

## Target to stabilise

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envisioning 100 per cent safe motherhood, and providing emergency obstetric services (EOS) at all levels.

It also gives special attention to family planning (FP) services mainly to increase contraceptive prevalence rate, by offering choices to women, expanding clinical services from all static healthcare facilities and making home family planning services available.

Adolescent health is one of the priority areas of the policy, proposing school-based reproductive education for young people, and education of parents on the significance of reproductive health education for their children.

On adolescent health, the policy also focuses on late marriage for girls, spacing of childbirth and mass awareness on transmission of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

"It is a comprehensive document but the main challenge of the policy is how we are going to translate it into action. A very positive aspect of the policy is that it involves all ministries and calls for equal responsibilities," said Md Fazlur Rahman, director general of Family Planning Directorate.

## 40-45 varsities

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evaluation committee that submitted its report to the prime minister on Sunday recommending closure of eight private universities for violating rules and regulations.

Sources pointed out that most private universities run primarily to serve commercial ends with flashy advertisements and alluring promises. In some cases, feuds between corrupt board of trustees and vice-chancellor damaged congenial academic atmosphere at the institutions.

On media reports mentioning a number of private universities as top performing ones, Asaduzzaman said, "We did not rate for any university in our evaluation report. We just examined overall academic atmosphere at the private universities on the basis of some basic criteria like number of full-time teachers, infrastructure, curriculum, examination system, grading system, and library and laboratory facilities."

It is true that most of the private universities have failed to attain the goals for which they were set up, said a member of the evaluation committee. "But a powerful political and trade lobby has been active to keep them running," he added seeking anonymity.

Many of the private universities function with an acute shortage of teachers, want of funds and lack a congenial academic atmosphere. A number of them have opened departments and outer campuses for which they neither have approval nor teachers, he said.

"Our impression is that these institutions should not be allowed to function as universities any longer. But the matter rests on the government."

Another committee member,

## BD-NZ first Test

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The Tigers will not only have to contain an impressive batting line-up led by Stephan Fleming but also have to overcome the home series disappointment syndrome.

The 31st Test for the hosts will start at 9:30am with satellite channel ESPN beaming the five-day fixture live from the Big Bowl. But unfortunately millions may miss the action, as it was not clear whether state-run Bangladesh Television would telecast it outside Dhaka.

The Tigers will be without their regular captain Habibul Bashar who has been the batting mainstay ever since the nation played its first Test way back in 2000.

Wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud, himself was a former captain, will lead the side after Bashar had to recover from his injured right thumb.

The second home Test for coach Dav Whatmore after England might see the debut of young opener Nafees Iqbal, the nephew of ex-national skipper Akram Khan, and the return of talented batsman Alok Kapali after a year in the wilderness.

Although the selectors decided to keep their cards close to the chest until the morning, it was gathered that all-rounder Mashfiqur Rahaman is expected to make way for left-arm spinner Manzurul Islam, which means the think tank prefers to bank on the strength of its spin bowling.

New Zealand however named their side for the first Test dropping right-arm paceman Chris Martin and young Kyle Mills. They will decide whether to retain tearaway James Franklin, who featured in the lone practice match for the tourists, or pick Hamish Marshall.

The Kiwis won the first meeting of the two sides comfortably when Bangladesh toured New Zealand in 2001.

### SQUADS

BAKLADESH (from): Khaled Mashud (captain), Rajin Saleh,

## Advani takes over as BJP chief

REUTERS, Bombay

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