

# RISING STARS

## MAYORS DEFENDERS OF CHILDREN

A Modern Day Fairy Tale

### Romeo and Juliet

by Ahmad Mursel / nam

The UN Children Fund, better known as UNICEF, is deeply involved with children and the convention on the rights of the child; and to focus on children living in difficult circumstances, it is planning to involve in the programme city mayors all over the world as defenders of children. In order to ensure sharing of each other's experiences for the betterment of children a Global Mayor Initiative summit is under preparation.

The Second International Colloquium of Mayors, Defenders of Children, will be held on 5-6 July 1993 at the

UNICEF has approved the invitation and participation of Mayors of the City Corporations of Khulna, Rajshahi and Chittagong. Mir Md Nasruddin, Mayor, Chittagong City Corporation, Sheikh Tayyabur Rahman, Mayor, Khulna City Corporation, and Mizanur Rahman Minu, Mayor, Rajshahi City Corporation have accepted the invitation of James P Grant, Executive Director, UNICEF, for attending the Second International Colloquium of Mayors, Defenders of Children.

The Mayors are to study

was launched.

All over the world, City Mayors are being mobilised to become defenders of children. This initiative was brought about by the World Summit for Children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which establishes the moral and legal obligations of society to ensure the child's right to survival, protection, development and participation.

The main objectives of the meeting are to enlist mayors to contribute to the implementation of the National Programmes of Action in order to achieve the goals for child

tion in the form of written documents on innovative projects, round table discussions, case study presentations by mayors selected from different regions, and technical presentation by resource persons.

One of the principal outcomes sought from the Second International Colloquium of Mayors is the definition of criteria by which a mayor becomes a Defender of Children. Although these are likely to vary for regions and circumstances of each urban area, the five measures that were suggested previously are to make a thorough analysis of the situ-

Few highlights on global children issue achieved recently: SAARC Summit endorsing Colombo resolution at conclusion of 7th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka, seven South Asian Heads of State issued 'Dhaka Declaration' endorsing Colombo resolution on children and the decade action plan for the girl child.

UNICEF Angola urges peace for children, to keep in mind the future of Angola's children during negotiation to end war.

Goodwill Ambassador Liv Ullman at a meeting with ANC President Nelson Mandela analysed the South African

IN the country of Xenox, there were great enmity between two influential political parties, the Government and the Opposition. Whenever the party members met, there were angry words and fights, such as in the Parliament House.

It happened that the Leader of the Opposition gave a great banquet. To this, he invited all the leaders of the political parties, except the Government party.

Among the guests were the lovely lady Rosaline, daughter of a leader. Now Romeo, the handsome young son of the honourable Prime Minister, was madly in love with Rosaline. But Rosaline, however, had no love for Romeo. One of Romeo's wishes was to be near her. So he wanted to go to the banquet and went there in disguise, though he knew that going there might cost him his life as he was the son of the Prime Minister.

After going there he saw a lady more beautiful than Rosaline. He talked with her and they both were in love with each other. Afterward he came to know that the lady was Juliet, the only daughter of the L.O.

shall tell your parents and Juliet's parents of your marriage. With God's help, I shall win their consent to it. The Judge then will be ready to pardon you. I'll write to you from time to time and let you know how things are here.

Romeo followed the friar's order and after making farewell call to Juliet he went to the airport and flew to Verona.

In the meantime, the L.O. arranged a marriage for Juliet. She tried to delay the marriage, but she failed. So she went to Friar Lawrence and told him everything. He had a plan. He gave Juliet a potion and told her to drink it at the night before her marriage ceremony. It would make her unconscious for forty-two hours. Her family would think that she is dead and carry her to the family tomb and put her inside it. Meanwhile he would send a messenger to Romeo, telling him all this and Juliet will wake up, she would be at her side. Then he will take her to Verona.

Juliet did as she was told by the friar. All happened as the

friar thought except Romeo's arrival. The messenger, whom he sent, was unable to go to Verona because he could not go to the airport as a 'Hartal' was called by the Opposition.

Romeo, unfortunately, heard the tragic news of Juliet's death and came to Xenox. He poisoned himself beside Juliet's 'dead body'. When Juliet woke up, she found Romeo dead. So she also killed herself.

When the whole story was heard by the PM and the L.O., they became friends, but their children had to die terrible deaths.

If any kind of such death can make friendship between the Government and the Opposition of Bangladesh, like the story, it would be better for the country. But don't know when this will happen. I pay my respect to Mr. William Shakespeare as his drama has inspired me to write this story and hope that these two parties will become friends and the country will find its way to prosperity.



Castillo de Chapultepec in Mexico City. It will be co-hosted by Mayor Manuel Camacho-Solis of Mexico City and UNICEF, in collaboration with Mayor Mamadou Diop of Dakar.

Up to 60 mayors or representatives of equivalent ranks from local government administrations are expected to attend. One third of the Mayors are coming from the Latin American and Caribbean region, and two thirds from other regions. Representatives of national and international municipal organizations and UN agencies will also participate. Also, journalists from local and international news media organizations will be invited to cover the event.

the country's national plan of action to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the summit goals. They will formulate a workable city-level plan to suit local needs. As defenders of children, mayors can be important agents in the change.

The official language of the Mexico City Colloquium will be Spanish, English and French. The Colloquium will also review the experiences of participants present at the First International Colloquium of Mayors, held on 8-9 January 1992 in Dakar, Senegal. It was at this meeting, co-hosted by Mayor Mamadou Diop of Dakar and UNICEF that the global initiative to mobilize mayors to become Defenders of Children

survival, protection and development set forth at the 1990 World Summit for Children.

Secondly, to expand and set standards for the global movement of Mayors, Defenders of Children. Also to provide a forum for the exchange of successful initiatives mayors and municipalities have undertaken to ensure the survival, protection and development of children, with a view to promoting greater involvement and, finally, the mobilize both national and international public opinion in order to maintain children's issues as the agendas of municipal governments.

The programme participants will share their experiences and exchange informa-

tion of children in the community, to achieve the immunization goals for children for the year 2000 adopted at the World Summit within a much shorter time, especially in marginalized areas, to promote knowledge and use of oral rehydration therapy; also to launch a breast feeding campaign and ensure that all city hospitals are 'baby-friendly' and to set up a growth monitoring system for all children.

In a preparatory meeting for Mexico City Mayors Colloquium it was decided that the Second International Colloquium of Mayors, should focus on urban problems, share experiences and consider implementation of medium term goals of the World Summit for children.

children on occasion of Day of African Child. Ullman also discussed need to iodise salt in country.

Hong Kong NATCOM Polio eradication drive in China, Hong Kong committee launched a special three-year fund-raising project targeted to raise \$3 million for polio eradication in China.

The participation and support of all the Mayors will help focus international attention on the needs of urban children world wide. It is an opportunity to work towards creating a brighter future for the world's children, and Bangladesh's involvement in this initiative is definitely a positive sign augurs well for over future generations.



Going to school

### The Josephites in — "Hi, dreamboat?"

It was our worst day at school. That day we had a higher math test and all of the gang cut sorry figures in it excepts for Joy, of course. That guy's a wizard in maths. So, after the tough test we all sat down under a tree, quite exhausted. We were gossiping about the test we just had.

"Hell with CNN (our L-math teacher)?" exploded Fahim. "I flunked the test just for that chubby man."

"Same here, pal," said Anwar, "but what makes me real mad is that I even had to call off my date with Lima (Anwar's sweet heart) for this damned test."

"You know guys how weak I am in Trigonometry? And in to-days test he gave us problems of Trigonometry. So, I too flunked it," said Adeeb gloomily.

"How come you're so weak in Trigonometry?" asked Imtiaz, "we all know that you spend much of your time doing sine-by-cosine-bazaar."

"Oh, just buzz — off! Will ya? Go if ... ing round other places," cried Adeeb in an angry tone.

At this point I stood between those two as there was a fight likely.

"Cool it guys, cool it," said I, "you can do better things than fighting each other."

"Such as?" inquired Imtiaz.

"Such as finding out what's the ass-hole dreaming about over there," I answered indicating Joy who was lying on

the grass.

Imtiaz whacked him on the head. "Hey, playboy. What're you dreaming about?" asked he.

"Well, now we see that he was dreaming 'bout USA," said Fahim.

"Come on, loosen your tongue. What were you thinking?" asked Adeeb.

"Well, I was thinking of a strange date I once had .....

..... I met her at the WVA minabazaar (said Joy). She had deep and dark temptations eyes. She had luscious lips. I had never seen her before but she had known me for a pretty long time. She seemed irresistibly attracted by my calm look of personality [? !!] She lifted her seductive eyes and with an appealing smile on her lips, she said in a romantic tone —

"Call the ace, honey in the evening, so that I can hear a telephone-ring. If you can call before seven, to-gether we'll be in the lover's heaven. If you miss I'm sorry, forget everything then nothing to worry?"

Then she disappeared in the crowd. I was deeply confused whether it was a dream. I realised it wasn't a dream. So, I tried to make a meaning out of the rhyme. Suddenly I figured out that she had given me her phone number in the apparently nonsense rhyme. I guessed the number and dialed her. That night we went to the lover's heaven.....

[Readers, if you can figure out the number you can share it with all of us in the "Rising stars." We will be eager to know it from you?]

Smile  
by Syeda Lipika Hayat

TEENAGERS at the Aid of Moan and Distressed People, is a club, that was established on 27 February, 1992 by few of my selected friends, Shazame Ashna Ahmed, Fermi Nasir, Syeda Laila Hayat and me.

We formed this club, with a view to help the deprived people of our society, the distressed poor children. With savings from our pocket money and some money from our parents we bought clothes for them this 17 March.

Half of these clothes were distributed by us in the slum areas near our houses and the other half, we gave to our Headmistress of S. F. X. Green Herald, Sister Imelda. This was our first project which we named 'Smile'. We are still thinking about our next project. In the future we aim at making this club like the Red Crescent or Lions Club.

Let us all work to make Bangladesh a place for everyone to live and to be happy. Please join us. Thank you!



\* Dear 'JAIM',  
You are going to be the "JAMA" of AIM in the future. So don't go to So and don't tell "Zn (Z.M) 621311. If you tell, I warn you, Wahiduzzaman will kill you.

Hail Hitler  
'NAZI'

\* Dear Adeeb Z. Mahmood,  
I am very shocked to know that you have been attacked by 'HUMAN T-cell Annotpic Virus Typix'. You should have used CD when you were playing with 18. Hope an antidote will soon be discovered.

Hail Hitler  
'NAZI'

Dear Every one (from 11 to 15 years old), I have decided to make an environmental organisation known as "Green Crescent". Those who are interested are requested to inform to the following address:

"Green Crescent"  
343, Tafrabad (Dhanmond) Dhaka.

Things you should include are - Name, Age, Address and Name of school and also Class.

\* Dear Bushra and NK,  
I read your article "Let's talk about Boys" and was happy to read the last sentence and just wanted to tell you two that you girls could have written about the good sides of boys.

Of course a boy

\* "Mr Mushfique,  
I heard that you joined the KGB Congratulations! When does your training begin ???"

From the CIA

\* "Mr Tashfeen,  
Did you immigrate to the Republic of Romania yet ??"

From the S S

\* "Tasht Ahmed,  
Get serious about life and stop being a Sodium Chloride agent."

From : J Alamgir

\* "Mr Fahimul Kabir Khan (Ammonia receiver),  
Was there an Ammonia leak in your house ?? I heard that you are currently in with Amina. Good Luck !"

From the Super S

\* Dear Bushra and NK,  
Thought you had other jobs than trying silly tricks to get the boy's attention. So be nice and stop pinching the mad guys.

From Scarecrow

\* Dear Bush!  
I am surprised to know that you will never marry a 'Changuly Ki Panguly'. But what I really wanted to tell you was about Raphael (my turtle). He is missing you very much. You two seem so alike since you are of the same kind.

Love T<sub>2</sub>  
Add messages  
Dearest Nusrat apu.  
How is Brain Lara?  
— Tehreen.

Dear Tasmlah,  
Did you sent card to Jordan?  
I didn't.

— Tehreen

Dear Jordan,  
Wishing you a very happy birth day.

— Tehreen.

### My first friend

by Naveem M. Mowlah.

to make friends. "Yes, especially self conscious. I thought tears swelling up in my eyes as I looked down at my legs which had no strength in them to support me.

"I'm self conscious because I'm different from others. I'm a crippled." I wanted to burst into tears. But the tears rolled silently down my cheeks. The way they had done after the accident. I wheeled over to the door, went down the stairs carefully and slowly, and out into the wide expanse of our laws. I could feel the soft spring breeze blowing against my cheeks, bending the various lilies and carnations as it lazily ambled by. It was a lovely day, but I was not happy. As I stared up at the sky, the fury building up inside me, the gate

creaked open and a pair of timid brown eyes peered around and the owner, a straight haired chubby girl stepped in. She looked at me and smiled, and I smiled back. "You're new around here, aren't you?" she asked.

Not waiting for an answer, she continued, "I thought I'd come over and see who our neighbours are. Would you come over to my house this afternoon?" She giggled, and fell silent. "You would come, wouldn't you?" she asked, looking uncertainly at my legs.

"Sure, I'd love to!" I replied all my self consciousness gone, my pleasure showing plainly. This was the starting of an everlasting friendship, one of the most important events of my life.



Shahed Chowdhuri

Things you should include are - Name, Age, Address and Name of school and also Class.

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I read your article "Let's talk about Boys" and was happy to read the last sentence and just wanted to tell you two that you girls could have written about the good sides of boys.

Of course a boy



by Rubaiyat Razzaque  
Cartoon by Sanjida

Pollution is nothing new of course as we are polluting the world. Which is not something good. Throwing plastic bags and cans and wasting our food. Lars and chimneys giving out smoke is harmful and makes us choke. And the suns harmful ultraviolet rays cause skin diseases. And new born babies die, makes the people always cry. Can't we avoid such a thing? And make the world a clean, peaceful place again.