NSU convocation held

By DU Correspondent.

mony of North South University. one of the leading private universities in the country, was held works with a vision of becoming vesterday.

President Sahabuddin Ahmed. Pro-Vice Chancellor of the university Prof. Hafiz GA Siddiqi inaugurated the ceremony, held at the university's new campus at Bashundhara.

Degrees were conferred on 165 students, the highest so far for the university including 45 in its first ever batch of MBA graduates.

Dr. Richard A Yanikoski, president of Saint Xavier University, Chicago, delivered the convocation speech while MA Kashem. Chairman of Board of Governors, NSU Foundation and valedictorian Sakib Mahmud also addressed the ceremony. Canadian High Commissioner David Preston was also present.

Convocation Marshal Zafrul Karim conducted the programme while Prof. Hafiz GA Siddiqi was in the chair.

that higher education in the country is at crossroads now with the capacity of existing public universities too small to meet its growing demand.

basic input for socio-economic and Accounting and Tabassum transformation and advancement of a country and plays the were honoured with Summa Cum most important role in creating Laude.

The fourth convocation cere- trained workforce and future

leadership. Prof Siddiqi said that NSU one of the top universities in the On behalf of the Chancellor South Asian region and believes that creation of scientific knowledge and development of technology, which nurture materialism. must combine moral values and

> Richard A Yanikoski in his convocation speech said, "each of us may be tempted to turn our backs on the poor, ill or uneducated, but in serving them we fulfil our highest moral obligations to the society and attain a satisfaction that no other activity

> The graduates were called on to disseminate their knowledge and use their skills since they can effect cultural enlightenment among people and raise the level

The NSU has introduced Scholastic Honour Titles for the students who excel academic performance from this year. Under Prof. Siddiqi in his speech said three categories, a total of 23 students received the titles (4 Summa, 9 Magna and 10 Cum Laude).

Abdullah Al-Abed of Finance and He also said that education is a Accounting. Asif Iqbal of Finance Binte Haque of Computer Science

Modify engines

From page 12 ronment-friendly fuel.

DCCI President Aftabul Islam and Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, chaired the working and concluding sessions respec-

fessor Raliquil Islam. Project Coordinator of GTZ/BAS project of DCCI Michael K Nathan, NBR Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan, Secretary (multilateral) of Foreign Affairs Ministry Dr Towfig Ali, the European Commission to he added. Bangladesh Antonio de Souza others in the workshop.

Director of DCCI R Maksud workshop. Khan placed the recommendations at the concluding session.

It was also recommended that basic research on air pollution be strengthened. Measures should be taken for enforcement of emis- by 2004.

Eastern Refinery Ltd should be equipped with 'catalytic reforming and hydrofining processes' so that it can produce unleaded gasoline and low sulphur diesel.

State Minister for Energy Prof ment wants to make multiple use of the country's gas for its overall development. The government has already ensured import and distribution of unleaded fuel, encouraged use of environment

Some 1.080 vehicles now ply in Menezes participated among the city on CNG and the number is on the rise, he informed the

The state minister admitted that there was a shortage of CNG ment planned to raise the number to 10 by yearend and to 100

4 Palestinians killed, dozens hurt in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Nov 25: Israeli shells and bullets today killed four Palestinians and injured dozens more, the latest victims in eight weeks of violence gripping hospital officials said. the West Bank and Gaza Strip. reports AFP.

death toll to 282 people, as thouvarious parts of the territories to bury victims of the intifada or

by a gunfight between Israeli troops and armed Palestinians. A high-ranking Israeli officer ber.

had been killed by Palestinian fire from the camp on Friday.

day's gunbattle and shelling left seriously. Among the injured was an ambulance nurse.

Violence also ripped through the West Bank, where Israeli troops killed three Palestinian stone-throwers.

Twenty-one year-old Amjad Azmi Mohammed was shot dead in the chest by Israeli soldiers at the northern entrance to Jenin,

Just outside the town, in the despite renewed diplomatic village of Arraba, 18-year-old Abdel Munin Ezzedin died after he was shot in the head by Israeli soldiers, officials said.

> In Nablus, after funerals were held for two Palestinians killed the day before, another stonethrower, 30 year-year-old Fuad Dweiakat, was shot dead by Israeli troops, officials at the el-Itihad hospital said.

Saturday's bloodletting came a day after an Israeli army major was shot and killed by bullets fired from the Khan Yunis refugee camp, making him the highestranking soldier killed since the conflict broke out in late Septem-

Another soldier was killed on Thursday when an explosion ripped through a joint liaison office near Neve Dekalim, prompting Israel to temporarily sever low-level security cooperation on the ground. Despite the mounting Jewish

death toll, most of the victims of the latest intifida against Israel have been Palestinians.

From page 1 1990 levels of emissions by 2010. "The world needs Kyoto," said Prescott. 'It needs a deal and nies in September this year at Tk people have got to keep on doing 113 crore.

> commented a Drug Administration official. "We don't have any report of such illegal practice as

Ershad

private and sent it along with the transcript to the Chief Justice on Wednesday for taking action against the "unbecoming conduct" of a judge.

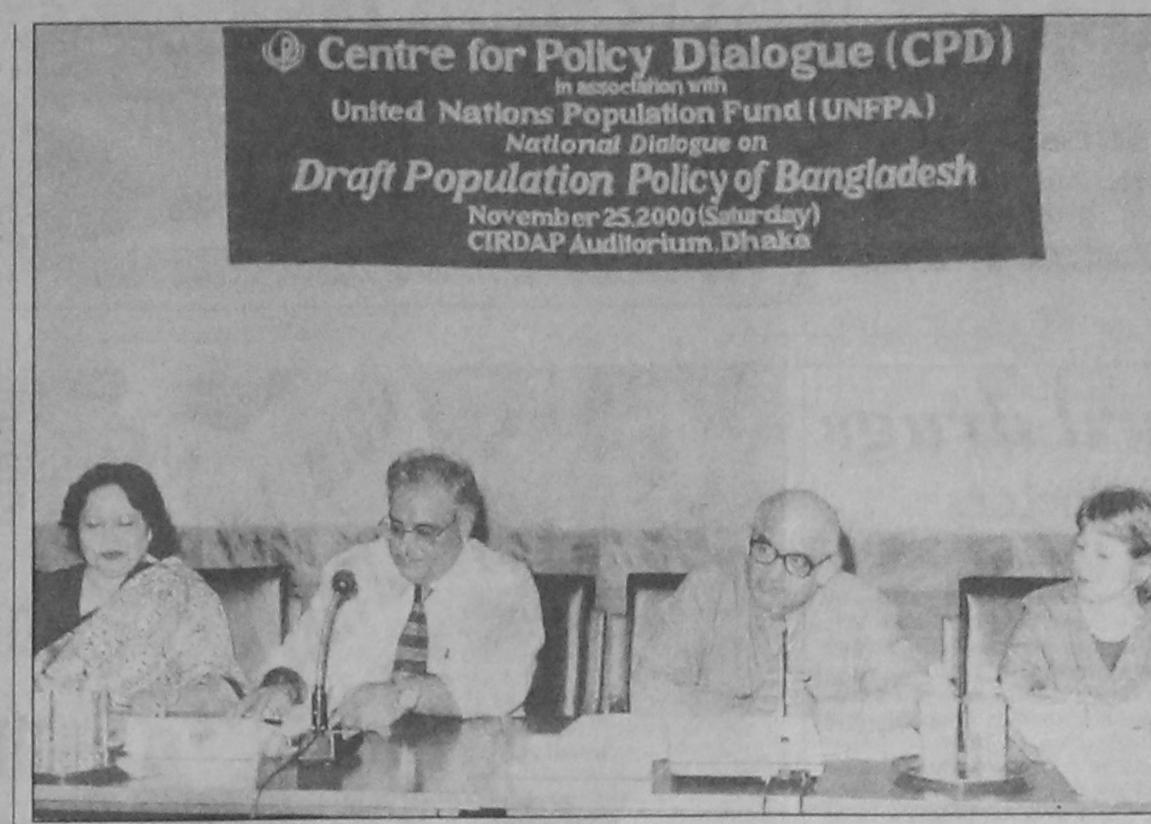
It was followed by resignation of Justice Mohammad Latifur Rahman on Thursday. The HC will give its order on Monday whether to draw contempt of court proceedings against the judge whose name was not dis-Alden Meyer of the US Union of

ing court questions about the source and how it obtained the

Ershad's lawyers said they are also going to challenge whether the voice recorded in the cassette

They said there are modern techniques by which voice can be synthesised.

Sources close to state attornevs said it will be a blunder on the part of Ershad's lawyers to seek a retrial of the case on the basis of the cassette. One source said he heard the cassette and is convinced that it contained Ershad's voice.



Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in association with the United Nations Population Fund organised a National Dialogue on "Draft Population Policy of Bangladesh" at the CIRDAP auditorium yesterday. From left are Dr Hamida Akhter, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, CPD chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan and UNFPA Deputy Representative Janet E Jackson. - Star photo

Population policy focuses on healthcare for women, children and the old

By Staff Correspondent

Chowdhury, former Health Sec-

The draft population policy has emphasised the long-term support for old people, method of population distribution policy to handle the alarming condition of urbanisation and further mobilisation of existing family planning practices.

It also aims to decrease malnutrition and take satisfactory measures for women and child health development to ensure better health service for the masses. It has, in fact, focused specially on the country's social, economic and environmental

This was revealed by experts at a seminar on the 'draft report of National Population Policy being formulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The seminar was held in the CIRDAP auditorium under the aegis of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and the United Nations Fund for Population Assistance (UNFPA). CPD chairman Prof. Rehman

Sobhan conducted the seminar

participated by Secretary of the

Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare Saved Alamgir Faruq

retary Mohammad Ali, UNFPA Deputy Representative Janet E. Jackson, former JU Vice Chancellor Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Prof. Ataharul Islam of Dhaka University and former Planning Commission official Dr. M.A.M ahbub. CPD Executive Director Dr. Debapriya Bhattachariya wel-

comed the guests while population expert Dr. Hamida Akhter presented the draft of the report. UNFPA deputy representative Janet E Jackson said, "The government of Bangladesh should devise a comprehensive population policy that details programmes that will be aimed

towards adolescents' concerns. Issues like reproductive healthcare, sexual and reproductive health education, early and forced marriage, use of contraceptives, unsafe delivery, should be addressed."

"Since Bangladesh has a huge number of young people, it has possibility of a large population growth. In the year 2020, the net increase of the people will be 42.7 seminar was told.

million. Under the present condition of our economy, this population will play havoc on our socioeconomic growth," Dr. Hamida Akhter said while presenting the draft report at the meeting.

The experts also observed that migration to urban areas will continue resulting in total urban population in the year 2005 at 35 million representing 75 of the country's total population at that time. This rise in urban population will widely affect the infrastructure in the towns and cities naturally raising the demand for health and social service.

They also referred to malnutrition, arsenic pollution and killer diseases like HIV/AIDS and urged the government to address these problems ensuring sound health for all, specially the boys and girls. The population of the country

at present is about 12.9 crore (129 million) which is expected to rise to 13.8 crore (138 million) by 2005 with 39.1 million women with reproductive ability, the



DCCI President Aftabul Islam speaking at a workshop on "Impact of Auto-exhausts on the Environment and its Possible Solutions" held in the city yesterday. Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and Commission of the European Communities organised the event. - Star photo

S Africans march against abuse of women, children

2,000 men marched through central Cape Town today to protest the high rate of abuse of world, reports AFP.

for the event.

The march, under the theme "Men Can Make a Difference," coincides with the International Day for Elimination of Violence referring to a 14-year-old school-Against Women.

care. Real men don't rape, they don't abuse women," Ndungane

personal anger against the abuse of women," said marcher Rodney Morgan, wearing a T-shirt reading "Castrate a rapist."

Current holder of the Mr. South Africa title, Nicholas Volsteedt, said alcohol abuse contributed to the abuse of women. "Don't hang out at the pub and go home to abuse your wives and children, stay at home and spend quality time with

Robin Barnes, a 16-year-old number of actual rapes could be school boy, said: "I know women twice as high as the reported who have been abused and I am figure, it says.

CAPE TOWN, Nov 25: About here because I feel very strongly

against violence against women." The marchers were met at the gates of parliament by as many women who showered them with white petals. This is to welcome them, to appreciate them," one woman told AFP.

ity Solly Philander told the crowd Njongonkulu Ndungane and here all agree that abuse and other religious leaders who had violence must end, but there is hoped 10,000 men would gather also emotional abuse that must end. One of the placards on display

said, "Remember Valencia Farmer and others like her," girl who was gang-raped and 'We want to show that men do stabbed more than 50 times in Cape Town last year. Valencia's distraught mother

Sylvia told the SAPA news agency This is an expression of my that she had attended the march because she did not want other mothers to experience a similar ordeal to hers. According to police figures,

more than 51,000 rapes or attempted rapes were reported in South Africa in 1999, a ratio of 119 per 100,000 people.

reported rape is the highest per capita in the world, according to non-government organisation Rape Crisis Cape Town. The

in limelight

BELGRADE, Nov 25: Slobodan Milosevic marked his return to the Yugoslav political scene here Saturday with a classic tirade against the West at a conference of his Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS), reports AFP.

Dressed in a dark suit and red tie, Milosevic arrived at the Sava Centre surrounded by about a dozen bodyguards who shoved aside a journalist when he asked if the former Yugoslav president feared being arrested.

state news agency Tanjug, only journalists from media still in the hands of the SPS were authorized to cover the closed-door conference, attended by more than 2,300 delegates. Inside, however, Milosevic's

political line seem unchanged despite a two month absence from the political scene after losing elections that he had called early.

main target of their attacks, according to the Tanjug reporter who was allowed in. "The main objective of our country's enemies is the disintegration of the Socialist Party.

He also accused the West of buying out Yugoslav citizens, notably in the Montenegro,

Vojvodina, a province in northern Yugoslavia, has 350,000 ethnic Hungarians living within its borders.

Development of agriculture depends on quality seeds

Speakers at a workshop emphasise

By Staff Correspondent

Improvement of seed quality holds the future of Bangladesh's agriculture, participants told a workshop in the city yesterday.

scientists from home and abroad, development partners and NGO representatives are participating in the two-day workshop on improvement of rice seed to increase yield and reduce pest

They said food production has to be increased with the "very limited resource base" to meet the challenge of feeding more mouths. The workshop, jointly orga-

nized by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), is being held at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

Head of IRRI's Social Science Division Dr Mahabub Hossain said serious thinking over improvement of seed quality can not be better timed than now seeds from their previous har- desh chaired the four sessions on when Bangladesh has just vests because good seeds are not the day.

attained self-sufficiency in food. Showing statistics, he said that despite fall in birth rate, the country's population would con-Agriculture researchers and tinue to grow up to a certain stage due to the huge population base. So, there is no alternative to training to women who process increasing rice production to and preserve seeds. meet the growing food-demand.

capita income still hovers around 250 US dollars a year. Demand for rice would continue to rise till

favour of non-rice menu with the rise in income, said Dr. Hossain, a project also spoke. former DG of BIDS.

speakers said farmers blame lowquality seed for loss in potential

Citing reports of surveys conducted in seven districts, they said farmers usually preserve IRRI representative in Bangla-

available in the market. Such seeds have problems of deformity, discolouring, mixture

of weed seeds and of being damaged by insects. They stressed the need for

Dr Lina Diaz from IRRI and representatives of collaborating "In rural Bangladesh, per organizations -- RDA, PROSHIKA, CARE, BRAC, GKF and BRRI -- presented papers at the workshop. Besides, NH the income level reaches 400 US Chowdhury, a Director of BRRI, dollars by the year 2010," he Leigh Stubblefield from DFID, UK, Abu Bakar from the Depart-Peoples' food-habit changes in ment of Agriculture Extension and Dr Noel Magor from an IRRI

Dr T W Mew, Head of the Ento-In separate papers, some other mology and Plant Pathology Division of IRRI, Dr MA Taher Miah of BRRI, Dr Mark Holderness, Plant Pathology Advisor to CABI Bioscience, UK, and Dr Sadigul Islam Bhuiyan,

Two dead in prison riot in Brazil

SAO PAULO, Nov 25: A prison riot that broke out early today in the southern Brazilian state of Sao Paulo left two dead, prison authorities said, reports AFP.

The riot in the overcrowded prison at Taubate, in Sao Paulo's metropolitan region, erupted after a failed jail-break, with prisoners grabbing one police detective and four guards as hostages, prison workers added.

Judge Sueli Zeriak was in the prison Saturday trying to negotiate the release of the hostages and the transfer of the ringlead ers to other jails.

Taubate was built to hold 80 people, but currently houses some 310 inmates.

Decomposed body

From page 1 Top officials DMP's North Zone. however, could not be contacted last night for comment.

According to sources, some residents of the building first saw the jute sack Thursday morning. But none bothered about it thinking that it might belong to any resident of the building. About 30 families of policemen

of DMP from the ranks of Constable to Inspector reside in the fivestorey building, which has three stairs. The jute sack was lying under the stairs at the middle of the building.

A Sub-inspector, who resides in the building, informed Kafrul police when bad smell and blood were coming out. Kafrul police recovered the

body at about 1:30 pm and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. A chit containing the name of a

tailor in city's Uttara area was found with the body. None was arrested and no case filed till filing of this report last

night.

BCL activist From page 1 was killed following a dispute over sharing extortion money.

Gulshan police arrested one person identified as Selim in connection with the killing till writing of this report last night.

The incident took place when Tapan, Mamun and others were sitting inside the ward number 20 Jubo League office at about 11.30

A gang of about 11, led by Moti stormed into the office and fired at Mamun and his accomplices indiscriminately. When Mamun was hit by bullet in his chest. Tapan made an attempt to escape the scene.

At this stage, the killers fired at him. Tapan was shot in the head and chest on the road adjacent to the office.

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctors declared him dead.

JCD Pintu group From page

incident. BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia postponed activities of the JCD central and DU committees in July this year when two JCD activists were killed in a clash on the campus.

Mummy murder From page 1

Akter Runa, two brothers inlaw Abu-Bakar Siddig and Abu Zafar the same day.

Main accused Ripon gave a confessional statement in the court of First Class Magistrate under Section 164 on November 5, 1999.

Police submitted a charge

sheet accusing Mummy's husband Ripon, her mother-in-law Monowara Begum and sister-inlaw Rokshana on November 24,

The hearing of the murder case SBC/PR/Tender-30/2000

Ricket prevalance rate 9 pc in some regions of the country

By Staff Correspondent

Prevalence rate of rickets has Bazar in 1991. been documented at nine per cent country, though it has not been few of the studied cases, calcium found in many other places.

Amu said this in his address at a areas. organised by Rickets Consortium Chakaria is between ages 1 and sponsored by USAID at the IDB 15 is as high as 14 per cent. Bhaban vesterday.

distant past, it was believed that to deficiency of calcium and vitarickets could not occur here since min D. the people here are exposed to Rickets cause deformities of sufficient sunlight, a chief source bones in the skeletal system. The of Vitamin D. Unfortunately, we nutritional deficiencies consehave found places where the quently lead to limb disfigurement

Isolated surveys in some areas walking and impair mobility. including Chakaria thana of Cox's The disease that has been Bazar show that about five to identified in Bangladesh appears seven children in every one hun- to be of the calcium deficiency dred develop rickets and live to type as has been described in suffer the deformities.

Phil Fischer of Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA who took part in the symposium said, "We learnt about the problem only a couple of vears ago though it started decades ago. Unfortunately, nothing much has been done to ple were injured when a night address this problem yet. For a long time thought if this major bus stand on Dhaka-Aricha

lated problem, Experts at the symposium said that agricultural production night coach from Panchgar system should be reoriented to consider better nutrition as the goal, rather than focusing on the trol over the steering.

output of more food. Social Assistance and Rehabili- to local clinics and hospital. tation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV) reported some of the rushed to the spot on hearing the first cases of rickets in large num-news, looted cash and belongings

They reported cases of rickets or more at some places of the in coastal areas of the country. In

deficiency has been thought to be Food Minister Amir Hossain the major cause for rickets in the international symposium on Although are no national sta-Improving Health and Economic tistics on the prevalence of rickets Development: Approaches to in the country, UNICEF estimates Preventing Diet-related Rickets" that proportion of rickets in

Rickets cause deformities of The minister also said, in the bones in the skeletal system due

and fractures, which may delay

South Africa and Nigeria. 40 hurt in Savar

bus plunge SAVAR, Nov 25: Some 40 peocoach fell into a ditch near Savar

public health concern as an iso- Highway early today, reports Police said the Dhaka-bound plunged into the ditch at about 4:30 am after its driver lost con-

Of the injured, 18 were rushed A section of local people, who



bers in Chakaria thana of Cox's of the coach passengers.

Battalion Ansars who were sacked in 1994 staged a demonstration

in the city yesterday demanding their reinstatement. -- Star photo



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Manager (Estt.)

treaty," said the Global Climate Coalition business group, a coalition backed by some big US oil companies.

respect for ethnical behaviour.

can impart.

of their consciousness.

Sakib Mahmud of Economics,

sion standards.

State Minister for Energy Pro- Rafigul Islam said the govern-Ambassador of the Delegation of friendly CNG as fuel for vehicles.

filling stations and the govern-

attempts to end the carnage, The fresh killings brought the sands of Palestinians gathered in

uprising against Israel. In the Gaza Strip, 13-year-old Taysir Abu Alarraj was killed by shrapnel from Israeli shells fired on the Khan Yunis refugee camp near the Neve Dekalim Jewish settlement. The shelling, which hit several houses, was triggered

Hospital officials said Satur-30 Palestinians wounded, three

Hague talks

everything they can to get it." An EU source said the deadlock had forced the suspension of the negotiations, adding that efforts to get an agreement would yet; so we can't take any action." be made at a meeting in May.

Poor nations and green groups had warned of environmental catastrophe if the talks among 180 countries failed to forge the first concrete steps against climate change believed to be behind major floods and storms that ravaged some Asian nations

and parts of Australia this week.

bered as the moment when gov-

This meeting will be remem-

ernments abandoned the promise of global cooperation to protect Planet Earth," said Greenpeace. "It's a tragedy that they didn't give it one more push..." said

Concerned Scientists. The EU is going to face a very different negotiating partner if it's a Bush administration," he said, referring to the unresolved US presidential race between Republican George Bush and Democrat A conservative business lobby

opposed to the Kyoto protocol on

the grounds that it would cost

American jobs said the collapse proved the pact was a mistake in the first place. This is the ultimate result of having negotiated a flawed

Underhand From page 12 An estimate puts sales of 11 leading pharmaceutical compa-

"The market is expanding."

From page 1 the HC heard the cassette in

The Manab Jamin is also fac-

was of Ershad.

women and children in South Africa, estimated to have among the highest rates of rape in the Church bells pealed in support as the men marched to parliament led by Anglican Archbishop at parliament: 'The men gathered

Radio and television personal-

South Africa's figure of

Milosevic back

Apart from a reporter from the

He said the media had been bought out by western intelligence and that the SPS was the

said Milosevic, who founded the SPS 10 years ago. Kosovo and Vojvodina.

> started on March 8 this year and continued till November 16.