. Buddha and Ghandi had set a glorious tradition of peace and non-violence in this sub-continent. So, we have an important role to play in establishing global peace," said Bijon.

Miss Funny, from Thailand, felt that mixing together facilitated understanding and knowing each other and she also learnt from the camping how to coexist in peace and harmony. Sachiko while expressing her view of the peace camp said, "this

Bangladeshi conception of peace was unfamiliar to me. But it impressed me and I liked it. I am getting used to this idea."

Ranjit, from India, in his longish speech

said, "It had been my long cherished dream to visit this beautiful country. I am happy with hospitality that I have received here. I have learned a lot from the camp.

Youth force of a country is its greatest treasure who can change the face of and Anando is playing an important role in bringing out the potential of the youth force," said Ranjit. He fervently called upon the need to substantiate the very spirit of the camp. He also emphasised the need to follow-up action to implement the plan that they have framed together at the camp to bring about peace through non-violence. "We got together and shared our ideas and experiences; made a declaration. That's not all. Now is the time to implement the spirit that has inspired us," he further said.

Pain Shwe U, Co-ordinator, International Youth Peace Camp, who conducted the closing reiterated the objective of Anando in the field of social growth through development of the youth folk. He also outlined various aspects and achievement of the Peace Camp.

Prof. Abdullah Al-Amin, Director, Anando expressed his gratitude to all who participated in the camp both at Shanti Niketon and

level of society throughout the world.

b. Emphasizing that the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence would contribute to the strengthening of cooperation and international peace throughout active participation of adults.

c. Underlining that all curricula of education and learning should include education for

peace having free flow of information.

d. Inviting wider participation of women as effective actors for preventing all types of violence and conflicts of different dimensions.

e. Confident that the decade at

the start of the new millennium would open up new avenues for the suffering children to articulate their grievances through the global networks to be formed for safeguarding interests of the children of the world.

f. Seeking collaboration of all like minded Human Rights Bodies to keep UN Secretary General informed about all types of violence against children so that UN Bodies like UNESCO, UNICEF and their allied partners in development i.e. NGOs civil society can combat the constraints faced by the children.

g. Deciding to keep Anando-

Bangladesh informed of violence and atrocities committed against children.

h. Entrusting Anando-Bangladesh to plan and execute follow-up actions as discussed in the sharing session s of the IYPC-2000.

A cultural programme fol-

lowed the discussion to draw the curtains of the grand programme.

In selecting a MISS FOBANA to represent her community, beauty

was not the main factor taken into consideration. Alongside beauty, the attitude and aptitude of each candidate was judged as per Bengali culture and heritage. Pritiha's academic performance added to which is her many talents including that in dances and arts.

Pritiha Prosun, a 17-year

old Toronto resident was

crowned Miss FOBANA

2000 in the presence of a six

thousand strong audience at the

FOBANA Convention 2000 held

from September 1-3 at Hotel

Plaza International in Canada.

The FOBANA Convention is

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to protect and patronise

Bangladeshi culture and heri-

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time, this contest too is not for

beauty alone. Its beauty with a

purpose, organisers point out

explaining the decision to include

a beauty contest at the annual

event. And the purpose is to put

forward our culture and tradition

to the new generation being

brought up abroad.

The panel of judges selected

five out of the nine competitors for

the final round wherein the

achievement of each competitor

were analysed. The consideration

for this phase was the talent of

the participating girls. Each

competitor presented herself

before the judges with her best

performance. Pritiha demon-

strated her dance skills at this

section through her presentation

of an Odissi dance. The final stage

was a question and answer ses-

sion. Each competitor was asked

one English question and one

Bengali question. In answer to a

question Pritiha said that she

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Pritiha Prosun is the eldest

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Major (Retd) Sudhir Saha and

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"The charm of each achievement is

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Abdullah Al-Amin speaking at the closing ceremony

## beauty pageant

# Beauty with a Purpose

Prithula Prosun crowned Miss FOBANA 2000 at Toronto, Canada

### Cultural Desk Report

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