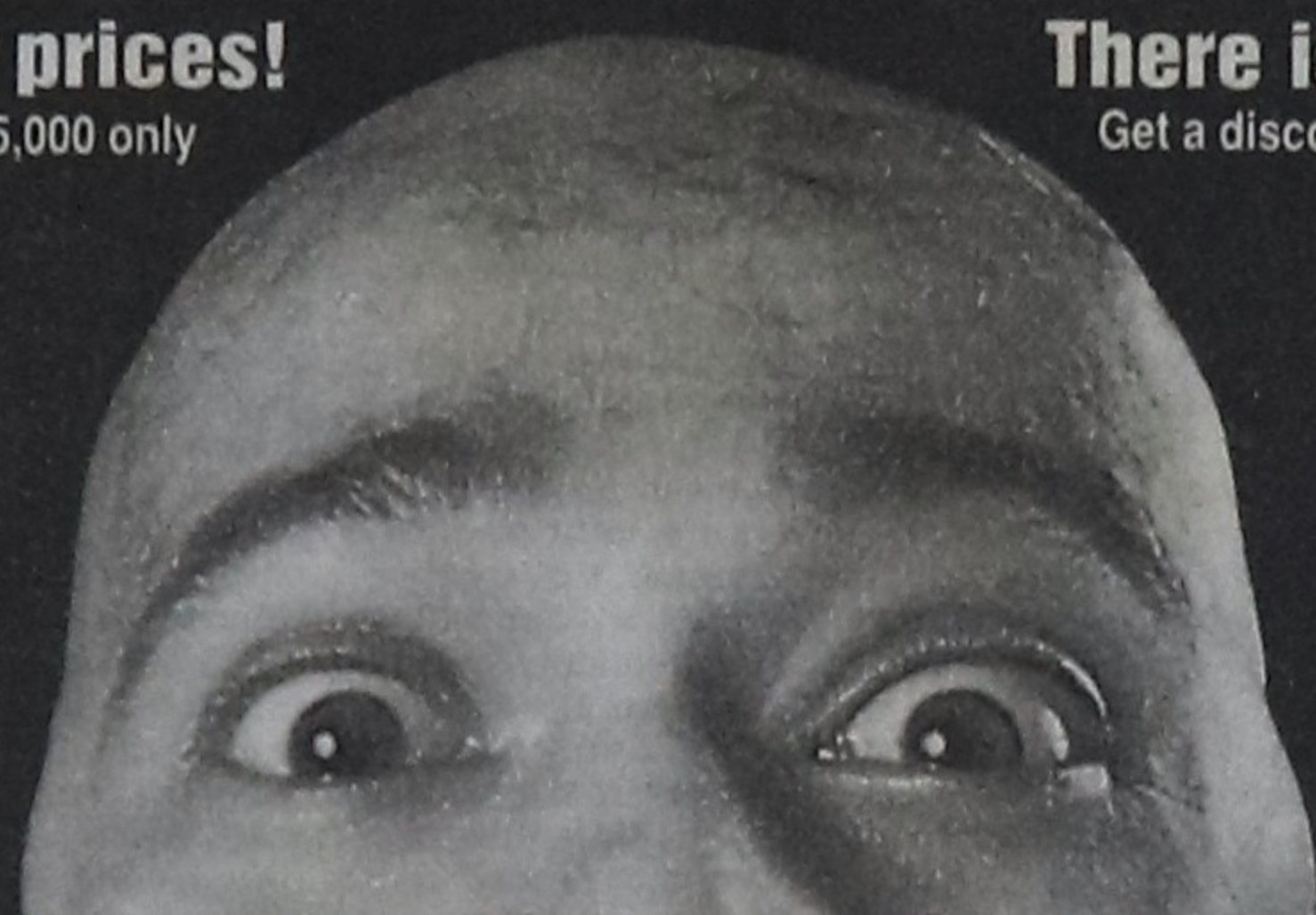


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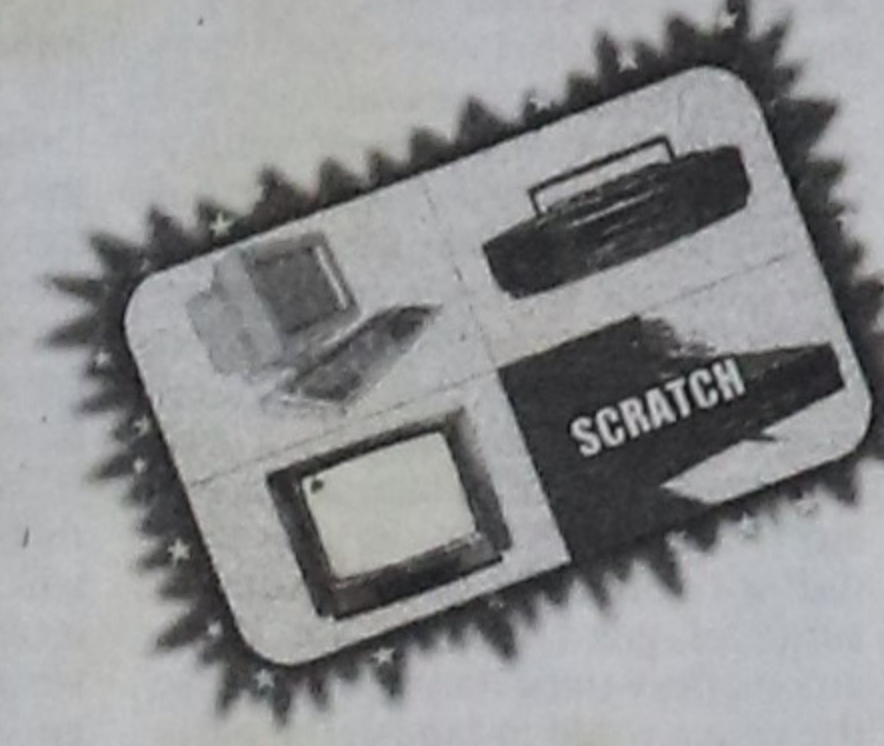
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Rotary News

Dhaka North West
Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held at Gourmet Garden, House #24/A, Road # 27, Dhanmondi at 4:30 PM today. It will be followed by a fellowship iftar.

Members have been requested to attend on time, says a press release.

Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held at 3:00 pm today at "Roche Bangladesh Ltd" House No 22, Road No 2, Dhanmondi.

Rotarians are cordially invited to attend for fellowship and make-up, says press release.

'All criminals to be brought to book'

BSS, Chittagong

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury yesterday said that anyone involved in criminal activities would not be spared.

The minister urged leaders and workers of the BNP for their cooperation in maintaining law and order. He said people voted us to get rid of terrorism and injustices and misuse of the previous government.

"If we fail to fulfil hopes and aspirations of the people, it would be a great defeat for all of us," he told a meeting of the BNP at the circuit house yesterday.

The minister said the criminals do not belong to any party, their only target is to gain personal benefits under the cover of political parties. "So, all criminals irrespective of party affiliations, must

be brought to book with the help of a cross-section of people for greater interests of the nation, four party alliance and BNP itself," he said.

Giving a picture of the economic and law and order situation during the previous government, the home minister said the government has been working to relieve the nation of that worst situation. Changes are underway in different tiers of the government to that end.

Labour and Employment Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Mostafa Kamal Pasha, MP, President of Chittagong north unit of BNP Golam Akbar Khondaker, City BNP General Secretary Dastagir Chowdhury, Jatiya Party leader Jahangir Alam, among others, addressed the meeting.



Residents of Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara demonstrate against the mindless dumping of sewage and toxic waste into the Gulshan-Baridhara Lake in the city yesterday. Sewage and chemical waste from a number of licensed and unlicensed industries in Badda area seep round-the-clock into the lake at different points. Hundreds of fishes died in the fallout of toxic pollution.

Women's employment, education can help reduce population growth

UNFPA report says

BSS, Dhaka

Expanding women's job and educational opportunities, and ensuring their reproductive health and rights, will help slow population growth and relieve environmental stress, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) said in its annual state of world population report.

The relationships between population and the environment are complex but they are serious and they are binding, said Stan Bernstein, a senior researcher at UNFPA and co-author of the 76-page report.

World population, now 6.1 billion people, has doubled since 1960 and is projected to grow to 9.3 billion by 2050, according to

the report. All of the projected growth will take place in developing nations, it said. The 49 least-developed countries will nearly triple their population size in 50 years, from 668 million to 1.86 billion people.

"To accommodate the nearly eight billion people expected on earth by 2025 and improve their diets, the world will have to double food production and improve distribution," the report stated.

Whether world population in 2025 reaches a high projection of 10.9 billion, a low one of 7.9 billion, or the medium projection of 9.3 billion will depend on success in ensuring women's right to education and health, including reproductive health, and in ending

poverty, said the report. Implementing the recommendations adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) would help defeat poverty and protect the environment, said UNFPA. These recommendations included improved concrete steps to improve reproductive health and realise gender equality.

"If women have only the number of children they want, families will be smaller and population growth slower, buying time in which crucial decisions can be made," said the Fund.

UNFPA described itself as the world's largest multilateral source of official population assistance

and said it had provided more than five billion dollars to developing countries since becoming operational in 1969.

Its report cautioned against making generalisations about the negative effects of population growth on the environment, saying these often are misleading.

"Understanding the links requires consideration of the interaction among affluence, consumption, technology and population growth, but also gender relations, political structures and governance at all levels, it said.

Population growth, increasing affluence - with rising consumption, pollution and waste - and persistent poverty are putting increasing pressure on the environment.

About 54 per cent of annual available fresh water, for example, is being used worldwide, but by 2025 it could reach 70 per cent because of population growth, said the report. If per capita consumption everywhere reached the level already seen in industrialised nations, the overall figure could rise further to 90 per cent.

Dhaka for economic cooperation among OIC states

BSS, New York

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman has said it is the need for the time to forge economic and commercial cooperation among the member states as envisaged by the OIC Plan of Action.

He said this while addressing the Annual Coordination Meeting of the OIC foreign ministers in New York on Thursday held on the sidelines of the general debate of the 56th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Reaz Rahman called for unity in the face of all odds, giving priority to safeguarding the image of Islam and the values and principles cherished by the Ummah.

Rahman emphasised the need for a broad based multiethnic government of national unity acceptable to and truly representative of the wishes of the Afghan people.

Bangladesh considers the UN Security Council resolution adopted on Wednesday to be an important step towards the final solution of the Afghan problem, he added.

The minister also endorsed the call made at the emergency ICFM last month for exerting pressure on Israel to put an end to its aggressive policy and to provide international protection for Palestinians towards securing their rights to self-determination and the independent statehood of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

He proposed setting up of a Revolving Trust Fund under the OIC for extending support of member states as part of safeguarding initiatives.

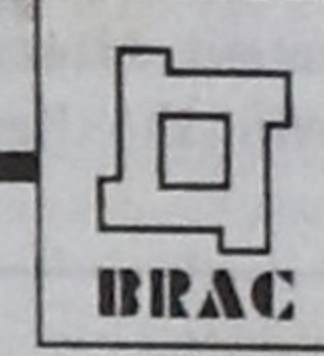
A final communique was adopted at the conclusion of the meeting, which was attended by a number of foreign ministers of OIC member states.


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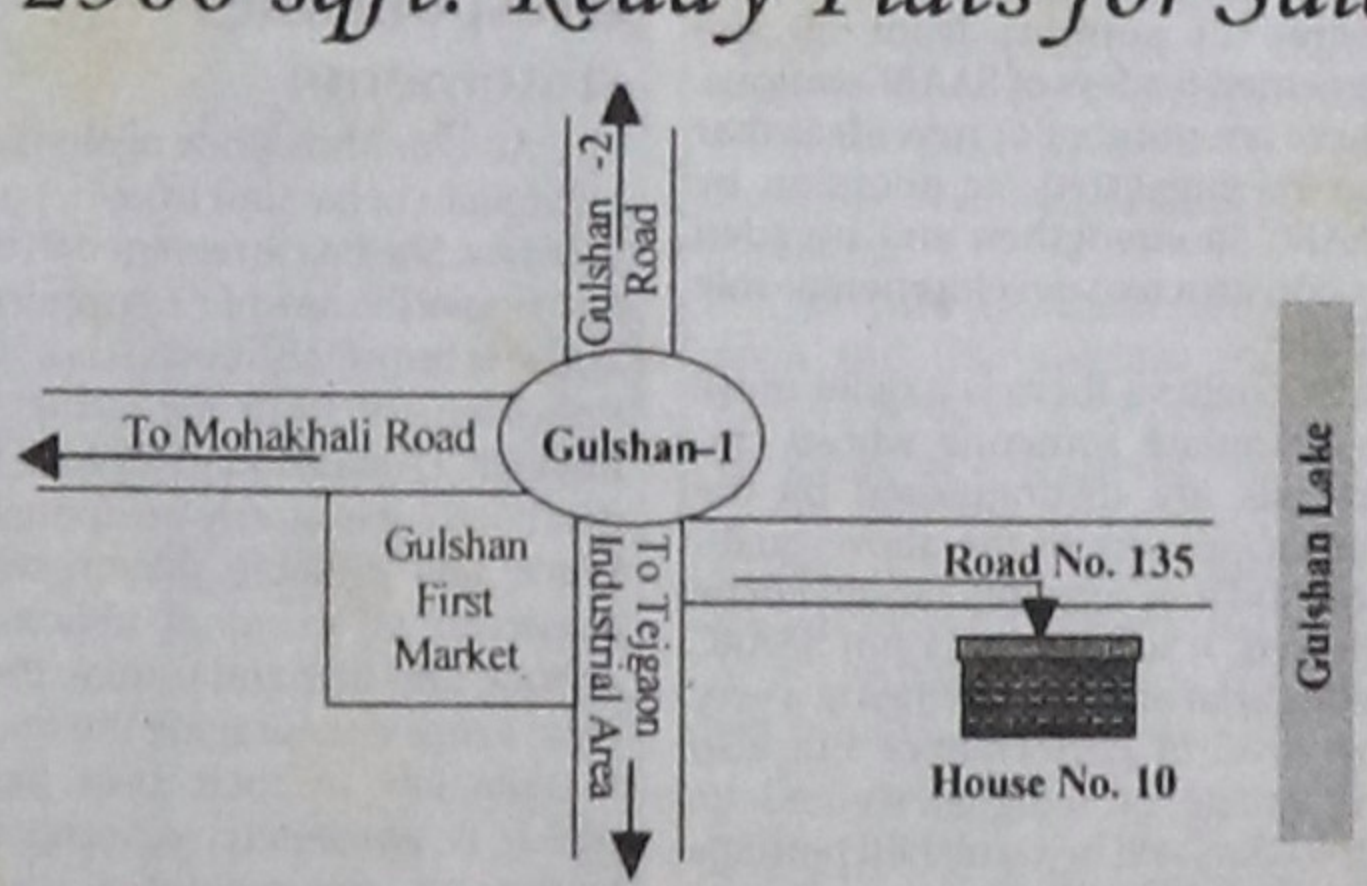
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This is for information to all valued Shareholders of Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd. that Bangladesh Bank has accorded "No objection" for payment of dividend @ 12% i.e. Tk. 120/- per Share (Tk. 1000/-) for the year ended of 31st December 2000.

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