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UNICEF official calls on president

The UNICEF Representative in Dhaka Shahida Azfar called on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad at Bangabhaban yesterday and presented him a copy of the UNICEF report on 'state of the world's children-2000', reports UNB.

Azfar also apprised the President of the UNICEF activities in Bangladesh like immunization of children, birth registration, minimizing of mother and children's mortality and ensuring safe drinking water.

She said that the government, development partners and NGOs have taken concerted efforts for solving the arsenic contamination problem.

President Shahabuddin appreciated the publication of the UNICEF report and UNICEF activities in Bangladesh.

Dhaka flood control project to be completed by 2000

A Parliamentary Estimate Committee meeting was told yesterday that 92.17 per cent work of the Integrated Dhaka Flood Control Project had been completed and the rest would be done by December next, reports UNB.

The meeting reviewed the progress of the ongoing development projects of the Water Development Board, including Riverbank Protection Project, Dhaka Coordinated Flood Protection Project and Goral River Re-excavation Project.

The meeting emphasised that government rules and regulations must be maintained while implementing any development projects to ensure transparency and accountability.

Chaired by committee chairman Dr Mizanul Haq, the meeting was attended by ASM Firoz, Prof Abdul Quddus, Dr TIM Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury, Prof M Abdullah, Akhtaruzzaman and M Abu Hena, said a Parliament Secretariat press release.

Family members of late Nasu, Zakir get PM's help

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday handed over Tk one lakh each to the family members of Nasu Mia and Zakir Hossain, who died of bomb injuries during November 25 hartal, reports UNB.

Khorshed Mridha, father of the truck driver Nasu Mia, and Parveen Begum, wife of helper Zakir, received the money from the Prime Minister at Ganobhaban.

Nasu Mia was burned to death in his truck when a petrol bomb was hurled at the truck in Shahjahanpur area on November 25 during a hartal enforced by BNP-led opposition alliance. Zakir, another victim of the incident, succumbed to burn injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital the following day.

Zakir's wife Parveen, who is now expecting, told the PM about the uncertainty of the coming baby's future.

Another victim Babul, now undergoing treatment, received Tk 25,000 from the Prime Minister.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq, Ahsanullah Master, MP, Truck Drivers and Employers Federation General Secretary Roy Ramesh Chandra, Bangladesh Truck Owners' Association General Secretary Rustam Ali Khan were present on the occasion.

French short story contest

Entries are invited for a short story contest in French, organised by two Alliance Francaises of Bangladesh, says a press release.

There will be four categories in the contest. Attractive prizes including publication of the stories will be offered to the selected participants.

Details are available at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhaka-1205. Phone-8611557, 505881 and 505865. Fax-8616462. e-mail: alliance@vasidigital.com, or Alliance Francaise de Chittagong, 123 K B Fazlul Kader Road, Panchlaish R/A, Chittagong. Phone 615740. Fax: 88031610086. e-mail:afc@spnetctg.com.

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BIRTHDAY.

C-1053 ASHIQUE

BCL protest rally today

By DU Correspondent
Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the ruling party, will bring out a procession and hold a rally on the Dhaka University campus today to protest the terrorist activities and 'conspiracy' of religious fanatics.

In a statement, BCL president Bahadur Bepary and general secretary Ajay Kar Khokan, yesterday condemned the activities of Jamaat-Shibir at Shahjalal University in Sylhet and at Chittagong University.

1072 arrested in combing operation

A total of 1072 people were arrested and 13 illegal arms, 35 bullets and six bombs seized during the countrywide combing operation by police, Bangladesh Rifles and Ansars yesterday, reports BSS.

The combined force arrested 524 wanted criminals from across the country including four metropolitan areas and seized the arms and ammunition, and explosives. They also arrested 542 more people on different charges.

Hasina greets Japanese PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has felicitated Japanese Premier Keizo Obuchi on the occasion of the birthday of the Emperor of Japan to be observed today, reports UNB.

In a message to Obuchi, she said, "I am confident that the bonds of friendly relations between our two countries will further be strengthened in the next millennium for the mutual benefit of our two peoples."

She wished him good health and happiness, and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Japan.

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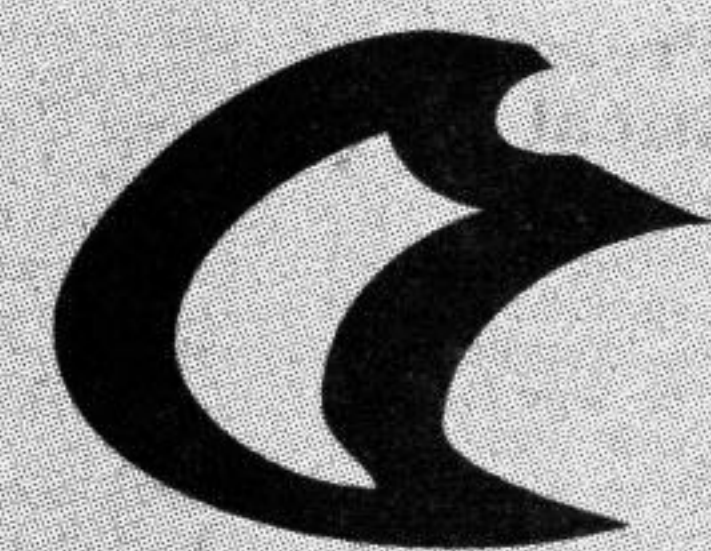
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