

# U.N. official to speak here Tuesday

## Conference set to talk of peace

By Ashley Bishop

SPECIAL TO THE TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

WORCESTER — Former ambassador to the United Nations from Bangladesh, Anwarul K. Chowdhury, will be in Worcester Tuesday to discuss leadership values and the importance of a culture of peace in the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy.

Mr. Chowdhury now serves as under secretary-general and high representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States at the United Nations. He will be on hand for a conference at the Beechwood Hotel pre-

sented by the Institute for Global Leadership: "New Leadership Values and Skills Needed to De-escalate Local and Global Crises."

He steered the Nobel Peace Laureates' Initiative for a Culture of Peace through the U.N. General Assembly in 1999, and in 2001 launched the International Decade of a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World.

Virginia Swain, founder and director of the Institute for Global Leadership, said the conference will address the issue of leadership for a sustainable peace.

"After the Virginia Tech tragedy, it seems as if we are now living with this fear of violence," Ms. Swain said. "This makes kids afraid to go to school. We have to work toward hope instead of living in despair."

Ms. Swain has more than 25 years of experience in commercial and nonprofit enterprises on five continents. Through her work at the Institute for Global Leadership, she has worked to empower emerging and seasoned leaders for the conditions of a post 9-11 world. She will present a lecture on her memoir, "A Mantle of Roses: A Woman's Journey Home to Peace," as part of the day's activities.

The conference at the Beechwood will include presentations by Ms. Swain, Mr. Chowdhury and Joseph Baratta, co-founder

of the Center for Global Community and World Law.

From 2 to 2:30 p.m., Mr. Chowdhury will take part in a "Children of the World" interview giving local high school students the chance to ask questions and learn more about the U.N.

"Our children will be the future leaders of the world," Ms. Swain said. "We have to look at problems in the world very differently than we do now."

Registration for the conference ends at noon today. Contact Ms. Swain, at (508) 753-4172.