

# 96 pc has access to drinking water: Unicef report

The health of the people in the country has improved as their level of nutrition rose and access to improved drinking water widened over the last couple of years, reports BSS.

Consumption of iodized salt has also increased significantly over the period.

UNICEF in its recent world report revealed that more than 96 per cent people in the country have access to improved drinking water when India and Pakistan have 88 per cent each.

The report said 55 per cent of the households in Bangladesh consumed iodized salt while in India and Pakistan, 70 per cent and 19 per cent households did so.

Regarding sanitation facilities, the UNICEF report said 53 per cent of the total population in Bangladesh use adequate sanitation facilities against 88 per cent in India and 61 per cent in Pakistan. In Sri Lanka, 91 per cent people have access to ade-

quate sanitation facilities.

The report, which covered position of people's health, nutrition, education, maternal mortality and economic growth across the world, said that nearly 11 million children die every year of preventable diseases in life.

Referring to the maternal mortality rate across the globe, the report said a woman in the developing world including Bangladesh is on an average 40 times more likely than a woman living in the developed world, to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. It also showed that child mortality rate in Bangladesh improved significantly during the last one year.

The report said that infant mortality rate in the country has come down by 39 per cent over the last 10 years. The enrolment of children in primary schools reached 95 per cent and the literacy rate has gone up to 62 per cent over the last couple of years, it said.

In child mortality rate, Sierra Leone showed the gravest situation with 316 deaths of children per thousand births every year, while Switzerland came up with best figures where only four such deaths take place per thousand births.

## D-8 leaders to meet in Cairo next month

Leaders of D-8 countries will meet in Cairo next month to draw up future plan of action and give the loose economic bloc a sense of direction in the changing global scenario, reports UNB.

"We feel that the leaders will take up the issue of politics ruling the world," said Foreign Secretary (Multilateral) Dr Toufiq Ali, briefing newsmen on the outcome of the 9th meeting of the D-8 Commission that ended here on Wednesday.

The Summit meeting of the D-8 or Developing Eight, a forum of eight OIC member-states from

Asia and Africa, is likely to be held on February 25 as proposed by Egypt, the host country.

The meeting of the D-8 Commission, the executive body of the forum, discussed various bottlenecks in implementing projects and prepared ground for the 3rd summit to be held in Cairo.

The D-8, comprising Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey, was floated in Istanbul in 1997 to enhance socio-economic cooperation.

Dr Toufiq Ali, the Bangladesh Commissioner for the D-8, said the Cairo Summit will review the world scenario and focus on future steps in the process of globalisation.

Dr Ali said the forum is looking into the prospect of building up a cyber ball to facilitate businessmen-to-businessmen or government-to-businessmen transaction. He emphasised that the private sector is the key to success of D-8.

Prior to the 3rd Summit a Business Forum will be held in Cairo from Feb 22-23. The Egyptian Chamber has extended invitation to its counterparts in the D-8 member countries to attend the meeting.

### Shibir men

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Hossain who was killed in the carnage, filed the case with Chandgaon thana accusing 30 Shibir activists.

CID unearthed clues to the killing after the arrest of two chargesheeted accused Md Selaiman and Abdul Khatum Chowdhury.

The carnage took place at 11-30 am on July 12 when a gang of seven opened fire on a microbus carrying some BCL activists to party meeting at Bahaddarhat.

The killers came by a microbus to launch the attack, police said.

### ZIA

From Page 1  
responsible for pilferage of luggage of any passenger as well as cargo, the CAAB official said.

He however said other airlines also maintain their own security and share the responsibility with Biman in looking after luggage.

"We take the help of police to maintain law and order at the canopy and in the area up to the main road", a top official of CAAB said.

But airport police and 18 other agencies operating at the terminal building and at the runway also do not come under the control of CAAB. They operate individually.

But he asserted that Biman is solely responsible for pilferage and loss of luggage. "Without connivance of Biman employees, none can touch any luggage before delivery," the official added.

Shifa said "false" cases were filed deliberately under PSA against Morsed Khan, his son Faisal Morsed Khan and another party lawmaker Mujibur Rahman Sarwar to harass them and destroy their public image.

Khaleda Zia said cases under PSA have to be filed against the ministers and terrorists who damaged hundreds of vehicles,

which was awarded the printing work, she said. "Those who were once infamous for bank loan default have now emerged as book defaulter."

About lease of the "Fairly House", she quoted press reports and said the government leased it to an Indian company for only Tk 22 crore although its price is over Tk 100 crore. "Some AL men might have made fortune from this deal".

She also alleged that some AL men made at least Tk 400 crore from MIG-29 purchase deal.

She said murder, snatching,

hijacking, terrorism, rape and other crimes have become rampant. Awami League leaders and activists are involved in most of such incidents, she alleged.

"It is not possible to curb terrorism without removing this terrorist government. Foreign investors and businessmen shy away because of the law and order situation".

Presided over by city BNP President Sadeque Hossain Khoka, the meeting was also addressed by, among others, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and party leader Abdus Salam, JP Secretary General Nazir Rahman Manjur and party leader Saifur Rahman, Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mujahid and party leader ATM Azharul Islam, IOJ leader Abdul Latif Nezami and Jagga President Shafiq Alam Prodhan.

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