'EPI saves 72000 children a yr'

Resident Representative of the UNICEF Rolf C. Carriere yesterday praised the success of the Expanded Immunisation Programme (EPI) in Bangladesh, saying it saves the lives of . 72,000 young children of the country every year, reports

The EPI also prevents 4.2 million bouts of illness and wards off 6,400 cases of paralytic polio annually. Carriere said while addressing a press briefing on the Second International Colloquium of Mayors - Defenders of Children, held in Mexico City last month.

The UNICEF representative said the success examples in Bangladesh also include family planning, water supply, essential drugs and rural credit programme and added "This country has shown what can be done when the power of ideas is harnessed and political will and commitment is acted upon.

The mayors of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi, who attended the colloquium held under the aegis of the UNICEF and hosted by the Mayor of Mexico City on July 5-6 last, also addressed the press briefing.

Some 66 Mayors and municipal leaders from over 45 countries attended the colloguium and adopted a declaration and plan of action in the light of the declaration of the World Summit on Children and respective national plans of action to ensure survival, protection and development of chil-

Carriere said the Mayors from Bangladesh, who had carried with them plans of action for children for their respective corporations, took active part in the deliberations of the collo-

They were the only participants who had prepared such plans of action, the UNICEF representative pointed out, and said in recognition of their commitment the Bangladesh delegation was invited to present the Mexico Declaration at the concluding session.

He mentioned that Bangladesh was one of the first countries to adopt and ratify the UN Convention on the Right of the Children and was now in the process of implementing it.

Carriere recalled that Bangladesh was also an active participant in the World Summit for Children and in adopting the summit declarations and goals.

Subsequently, he said, with a view to translating the summit goals into action Dhaka also prepared a national programme of action for Children which was launched by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on June 2,

In the SAARC context, the UNICEF representative said, Bangladesh provided leadership during the preparation and adoption of the Colombo Resolution and in giving prominence to child survival and development concerns in the recent Dhaka SAARC Summit.

Carriere said Bangladesh was experiencing extremely rapid growth in the urban population and approximately one-half of this growth occurred in slum communities. The most rural- to-urban migrants choose to settle in one of the four city corporations of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi, he said.

Today, the UNICEF representative pointed out, Dhaka alone was accommodating 32 per cent of the total urban population of

Dhaka gaining From Page 1 Col 8

Bangladeshi people, who had sent tea and jute bags to the flood-affected people got good media coverage in the United

He said the Americans had so long known Bangladesh as a land of natural disasters, floods, cyclones and famine. But the country started improving its image among the Americans after the present government came to power, he

Milam, who is due to leave Bangladesh in mid-October on completion of his tenure here, appreciated the government's role in the economic and political arena.

lle also praised the govern-ment's efforts in earrying forward its different socio-economic development programmes in the face of many obstacles.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said the people of Bangladesh were committed to democracy, human rights and rule of law and her government was working to strengthen all democratic institutions for giving democracy a firm founda-

the country. This is a staggering figure when one considers about the severe shortage of land and the acute lack of water and sanitation, education and other facilities, he added.

Carriere said, "The inhumanity of life in the slum is wellknown, but it needs to be underlined that the worse victim of it is the child.

He observed that the problems which plagued the urban poor were an intensified version of those which faced the entire nation. He said in slum communities, the infant mortality rate could be as high as 180 per 1000, much higher than the national average of 110 per 1000 - which is already alarmingly high.

The UNICEF representative said 60 per cent of the young children in urban slums were chronically malnourished and about 30 per cent of families were on the borderline of star-

Sixty per cent of slum dwelling families lack access to safe drinking water, only 40 per cent of them use sanitary latrines and approximately 80 per cent of slum dwelling schoolage children are out of school, he said.

Carriere said Bangladesh alone was not facing these difficulties and this nation was a part of a global acceleration so far urbanisation was concerned

By the end of this millennium, and for the first time in history, he said, there will be more people living in the cities of the world than are living in the rural areas.

The UNICEF representative said by the turn of the century, there will be 21 cities, the world over, which will have populations of 10 million people or more and 18 of these 21 cities will be in developing regions and Dhaka will be one of those.

He gave the assurance that the UNICEF would extend support to the government o Bangladesh in its effort to develop a comprehensive national policy on the urban poor.

Mayor of Dhaka Mirza Abbas said the deplorable situation of urban poor, especially children, must be tackled with due care and concern right now or it would worsen further and render the future generation of the country incapacitated. We all must see the urgency in acting in this sector immediately,

Mayor of Chittagong Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, Mayor of Khulna Sheikh Tayubur Rahman and Mayor of Rajshahi Mizanur Rahman also spoke on the programmes taken up by their respective municipal corporations to tackle the problems of the urban poor.

2 Bangladeshi soldiers killed in Kuwait

KUWAIT, Aug 25: Two Bangladeshi soldiers were killed in Kuwait while trying to defuse a land mine left over from the 1991 Gulf War, a military source said today, reports

"The soldiers were in the desert segregating mines when the mine blew up tearing the two of them apart," the source, who refused to be identified told Reuters.

He said Zakir Hossein and Shahidul Islam were killed instantly when the mine exploded on Tuesday. The bodies will be flown home before the end of the week.

The blast also injured 10 other people.

7 Sirajganj JCD leaders expelled

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 25: Seven JCD leaders, including General Secretary of Shahjadpur Government College Students Union, were expelled today on charge of terrorism, police said, reports UNB.

The expelled JCD members are GS of the college Sabui, Sabbir, Liton, Shah Alam,

Mithu, Arzu and Suruzzaman. Police said the expulsion was announced in the thana headquarters over mike on behalf of the Shahjadpur thana unit of

The expulsion followed assault on TNO Emdadul Huq by a group of JCD activists on August 21. The attackers had also ransacked the TNO's office failing to win his "favour".

Bomb attack on tourists in Turkey

ISTANBUL, Aug 25: Several foreign tourists were wounded today when an unidentified attacker threw a petrol bomb at them in Istanbul, Anatolian said, reports news agency Reuter.

Editor: S. M. Ali **Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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Michael Jackson performs during the opening concert of the Asian leg of his "Dangerous" world tour in National Stadium in Bangkok on Monday. Jackson performs two concerts here on Monday and Tuesday.

Probe against Michael Jackson for child abuse begins

LOS ANGELES, Aug 25: The child sex-abuse investigation of Michael Jackson began after a 13-year-old told a therapist the pop star fondled him; a source said, reports.AP.

Jackson, in Thailand for the latest leg of a world tour Tuesday, denied any wrongdoing. He cancelled Wednesday's concert there, and his doctor said he was suffering from dehydration.

Police have refused to comment on the case except to say that an investigation of the 34year-old singer began Aug 17. Investigators with the county Department of Children's Services also refused to com-

But the source who saw confidential police documents told the Associated Press that the investigation began after the son of a Beverly Hills dentist told his therapist that Jackson sexually abused him.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also said police seized photos and videotapes in a search over the weekend of Jackson's Century City condominium and Neverland ranch.

Anthony Pellicano, Jackson's security consultant, said the allegations followed a failed attempt to blackmail the singer for 20 million dollars.

"I am confident the depart-

ment will conduct a fair and thorough investigation and its results will demonstrate that there was no wrongdoing on my part," Jackson said in a statement read by his lawyer, Howard Weitzman

In another development, KCAL-TV reported that court documents show the boy's father, who is divorced from the mother and locked in a battle for custody, sought a court order to prevent the mother from allowing Jackson to see or communicate with the boy.

Michael Freeman, attorney for the boy's mother, said the woman knew nothing of the abuse allegations until police launched their investigation.

"She was shocked at what

the allegations are," said Freeman, who would not identify his client. "Obviously she had no idea whatsoever that anything was going on of that nature or she would have stopped it." Freeman also denied the

woman was part of an extertion attempt. The lawyer would not say how the boy came to meet Jackson. A lawyer for the boy's father

refused to comment, and no one answered the door at the family's home.

Jackson's personal life has long been fodder for tabloids. which have portrayed him as a

strange longer, a man-child obsessed with plastic surgery, children and exotic animals.

During a TV interview in February with Oprah Winfrey, Jackson said he surrounds himself with children to make up for a friendless, workaholic childhood as a member of The Jackson Five.

He counts Elizabeth Taylor as a close friend, and child ac tors Emmanuel Lewis and Macaulay Culkin are frequent companions.

Jackson played to a sold-out crowd in Bangkok, Thailand, on Tuesday, but postponed Wed nesday's concert there until Thursday. Stuart Finkelstein, tour phy-

sician, said in a statement that Jackson was getting liquid intravenously because of acute dehydration. "Michael expends so much effort and energy because his performance is so important to him," he said. After his Thailand appear

ances, Jackson was to travel to Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, Moscow, Israel, Turkey and the Canary Islands. In his statement on the investigation, he vowed to continue the tour.

"I am grateful for the overwhelming support of my fans throughout the world. I love you all. Thank you. Michael," he

More on page 5



Former Iraqi ambassador to Tunisia Hamed al Jabbouri (L) and former envoy to Canada Hisham al-Shawi (R), the two Iraqi ambassadors who fled to Britain say at a press conference in London on Monday that they are defecting to join the opposition against Saddam Hussein. - AFP photo

Some nurses reject

From Page 1 Col 8

statements, denounced the Kohinoor Begum-led BDNA fac-

The statements said the strike was a collective action or ganised by five nurses' associations and the Kohinoor group alone could not represent all other groups.

"According to the agreement, although the powers of the Director General of Health over the Nurses' Directorate were reduced, yet the powers were still completely vested with a Joint Secretary against whom there are lots of complaints of corruption," Ambia Parvin and Hosne Ara Begum said. The present agreement was virtually just another version of the transfer order which had fuelled the nurses' strike, they said.

The agreement also formed a five-member committee comprising representatives of the government and the Kohtnoor Begum group, the statements said. It also alleged that the members of the Kohinoor group were corrupt and some were even involved with violent ac-

"We have agreed to withdraw the strike considering its impact on the patients," the statements said, "and not in solidarity with

the Kohinoor group."

The nurses have resorted to three strikes in government hospitals and clinics across the country in the last one year. There were also partial strikes following inner conflicts in some hospitals during this period.

ECNEC

From Page 1 Col 8

The approval was given at the ECNEC meeting presided over by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman here in the morning at the cabinet room of the secretariat.

The ECNEC also directed the Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corruption (BFIDC) to gear up rubber plantation, hand over some plots to the private sector and improve the managerial skills and maintenance of the rubber plantations.

The ECNEC also approved four other projects including procurement of six mobile FM transmitters for the Information Ministry, emergency interim water supply in Khulna city under the LGRD Ministry, the Rupsha market development under the Works Ministry, and wildlife preservation and management development project of the Environment and Forests Ministry.

SAF Games From page 1 col 7

A number of other ministers, the chief of army staff and leaders of different political parties were also present.

Summing up the meeting, the Prime Minister expressed the hope that with the earlier experience, the Games should be more successful this time. The remarkable presence of

arrive here soon to train the lo-

Student stabbed

From Our Correspondent

of the Government M C College

here was stabbed to death by a

group of miscreants near the

shrine of Hazrat Shah Paran

(RA) in the early hours today.

SYLHET, Aug 25: A student

Games

the majority of the organising The High Court yesterday committee members demonstrated the unity on national issues, she said calling upon all to work sincerely for finishing all preparations to time. Begum Zia expressed her

Former president Ershad, firm belief that the image of the country would be enhanced through successful holding of the meet. Earlier, Sadek Hossain told the meeting that a football coach from Switzerland would

At one stage of the trial in cal soccer team for the SAF Foreign coaches are also training the Bangladesh teams in other disciplines which are: Athletics, boxing, judo, kabaddi shooting, swimming, table tennis, volleyball and wrestling.

The two-member High Court bench comprising Justice A K M

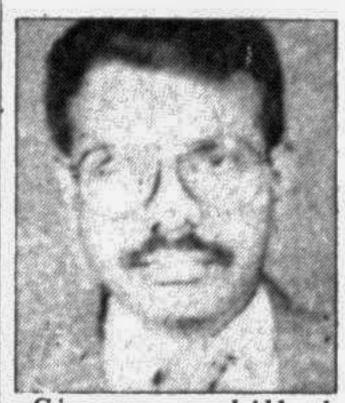
Attorney General Aminul Haque appeared for the state, while Moudud Ahmed pleaded on behalf of the dependant.

5 killed as police fire on Nepali flood victims

KATHMANDU, Aug 25: Police fired on starving flood victims in a village in Nepal's Sarlahi district southeast of Kathmandu on Monday, killing five people and injuring 12, a Communist Party source said today, reports

A Home Ministry spokesman confirmed only two deaths and eight injuries and said five policemen and a police inspector were among the injured in the

The main political opposition in Parliament, the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) Wednesday demanded the government to constitute an investigation commission to probe the circumstances leading to police firing and to punish the guilty, a parliamentary source told AFP.



Sivarasan killed Rajiv 'on orders of Prabhakaran'

MADRAS, Aug 25: The oneeyed Sivarasan had planned and executed the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi at the instance of LTTE leader Prabhakaran, reports PTI.

This was told by Sivarasan himself to one of the accused, Dhanasekharan, the prosecution told the trial court here yesterday.

Arguing on the involvement of Dhanasekharan, a Mettur based fleet owner, in the case, the counsel A T Dante told the presiding judge SM Siddick that Dhanasekharan who was responsible for transporting Sivarasan to Bangalore concealing him in a tanker lorry, asked Sivarasan why he had killed Rajiv Gandhi.

Sivarasan was quoted as saying that the killing was done on the orders of the leader (Prabhakaran). Dhanasekharan, in his statement under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act [TADA] also reported to have asked Sivarasan why Sobha was brought. For this Sivarasan replied that she was brought as a substitute to Dhanu.

The LTTE had made a benami investment of Rs 10 lakh, a year before the assassination of Rajīv Gandhi and purchased six Maruti Gypsy jeeps which provided quick mobility to Sivarasan and other cadres when they were closely pursued by the special investigation team (SIT), the prosecution

Waterlogging From page 1 col 7 ·

sons for waterlogging in the city. Unplanned construction of buildings, illegal occupation of the matural sewerage canals by a section of people and construction there on dumping of domestic garbage and polythene bags in the manholes of the storm sewerage lines were cited as same of the other reasons for the problem.

The construction of embankments on the western parts of the city had also blocked the sewerage system, the handout said.

The government sought cooperation of the city dwellers in solving the problems of waterlogging.

Holiday Inn Hotel case:

HC hearing of. quashment petition Nov 16

fixed November 16 for the final hearing of the petition seeking quashment by former president H M Ershad from the Holiday Inn Hotel case, reports BSS.

former vice president Moudud Ahmed and three others were charged in a corruption case involving allotment of government lands to the developers of the proposed Holiday Inn Hotel in Shahbagh area, in Dhaka.

the special judge's court, accused Ershad moved to the high court seeking quashment. The proceedings of the trial court of the case remained suspended from late last year following stay order from the High Court.

Sadeq and Justice K M Hasan after hearing arguments of both sides, fixed November 16 for final hearing of the matter.

The Midnight Eile

UN aid convoy reach Mostar MOSTAR (Bosnia), Aug 25: A UN emergency aid convoy reached the embattled Bosnian city of Mostar tonight and began unloading food and medical supplies, a UN relief spokeswoman said. The 27-truck relief column pulled into the Croat-held central sector of Mostar at 1800 GMT after being blocked for hours on access roads to the city by Croat civilian protesters, UN refugee agency spokeswoman Alemaka Lisinski said.

Teen-ager killed in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 25: A teenager gunned down in township violence Wednesday became the latest victim of fighting that has claimed more than 500 black lives in seven weeks. Police said the unidentified 15-year-old boy was shot in the head with an AK-47 rifle in the strife-torn black township of Tokoza, east of Johannesburg, reports AP.

Flood action plan

From page 1 col 7 he people.

reports Reuter.

On the existing bilateral ties between the two countries, the envoy noted that the relationship is based on "emotional and friendly ties."

In 1971, he said, French public opinion "very quickly" sided with Bangladesh and as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council France also helped the independence movement. Later she campaigned for Bangladesh's recognition.

The ties were strengthened by the visit to Bangladesh of French first lady Danielle Mitterrand in 1988, a visit to France by former President Ershad and a subsequent visit

Ten drowned in boat capsizes

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 25: Seven people, including a young girl, were missing after a mechanised boat capsized in the Chalanbil in Tarash thana Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the Potarbound boat carrying 24 passengers from Naogaon Bazar capsized after colliding with another boat coming from the opposite direction. Seventeen other passengers swam ashore.

The victims were identified as Golam Mawla, 46, Abdul Majid, 39, Fazal Sheikh, 21, Jahandar Ali, 45, Moimona Khatun, 16, Bahez Ali Pramanik, 32 and Abdul Quddus, 61, of Handial village of Tarash thana.

Our Sylhet Correspondent adds: Three people including a woman and her three-year-old child were drowned in a boat capsized at Tikorpara under Beanibazar thana Monday night.

According to a delayed report, the victims drowned when their country boat capsized due to overloading.

The victims were identified as the wife of one Hasan Ahmed Manik, their 3-year-old son Delwar and Mansur Alt, 15, of village Sherpur.

Monsur Ali, who came from England only nine days ago, did not know how to swim. The other passengers on board the ill-fated boat managed to swim ashore.

NGC tomorrow

From page 1 col 7

Barrister Amtrul, Islam, Advocate Zahirul Islam and Pankaj Bhattacharya was authorised to draft a constitution for the party in offing. The constitution and structure of the proposed party's central body also came up for discussion in the steering committee's meet last night, meeting sources said.

A senior member of the preparatory committee of the NGC told The Daily Star last night that the preparations were going on smoothly and they are expecting a large gathering at the convention if the weather remains favourable.

UNB adds: The proposed political party initiated by Dr Kamal Hossain is likely to be named as the Jatiya Oikya Forum (United National Forum), according to a source involved in the move.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Dhaka Metropolitan Shopowners' Association met with Dr Kamal Hossain at his residence last night and discussed various problems faced by

Seven held after gunfight in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 25: Seven armedmen were arrested today after a gunbattle with police on Karaldang hill in Boalmari, 15 km from the port city, reports UNB.

Police named three of the arrest as Aminur Rahman, Kanchan Barua and Mohammad Selim while identity of others were not disclosed.

Police said they launched a pre-dawn raid on the Karaldang hill on tips from secret sources when the armedmen fired on them. The gun battle continued for half an hour when the miscreants retreated. No casualty was reported from either side.

to Dhaka by President Mitterrand, he said.

To counter international criticism that its ties were centered basically around the Frenchspeaking African nations, France became interested in strengthening ties with some other developing countries, he said. Bangladesh was a natural choice, he added, since it had a

large population. "France always had an active policy towards developing countries and we wanted to show that it could be generous everywhere,"

France provides about 100 million franc grant assistance along with about 20,000 tonnes of food aid annually to Bangladesh. Ambassador Lacombe noted that his country wrote off 600 million franc (Tk 440 crore) worth of debts owed by Bangladesh two years ago.

Dhaka enjoys a substantially favourable balance in its bilateral trade with France. In 1992. Bangladesh exported 116 million dollars worth of goods to France but imports totalled only 12 million dollars from the European country. "Although France is accused

of being a protectionist country,

we have a huge trade deficit

with Bangladesh," he noted. "France freely accepts Bangladeshi exports, primarily garments and textiles. Ambassador Lacombe noted that French trading ties with this part of the world date back to the 17th century when

ested in textiles, fabrics and indigo produced in this region. The French envoy pointed out that his country also provides Tk 30 million to promote cultural and scientific coopera-

French traders became inter-

tion with Bangladesh. Later, Rotarian R A Hirit, former president of the club, offered a vote of thanks to the French ambassador for

addressing the meeting.

No peace

From Page 1 Col 5 the UN's judicial arm. He said Bosnia is "now being forced to negotiate with the perpetrators of this crime, while the threat of ongoing genocide is held as a

loaded gun to our head." A plan proposed by interna-'tional mediators would give Muslims about 31 per cent of Bosnia, Croats about 17 per cent and the Serbs some 52 per cent. The three ethnic republics would be linked under a weak

But Sacirbey warned any agreement in Geneva would be "null and void on the basis that any signature was coerced under the threat of continuing genocide.

Bosnia has asked for an un-

central government.

precedented second emergency ruling from the court to protect it from alleged Serbian genocide. The court first made such a ruling in April.

Another DC-10

From Page 1 Col 3 major structural overhauling, one Biman source said, adding that the aircraft flew from Rome with a "crack on its tail."

He, however, said the crack was identified by the experts as a "go-type" snag which would not affect its flight safety. Biman Bangladesh Airlines

leased two DC-10-30 planes one for six months and another for three years - after one of its four DC-10s met with an accident at the ZIA in May last. Biman will have to pay 275,000 US dollars monthly for each leased aircraft.

The source said the crack would have taken at least another 15 days to repair but Biman' badly needed the aircraft because another DC-10 was taken to the hanger for Cchecking while another is grounded in London for technical reasons.

He said the manufacturers and experts from the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) suggested that the repair of the crack can be done after another 5000 hours of flying.

An American airlines - the World Airways - operated the DC-10 on a lease-basis before Biman took it from the McDonnell Douglas The Biman official admitted

that because of a shortage of aircraft at the moment Biman's international schedule was seriously disrupted. The other leased DC-10

the Biman fleet last month.

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