



President Iajuddin Ahmed gives away a medal to a girl who won prize at an international art competition, at the inaugural ceremony of Child Rights Week 2003 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday.

Ensure child rights

President urges all

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged all concerned to come forward for ensuring child rights to prepare the children as worthy citizens to face the challenges of the 21st century.

"We have to take concerted efforts for mental and physical development of the children so that they can cope with the present competitive world to establish their position in the international arena," he said while inaugurating the 'Child Rights Week 2003' at Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Presided over by Women and Children Affairs Minister Khurshid Zahan Haque, the function was addressed by Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Mozahar Hossain, Secretary in-Charge of the ministry A M M Reza-e-Rabbi, UNICEF representative Rozela Moreni, Chairman of Bangladesh Shishu Academy Zobaidda Gulshan Ara and Yasmin Akhter Jharna.

The president said it is important to increase the scope for improving mental, intellectual and cultural faculties of the children.

"We have to prepare them as worthy citizens also by showering love and affection on them," he said, adding that the family and society can play an important role in this regard.

Referring to the present state of child labour, he said nearly two crore children in the country are now engaged in child labour. "It is our responsibility to engage them in the development programmes by providing them with education."

He said the government took various pragmatic steps to put an end to hazardous child labour and provide education for them. Primary level education for all children and education up to class twelve, especially for girl students, were made

free, he added.

As a signatory to different international charters, Bangladesh is committed to establishing child rights to groom them up as the torch-bearers of the country, the president said.

He said the government is working relentlessly for the welfare of the children by implementing work plans in line with the National Child Policy adopted in 1994.

Khurshid Zahan Haque said the welfare activities for the children is a pre-requisite for national development as the future of the country depends on today's children.

"We have to think about the child rights with utmost priority aimed at building a happy and prosperous country as children are the future of a nation," she said.

The minister said the government would establish a child directorate to this end.

IGP to join

interpol

general session

BSS, Dhaka

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Shahudul Haq left for London on Saturday to joint 72nd general sessions of Interpol in Benidorm city of Spain.

After the conference, he will visit Kosovo to see the activities of Bangladesh police personnel posted under UN peacekeeping mission (UNMIK) there, an official press release said.

During his stay, the Bangladesh police chief will also exchange views on peacekeeping with the high officials there.

China to help Bangladesh

modernise police force

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh and China agreed on forming a joint working group on modernisation of police, improvement of training facilities and supply of modern equipment for Bangladesh police and paramilitary forces.

The agreement was reached during a meeting between State Minister for Home Affairs Mohammad Lutfuzzaman Babar

and Chinese Vice Minister of Public Security Tian Qiyu in Beijing yesterday, said an official message received in the yesterday.

The state minister is now on a visit to China as a member of the 16-member delegation of BNP led by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

During the meeting, the two ministers discussed issues of bilateral interests, particularly corporation between Bangladesh

and China on internal security. They also hoped that the friendly relations between the two countries will be strengthened further.

Bangladesh state minister sought cooperation and assistance from China for providing security equipment and training for Bangladesh police and paramilitary forces and modernisation of various departments under the Ministry of Home Affairs.



PHOTO: STAR

The Sylhet Division Development Action Plan stages a demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday protesting the Indian river-linking project.