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

UNICEF in its recent world report revealed that more than 96 per cent people in the country have access to improve 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 adequate sanitation facilities.

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

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

or Developing Eight, a forum of

eight OIC member-states from Asia

Shibir men

From Page 1

Hossain who was killed in the carnage, filed the case with Chandgao thana accusing 30 Shibir

CID unearthed clues to the killing

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

The killers came by a microbus to

launch the attack, police said.

after the arrest of two chargesheeted

accused Md Solaiman and Abdul

Kaium Chowdhury

The Summit meeting of the D-8

that ended here on Wednesday.

"We feel that the leaders will take

scenario, reports UNB.

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 the world.

Referring to nutrition level, it said that 170 million children are malnourished and 100 million never see the inside of schools across the globe. Giving child mortality rates across

the world, it said Bangladesh ranked 53rd in the world in terms of child mortality rate, while India ranked 49th and Pakistan 39th. The position of Sri Lanka is 135th. 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.

The report placed emphasis on giving more attention to the welfare

February 25 as proposed by Egypt,

The meeting of the D-8 Commis-

sion, the executive body of the

forum, discussed various bottle-

necks in implementing projects and

prepared ground for the 3rd summit

desh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malay-

sia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey,

was floated in Istanbul in 1997 to

enhance socio-economic coopera-

Commissioner for the D-8, said the

Cairo Summit will review the world

scenario and focus on future steps

into the prospect of building up a

cvber ball to facilitate businessmen-

to-businessmen or government-to-

businessmen transaction. He

emphasised that the private sector

Prior to the 3rd Summit a Busi-

ness 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.

is the key to success of D-8.

in the process of globalisation.

Dr Toufiq Ali, the Bangladesh

Dr Ali said the forum is looking

The D-8, comprising Bangla-

the host country.

to be held in Cairo.

D-8 leaders to meet

in Cairo next month

of children and cutting child mortality rate. It said \$80 billion are needed per year to give every newborn a good start 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

ZIA

From Page 1 responsible for pilferage of luggage

of any passenger as well as cargo, the

also maintain their own security and

share the responsibility with Biman

maintain law and order at the can-

opy and in the area up to the main

But airport police and 18 other

agencies operating at the terminal

building and at the runway also do

not come under the control of

But he asserted that Biman is

solely responsible for pilferage and

loss of luggage. "Without conniv-

ance of Biman employees, none can

touch any luggage before delivery,"

Biman

planning to invite potential airlines

to a 'road show' in Dhaka to present

Biman in its real perspective. This

would remove any doubt on its

prospects as its business is increas-

behind prospective partners' lack of

interest in Biman's privatisation

programme was the employees'

agitation against it last year. Besides,

a simultaneous move by Biman to

procure new generation aircraft also

discouraged the prospective part-

is that Biman offered only 40 per

cent stakes to the startegic partners.

"They would feel encouraged if they

are offered 49 per cent share and

the government and the employees

retain 51 per cent share on a 40:11

ratio. At the same time, Biman's

status as a national carrier could be

The Board of Management of

Biman would meet shortly to discuss

Buriganga

this huge amount. Severe resource

crisis is making it difficult to allocate

money to these projects, he

minister," he said, "whether he

wants to prioritise the Buriganga

Meanwhile, a BIWTA plan to dredge the riverbed has reportedly

SAPTA

Project is his discretion.

been shelved.

Request for Tk 19 crore is part of

"The matter is now lying with the

retained," one official noted.

the latest situation.

Another reason, the officials said,

They said that the major reason

From Page 12 Biman officials said they are now

the official added

ing since last year.

CAAB. They operate individually.

road", a top official of CAAB said.

He however said other airlines

"We take the help of police to

CAAB official said.

in looking after luggage.



Parishad at the South Hall of Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday.

Dawn-to-dusk hartal

From Page 1

because of its "misdeeds, corruption, vandalism and politicisation.

Khaleda Zia said the AL government has politicised everything in the country. It has appointed party men and relatives of AL leaders in all top positions driving out compe-

"After politicising lower courts, it has started appointing party men and controversial and incompetent persons in higher courts to serve its own interest," she added.

She said "false" cases were filed deliberately under PSA against Morshed Khan, his son Faisal Morshed 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,

driver and let loose a reign of terror on December 14 last year.

Turing to government's failure to supply text books to school students, she said, "Criminals and bank loan defaulters have become friends and well-wishers of the AL Without naming the company

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

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 usinessmen 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 Naziur 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 Jagpa President Shafiul Alam

From Page 12

tation before DSE members as the vendor has not been fixed as vet. So. how can we give a presentation," meeting sources quoted the chairman as saying.

the negotiation committee told the informal meeting that the DSE's letter reflects their unwillingness to participate in the CDBL

the negotiation committee, protested the statement saying that the DSE simply wanted everything to be transparent.

CDBL yesterday served a notice to the board members that the board meeting would be held on January

"We want everything to be transexpected to bring transparency in the capital market," Jaigirdar was

Following the DSE vicechairman's allegation. Chief Executive Officer of the CDBL AGM Samsul Kamal apologized before his board accepting the blame for

"We were never against the establishment of the CDS...We want to see it now, if possible," DSE Chairman Shahiq Khan told UNB

know before introducing the system whether they would face any trou-

From Page 1 Gafargaon took four bodies with permission from the district adminis-

Meanwhile, some local people said it was not merely a road accident, but there were some incidents behind it. They said some robbers looted

belongings of the victims, and tied

them up in the autorickshaw The bus driver, seeing the bandits on the road, drove his vehicle reck-

lessly that caused the accident.

ble. "It's not fair that CDBL will impose something on us.

Trial of war criminals under

"But it is necessary to create public opinion in this regard," she said while receiving a memorandum from a JSD delegation at Ganobhaban

yesterday.

A 10-member delegation of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal led by its president and Fisheries and Livestock Minister A S M Abdur Rab and general secretary Hasanul Huq Inu called on the Prime Minister yesterday evening.

The JSD delegation submitted the memorandum to the Prime Minister containing a 17-civit dayward mainly featuring the demand for a point demand, mainly featuring the demand for a special tribunal for the trial of the 1971 war

of life, irrespective of their party affiliation, to create public opinion on this issue. Narrating government's initiatives for the welfare of the freedom fighters she said her

government crowned them with state honour, provided allowance for the poor freedom fighters and introduced quota for their children. "Our government is also working to project

The Prime Minister said work for preparing an accurate list of the freedom fighters was going on in full swing. She sought cooperation from all concerned, including the JSD, in successful completion of the task.

PM to open DITF today Dhaka International Trade Fair

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the month-long fair

at 3 pm at the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil, Federation of Bangladesh

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) president Yussuf Abdullah Harun and Export Promotion Bureau vice chairman A B Chowdhury will spoke at the inaugural function.

A total of 40 pavilions, 60 minipavilions and 320 stalls have been allotted in the fair.

Twenty-two foreign countries

Emergency

Then these are sold to patients charging double the prices or even

"This is happening for a long time," said a doctor at the casualty department. Refusing to be identified, she said those at the hospital store at times refuse to give life saving drugs showing some reasons. Doctors then have to ask natients' attendants to arrange those on their own.

At the emergency wards, almost all the patients have to buv life saving drugs like titenus toxoid. diclonafec, ficlox, phenorbitin, enocef, oradoxon.

The hospital is supposed to have at least 130 categories of drugs including 20 life ones for supply to patients round the clock, one source pointed out.

From Page 1

Malek and Barrister Mainul Hossain -- met the chief justice and proposed appointment of the two superseded judges in the Appellate Division. Chief Justice Latifur Rahman accepted the proposal.

The senior lawyers then met the President who expressed his limitations due to constitutional obligations. According to the constitution, the President can only advise the prime minister on the appointment of a judge. Afterwards the lawyers sought the prime minister's appoint-

Law Minister Abdul Matin

One of the five members and Supreme Court BAR Association When asked if he was hopeful that

Credit card forgery

PM: Opposition

From Page 1

Alerting party leaders against all

conspiracies, Hasina said faith and

confidence of the people are the

main sources of power for the

and workers to continue their

sincere works for the people to win

Hasina asserted that it is not

oossible to alienate Awami League

from the people through conspiracy.

She lamented that AL has become

victim of conspiracy from within

and outside. She also cautioned that

stern action would be taken against

anyone trying to hamper the image

The Prime Minister said the

popularity of the ruling party has

increased for good work and the

increasing popularity of Awami

League has made the opposition

doubtful about their chance to win

She said her government has

restored discipline in all sectors.

the next election.

The AL chief urged party leaders

throughout the country.

the next general election.

Razzak had four cards. The card in his name was genuine. He forged

Razzak was staying in the hotel with his wife, two children and two middle-aged women, occupying

Farhad Mian -- were arrested on December 15 last year when they

were recovered.

Shylhet town on August 12 last year. Seven counterfeit cards and a machine used for making such longstanding problems of the coun-

established a base for rapid economic development and solved

"The people have started getting the results of development activities of the government," she said. She also mentioned successes of the government in attaining autarky in food, increasing literacy rate and

buying capacity of the people. The Prime Minister termed the present government as the most efficient since the assassination of Bangabandhu and said it has ensured a balanced development in all part of the country.

Among others were present Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, AL Office Secretary Abdul Mannan Khan, Whip Mujibul Haq Mujib, AF M Mustafa Kamal MP, Tajul Islam MP, Advocate Joynal Abedin Bhuiyan MP, Advocate Abdul Hakim MP, Prof Panna Kaiser MP and District AL President Prof Khorshed Alam and Acting General Secretary ATM Mahbubur Rahman

ing the same number was issued to one Abdul Haq. The hotel authorities then informed DB police.

three credit cards issued in the name of three persons and used

DB police sources said London police earlier accused Razzak of credit card forgery.

Two youths -- Titu Mian and

attempted to purchase gold ornaments worth about Tk 70, 000 from a jewellery shop at New Market in the city, using a counterfeit credit

The shop owner immediately checked with the bank concerned, found the card to be fake and informed Dhanmondi police. They were arrested and two fake cards

Another forger, Mohammad Iqbal Ahmed, a Bangladeshi born British citizen, was arrested from

A list of credit cards of persons who visited

Sonargaon earlier was also recovered from Iqbal, the sources said. A case was filed with Shylhet Kotwali police. But Iqbal obtained

bail and left the country.

The sources said Iqbal had used fake credit cards in Shylhet and Dhaka earlier also and made payments of over Tk 1.5 lakh, using

When contacted, an official of Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank said, "We are more cautious now while processing transactions through credit cards and have alerted local banks doing transac-

Police 'informer'

From Page 12

Police said the miscreants called Javed out of his residence at about 8:30 pm and took him to the nearby Rahmatullah camp. They shot in his legs and severed wrists.

Javed was admitted to the A case was filed with Pallabi

police in this regard.

CDBL MD resigns

From Page 12

Sources said another member of

DSE Senior Vice Chairman Anu Jaigirdar, who is also a member of

quoted to have told the meeting.

lapses in his work.

He said the DSE members must

8 killed

From Page 1 On the other hand, India, in a

notification, informed the Bangladesh government that it would provide 10 to 90 per cent duty concessions on 77 According to sources in the busi-

ness circle, such trade concessions

were yet to be implemented, since the countries did not take any follow-up action after the notifications. among the South Asian countries constitutes less than 20 per cent of the

region's total trade with the rest of the In 1996 Bangladesh's exports to and import from its four South Asian neighbours India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were 1.7 and 17.7 per cent respectively of its total trade with the rest of the world.

BTTB mobile

From Page 1

crore. But the planning ministry said donors were reluctant to finance such project in the public sector as private cellular operators were doing well. There are four cellular mobile

phone operators in private sector with about 2.86 lakh subscribers. Three of those are providing GSM service to about 2.53 lakh subscribers and the other provides analogue AMPS and Call Device Multiple Access (CDMA) service to about 33,000 subscribers. BTTB's mobile phone service

would cover entire the country. At present only GrameenPhone has such service in all the six divisions while PBTL and Telekom Malaysia International (TMIB) have service in Chittagong city and Telecom in the capital. after joining the cabinet of

consideration

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the matter of trial of war criminals is now under special consideration of the government, reports

Sheikh Hasina called upon people of all walks

the real history to the new generation," she told

2001 begins today, reports UNB.

in the city.

will participate in the DITF.

5 lawyers

Khasru while talking to The Daily Star confirmed that the Prime Minister would meet the five lawvers upon her return from Cambo-

President Barrister Moinul Hossain told The Daily Star that the lawyers would hold a meeting tomorrow and decide the next course of action. the crisis would be over, he refrained from making any comment but noted, "Barrister Ishtiaque is hope-

Bangabandhu's portrait

From Page 1 Jatiya Party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Monju and JSD President ASM Rab, two ministers in Sheikh Hasina's government of

national consensus, left the House just before the bill was passed amid thunderous applause from the ruling party lawmakers. Both the ministers were present when the process of passing the bill was on. But, Monju left just a minute before the House passed the bill

at 12.15 p. m. while Rab left a few

minutes earlier. Five lawmakers of the Jatiya Party however stayed on. Seventy-two treasury bench members including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina were present during the passage of the bill. Once the bill was passed many of them left,

leaving the House once again in quorum crisis. Gazi, who initiated the private member's bill, raised controversy

Khandakar Mushtaq Ahmed following the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975. Gazi was also a minister on the postindependence cabinet of Bangabandhu. A private member's bill is a bill moved by an MP who is not a minis-

ter. Normally, MPs in the opposition

bench move such bills that rarely get approval of the House. A parliament official said only one such bill on privileges of the lawmakers was passed by the fifth Jatiya Sangsad while a veteran parliamentarian recalled another private member's bill being passed

by the fourth parliament. The bill, placed on April 6 last year, had been pending for with the parliamentary standing committee on private members' bills and resolution for scrutiny. On scrutiny, the bill came to the

agenda for passage during the last

session of parliament. But it was not

moved for passage apparently to avoid bitter criticism by Major (retd) Akhtaruzzaman, who was prepared to protest the bill. Akhtar has meantime lost his seat because of attending parliament proceedings defying the decision of his party, BNP. The statement on objectives of the bill said the mandatory provision

due respect to Father of the Nation and the future generations can come to know about him. It also recalled Bangabandhu's immense contribution to the nation's long struggle for independ-

for preservation and exhibition of

Bangabandhu's portrait are strongly

needed so that the nation can show

The bill referred to the fourth amendment to the Constitution and its article 34(b) that recognises Bangabandhu as Father of the