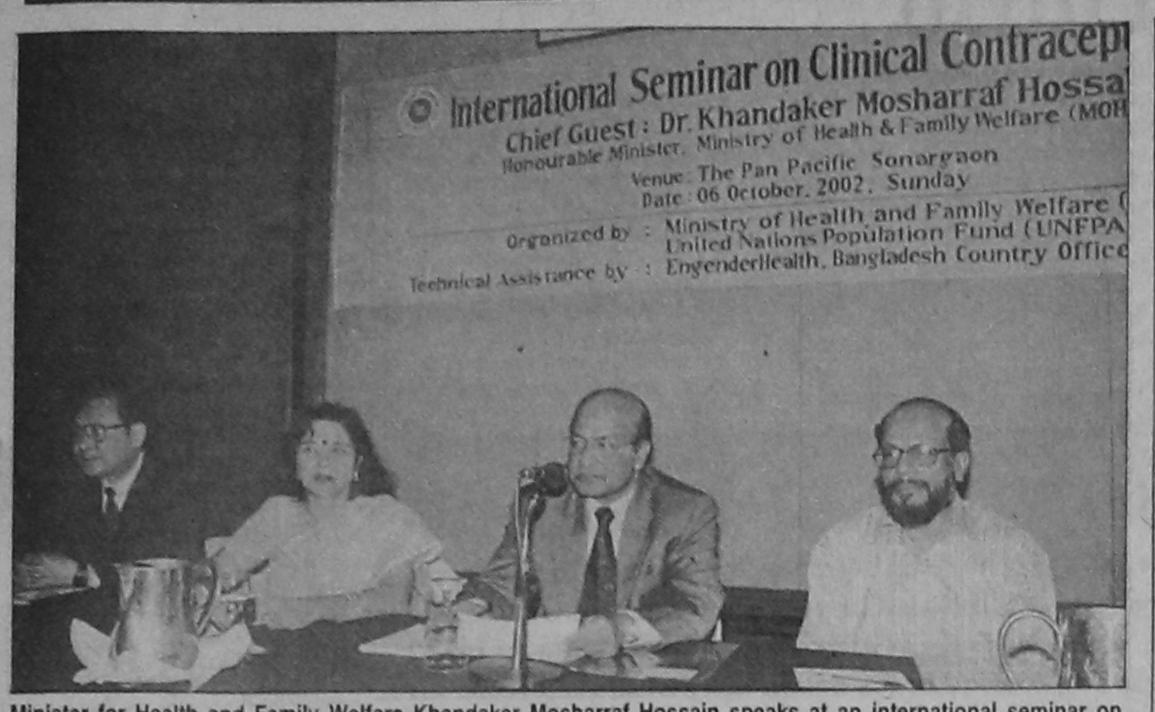
METROPOLITAN



Minister for Health and Family Welfare Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain speaks at an international seminar on clinicanl contraception in the city yesterday. From left are Dr Li Shunquiang of China, Suneeta Mukherjee, UNFPA representative and Dr Fazlur Rahman, health secretary (extreme right).

Rate of sterilisation declines

Health minister tells seminar on clinical contraception

Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said despite wide exposure of the country's success in family planning, the rate of sterilisation among both the sexes declined in the past two decades.

"There is no room for complacency as we have many poor things to mention and one of those is the substantial decline in voluntary sterilisation and low intra-uterine device (IUD) performance," he said while inaugurating an international seminar on Clinical Contraception here.

Mosharraf said rates of eligible couples using female sterilisation method declined from 8.1 per cent to 6.7 per cent between 1993 and 2000 while the male sterilisation method declined from 1.1 per cent to 0.5 per cent during the same period.

He identified relaxing the attention towards clinical methods along with a shift towards the nonclinical and temporary contraceptives as possible factors for the decline.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly organised the seminar where a leading Chinese andrologist, Prof Li Shungiang, explained a new method he developed for male sterilisation in an easy manner without any side effect.

Secretary to the ministry Mi Fazlur Rahman chaired the inaugural function. Vice Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and President of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Prof M A Hadi, film star M A Razzaque, UNFPA Representative Suneeta Mukherjee, directors general of Health Services Prof A B M Ahsanullah and Family Planning Mohammad Fazlur Rahman, BMA Secretary General Dr A Z M Zahid Hossain, also spoke.

The UNFPA Goodwill Ambas- Maldives, Pakistan and Ghana

sador and eminent film star M A took part in the seminar. Razzaque said the male should come forward to make the Family Planning programme a success in

the country. They have to come forward to receive the new method of sterilisation and motivate other people to take the treatment, he added.

Razzak also stressed the need for creating awareness among the people about the severe consequences of rapid population growth in the country and child

Representative Suneeta Mukherjee said despite the past achievement in the family planning programme, the static state of Total Fertility Rate (TFR) at 3.3 per cent was now a great concern for Bangladesh.

She said with the current rate of population growth of 1.48 per cent, the population is expected to double in the next 40 years in the

On the declining trend of adoption of permanent and clinical methods of family planning, she said in other countries in South Asia the sterilisation rate is much higher. In Bhutan, the rate is 13.5 per cent among males three per cent among women against the Bangladesh's 0.5 per cent and 6.7 per cent among male and female, she added.

Later, a technical session was held where Prof Li Shunqiang presented his "No Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV)" method for male

Prof. Li said the method of male sterilisation is highly accepted in many countries including China. The method is cost effective and takes little time for minor surgery while its success rate is 98.2 per cent.

"There is no side effect and other complexities after the operation," he said.

As many as 15 foreign participants from China, Vietnam, the

Model UN Debate Competition

In observance of the UN Day 2002, the United Nations Information Center (UNIC) will organize a-Model UN Debate on 24-26 October. School/college students are eligible to participate. Students may enroll themselves either personally or through their educational institutions. Briefing sessions for the enrolled students: 13-14 October. Interested participants are invited to contact (with his/her photograph and ID card) within 10 October.

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Body to probe Barisal launch mishap

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) yesterday formed an inquiry committee to probe a launch accident in which two persons were killed and 10 others injured on Saturday night in Barisal.

The committee members left Barisal for conducting the inquiry into the accident, a BIWTC press release said here yesterday.

BIWIC on its own sent bodies of the deceased to their respective villages and provided first aid as well as hospital treatment for the injured ones.

AAG's car stolen from SC premises

BSS, Dhaka

Giving a salient feature of

country's present state of family

planning, the health minister said

the total fertility rate in Bangla-

desh have declined rapidly from

6.3 births in early 70s to 3.3 births

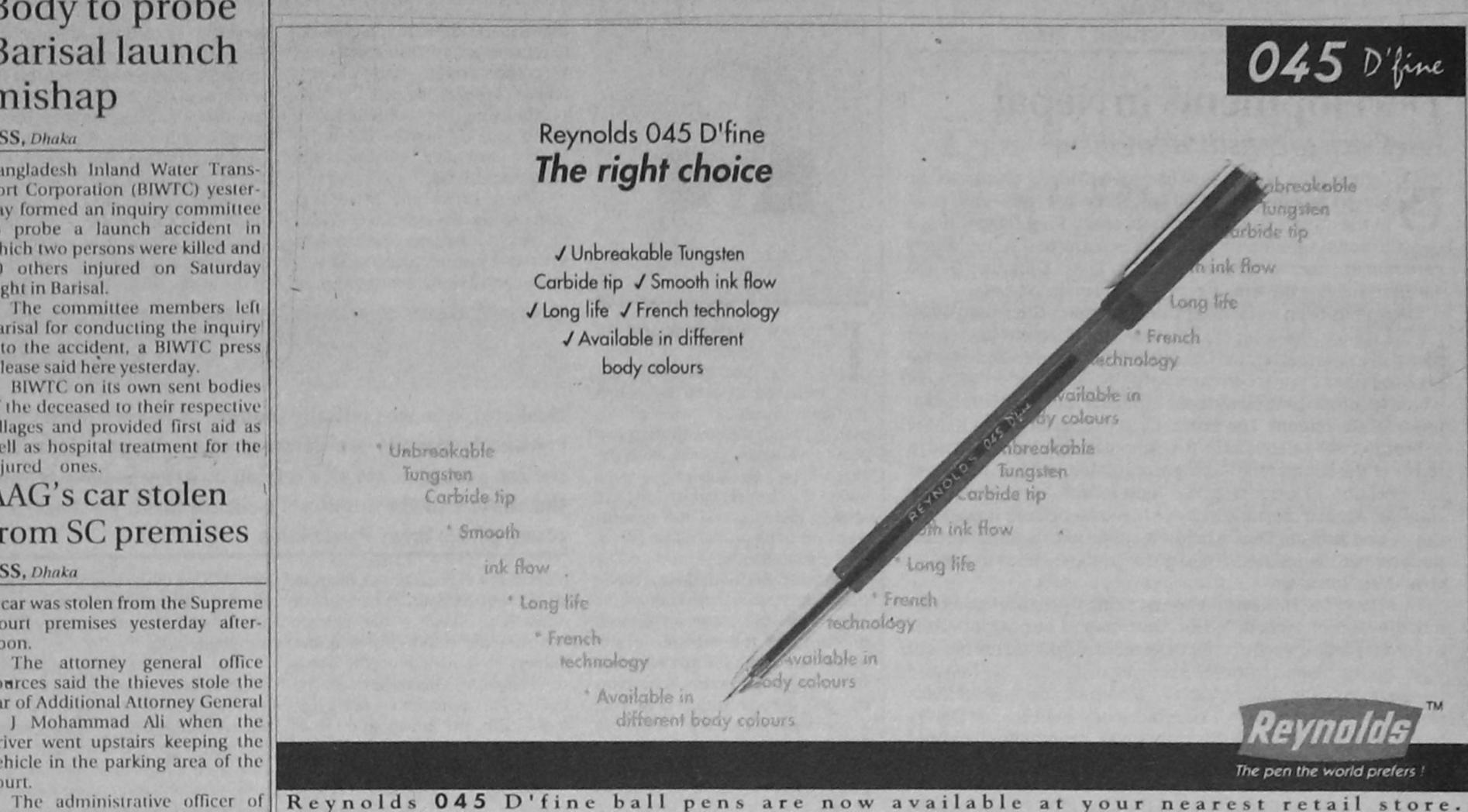
in late 1994. But, after the 1994 to

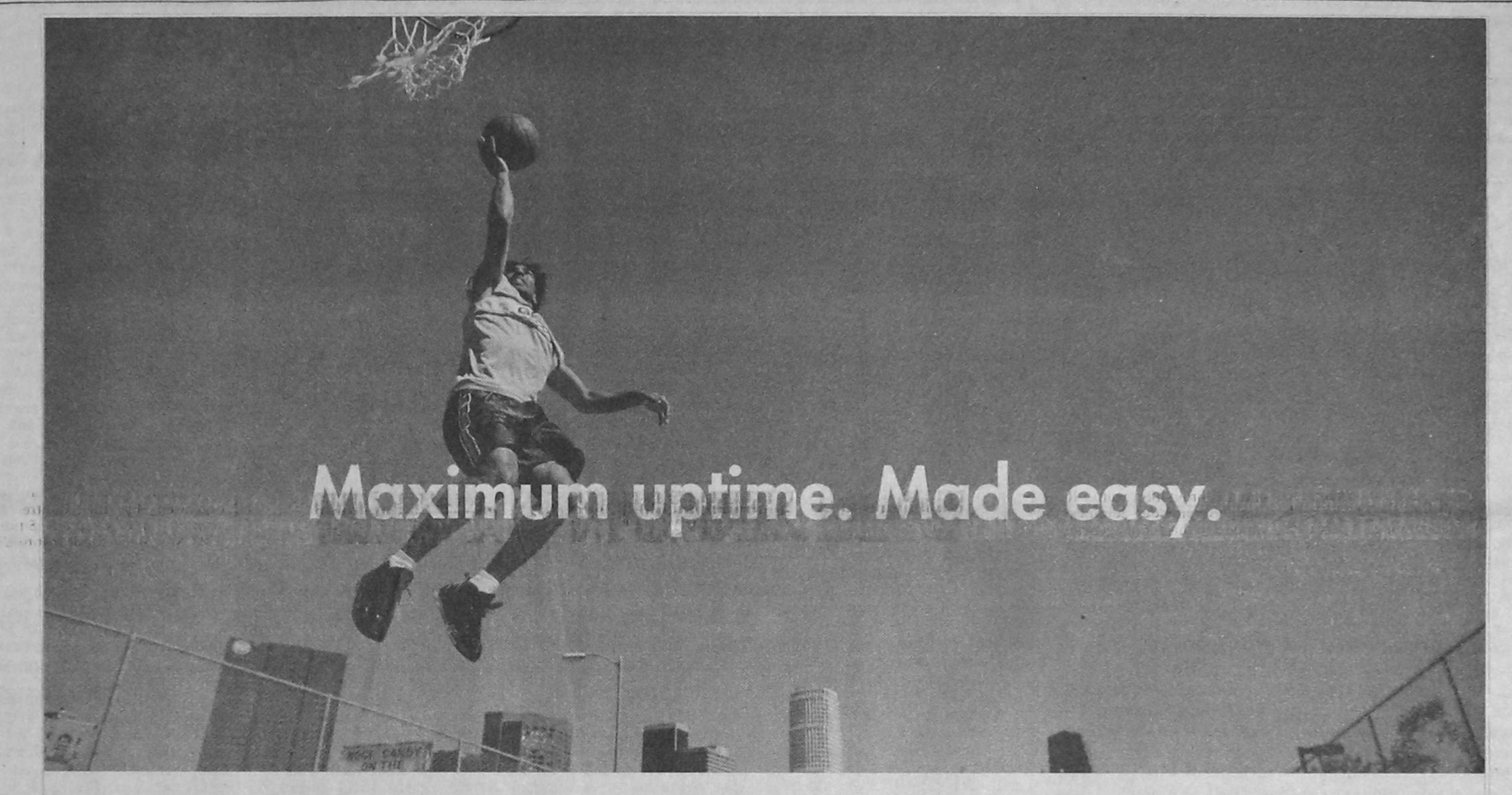
2000 the rate remained static.

A car was stolen from the Supreme Court premises yesterday after-

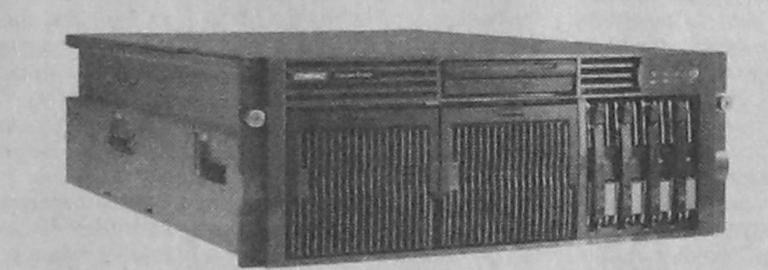
The attorney general office sources said the thieves stole the car of Additional Attorney General A J Mohammad Ali when the driver went upstairs keeping the vehicle in the parking area of the

the Attorney General office filed a case with Ramna thana in this connection





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