



European Union Ambassador Stefen Frowein calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Prepare yourselves to be able to solve problems

Nobel laureate Prof Lee tells students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel laureate Prof Yuan Tseh Lee yesterday said students should prepare themselves to be able to solve future problems.

Students also must learn to communicate with the people to be a future leader of a democratic society, he said at a special lecture on 'University students in a globalised world' at the TSC auditorium on Dhaka University campus.

The world is moving towards a knowledge-based economy where computers and robots are doing many tasks in different fields. "So we need to prepare us like that and we need to depend on our adaptability, flexibility and creativity," said Professor Lee, president emeritus, the Genomic Research Centre, Institute of Atomic and Molecular Sciences,



PHOTO STAR
Nobel laureate Prof Yuan Tseh Lee speaks at a special lecture at TSC auditorium yesterday.

Academia Sinica, Taiwan.

Identifying environmental degradation, global warming and globalisation as big challenges, he underscored the need for a global government and global currency in order to reduce disparity between rich and poor.

"We must find out the way how we can live comfortably with minimum resources," Prof Lee said.

Pointing to the education system in Asia, he said, "There might be something wrong in our education system, as we see that the students are lacking creativity."

The schools should have such an environment where students would feel encouraged to go, he added.

Earlier, Prof Lee paid a courtesy call on Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique at his office.

During the meeting, they discussed various matters of mutual interest, especially the possibilities of establishing linkage and joint collaborative academic and research programmes in science and technology between DU and the universities in Taiwan.

12,000 mothers, 1.2 lakh newborn babies die a year: Unicef report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the country has made significant progress in reducing child mortality, the rate of maternal and newborn mortality still remains high, according to a Unicef report.

About 12,000 mothers and 120,000 newborn babies die every year in the country, said the report titled 'State of the World's Children 2009' which was launched at a city hotel yesterday.

In Bangladesh, only 18 percent of births are attended by medically trained providers while 85 percent of births took place at home and only one in five mothers and newborn children receive postnatal care from a medically trained provider within 42 days after birth.

Around 99 percent of global deaths arising from pregnancy and complications occur in the developing world where having a child remains among the most serious health risks for women. The vast majority occur in Africa and Asia, where high fertility rates, a shortage of trained personnel and weak health systems spell tragedy for many young women, the report said.

At the report launching ceremony, speakers stressed the need for stronger efforts to reduce maternal and newborn mortality in order to achieve Millennium Development

Goals 4 and 5.

Speaking as the chief guest, Secretary for Health and Family Welfare Sheikh Altaf Ali said, "Lowering a mother's risk of mortality and morbidity directly improves a child's prospects for survival."

"The government is investing utmost efforts to improve the maternal and newborn health and recently the national neonatal health strategy has been developed," he said, adding that the National Maternal Health Strategy is being updated.

"We seek to work together with all concerned stakeholders, including communities, development partners, professional organisations, NGOs, private sector, civil

society and the media in order to accelerate progress."

Speaking as the special guest, Prof Dr Shah Monir Hossain, director general of DGHS, said the government has taken steps to integrate community-based interventions in order to reach out to mothers and newborns.

"The National Nutrition programme has extensive activities in 109 upazilas and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also piloting demand side financing in the form of maternal health voucher scheme in 33 upazilas to increase poor women's access to utilisation of quality maternal and neonatal services," He added.

Unicef Representative

Carel de Rooy called for a continuum of care approach by linking facility-based care with communities and households and delivering integrated services from antenatal care to postnatal care and early childhood.

"There have been important actions and interventions taken by the government of Bangladesh such as equipping hospitals with comprehensive emergency obstetric care. But addressing the health worker shortage is probably the main challenge that needs to be overcome if we want to reduce maternal and neonatal health," he said.

Appreciated the current efforts to revitalise community clinics, Carel Rooy also

urged the government to conduct a new maternal health survey in order to obtain updated data and to design evidence-based programmes.

The report mentioned the ten countries with the highest lifetime risk of maternal death -- Niger, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Chand, Angola, Liberia, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau and Mali.

To lower maternal and infant mortality, the report recommends essential services be provided through health systems that integrate a continuum of home, community, outreach and facility-based care.

Chobi Mela begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chobi Mela V, the international festival of photography, will begin in the city today.

The theme of this year's festival is 'Freedom'. Eminent photographers from home and abroad are taking part in the festival to be held in 11 different venues.

The inaugural ceremony of the three-week-long Chobi Mela, the largest photography festival in Asia, will be held at the National Museum auditorium at 4:00pm, organisers said at a press conference yesterday.

Magsaysay award winner and writer Mahasweta Devi from Kolkata will attend the ceremony as a guest of honour.

Photographs will be put on display at different galleries, including National Museum, Shilpakala Academy, Bengal Gallery, Drik Gallery and Russian Cultural Centre. Besides, photos will be exhibited on two mobile vans and in several open spaces.

Eminent photographers from 33 countries, including South Africa, Argentina, France, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Australia, Brazil, India, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Japan and the USA, will take part in the festival.

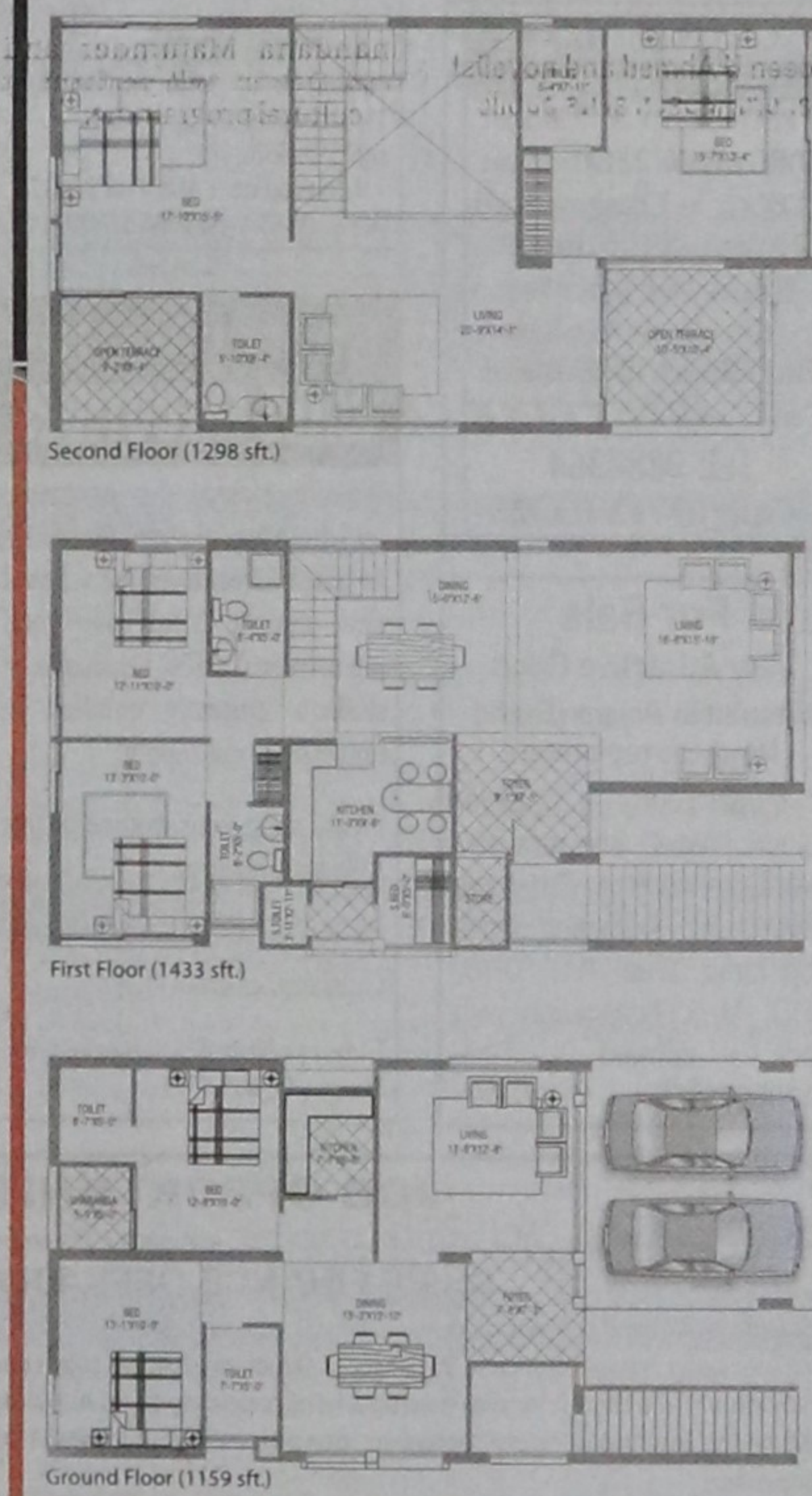
The festival will also feature workshops, seminars, lectures, debates and digital presentations.

Festival Director Shahidul Alam and Curatorial Director Rezaur Rahman were present at the press conference.



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City, country or casual living is possible in this versatile two-story design. This gracious design conjures up images of family and friends sipping iced tea on the veranda during warm summer evening.

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Bangladesh begins journey towards prosperity

Says Irish envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The newly appointed Irish Ambassador (resident in New Delhi) Kenneth paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the Bangladesh-Ireland bilateral relations, promotion of trade, investment and development and some matters of bilateral, regional and international interests.

Congratulating the foreign minister, the Irish envoy said they noticed tremendous enthusiasm in Bangladesh for positive changes, especially after

the general elections, which can make Bangladesh a developed country in the coming years.

Referring to Bangladesh's development in many sectors, he opined that the country would continue its journey towards progress and prosperity.

He assured Dipu of his country's support for Bangladesh and desire for closer cooperation.

Underscoring the need for further consolidating relations between the countries, the foreign minister hoped for more Irish investment in Bangladesh. The envoy informed her that he saw Bangladesh as an attractive destination for the Irish companies.



Warm regards to the devotees of **Bishwa Ijtema**, the second largest Islamic Congregation of the world

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