

festival

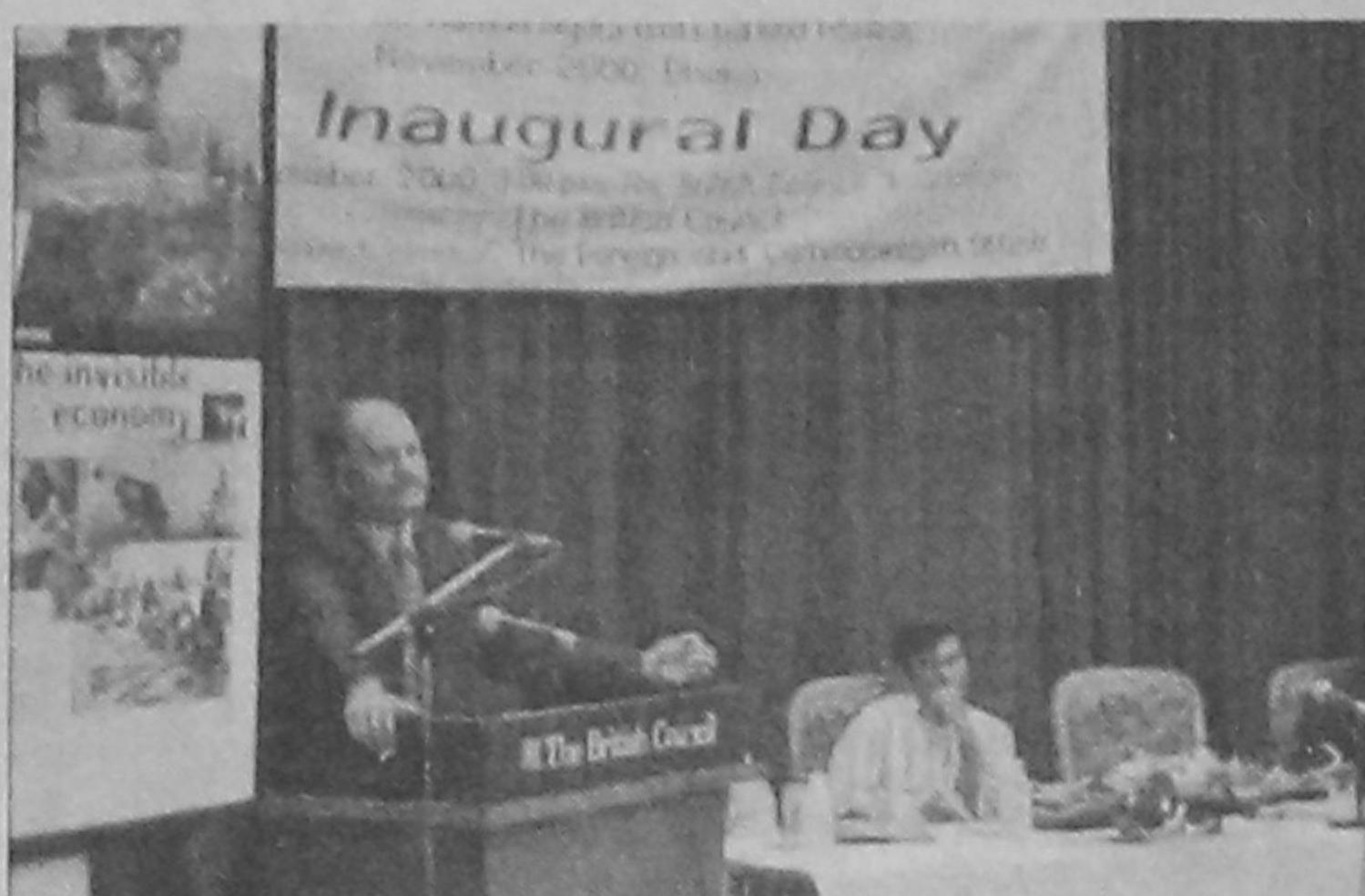
# More than a Drop in the Ocean

The First Human Rights Cartoon and Film Festival being held at British Council auditorium proved to be a great aid to awareness building on basic human rights

By Nafid Imran Ahmed

THE majority of our population who live below the poverty line, never have the blessings of education, access to basic health facilities and human needs, basic human rights do not make any sense to them.

Many programmes have already been undertaken by the government and non-governmental organisations to sensitize people about basic human rights. The Human Rights Cartoon and Film Festival organised by the British Council with the support from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), UK, will prove as great aid to the hapless million who do not



Abdul Matin Khoshru, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs delivering his speech at the inaugural ceremony of the festival.

of the articles of the constitution regarding human rights and discussed how the basic human rights were being violated and what should be done to protect one's rights.

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He appreciated The British Council and FCO for organising the festival.

After his speech a documentary titled 'Adhikar' written by Falguni Hamid was screened. In this 7-minute film created by Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh the life of a typical village housewife is portrayed. how she is tortured by her husband and how her mother-in-law tries to convince her that the wife who is beaten by her husband is blessed. And then the following day when her husband remarries and brings her home, she out of frustration decides to commit suicide. She ultimately decides against it and arranges money to sue her husband.

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yesterday was the Women and Human Rights Day. The screening of 'Lifeline' (a series of 12 X 1 minute spot shots), 'Bhaji on the Beach' (a feature film) and 'Dolls and Dust' were held, which was followed by discussion.

Tomorrow's films will be under the theme 'Traffic Victims, Refugees and Migrant Workers Day'. 'My Migrant Soul' (a story on modern day slavery), 'Shishu Pachar' (a Bengal programme on child trafficking), 'Refugee Women and Protection' (a video documentary) and 'In Search of Asylum Refugees in South Asia' are the films on the card.

On November 24, the concluding

feature film 'Cry Freedom' was held.

After a short tea break another feature film 'Cry Free-

dom' was screened. Directed by Richard Attenborough this 2 and a half-hour film is another revolutionary approach towards human rights.

The second day of the festival,

A scene from the movie When Good Men Do Nothing.

ing day will be devoted on child rights titled 'Child Rights Day'. A total of five films will be screened on the day 'Voices of Children' (a video documentary directed by Tareque and Catherine Masud).

The intention of this project is

not to produce new films. The films that are being screened at the festival have been chosen from a range of international material, which are approaches in handling human rights issues sensitively. The films will specially focus on access to justice, children's rights and women's rights.

There is no doubt that the festival will help the people to know about their rights and reach most of its goals. But one single approach is never enough for something that has been a major factor since centuries. Government and non-governmental organisations should initiate concerted efforts to try and enrich people about their rights and take proper actions so that these rights are not violated.

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