



Artists of 'Rabi Rashmi' rendering a chorus song at a function held at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday. The programme was held to mark the third founding anniversary of 'Rabi Rashmi.'

BFTA hails formation of committee for HR dev

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Association (BFTA) has welcomed the formation of the Committee for Human Resources Development headed by Education Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Alam.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia formed the committee in her first meeting with the secretaries pledging to implement its recommendations in 100 days. The committee has been asked to submit its report within a week.

Teachers' leaders belonging to the Bangladesh Teachers' Association (BTA) and Bangladesh College Teachers' Association (BCTA) representing the non-government school and college teachers and affiliated with the BFTA in a meeting yesterday with its Principal Kazi Faruque Ahmed in the chair welcomed the committee, a press release said.

The meeting, however, requested the government to extend the time-limit for submission of the recommendations of the committee.

"The meeting held the view that the time given for preparation and submission of the recommendations is inadequate. It requested the government to allow at least a month's time to perform such a gigantic task," the release said.

The meeting urged the Education Secretary to convene a meeting of all teachers' organisations interested in human resource development and requested the fraternal

teacher bodies also to submit their written suggestions.

Among others, Mohammad Azizul Islam, Khan Mosharraf Hossain, Principal Asadul Hoque, Vice Principal Nurun Nabi Siddiqui, Vice Principal Abdur Rob Miah, Vice Principal Janey Alam Sikder, A.H.M. Moniruzzoha, Abdur Rahman and M Farid Hossain also addressed the meeting.

Durga Puja vacation begins today at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

All classes of Chittagong University (CU) will be suspended till November 1 from today on the occasion of Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of Hindu community, and autumn vacation. The classes will resume on November 2.

However, offices of the university will remain closed from October 22 to 25, said a CU press release on Thursday.

Journalist hospitalised

BSS, Dhaka

Elderly journalist and former commercial editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Mizanur Rahman was admitted into Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with paralysis and kidney problem yesterday.

He is undergoing treatment at Bed No. 75 of Ward No. 20 of the department of Neurology of the hospital. He has sought *do'a* from all for his early recovery.

Law and order deteriorating: MAEM report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Media Alliance for Election monitoring in Bangladesh (MAEM) in a report yesterday said that law and order situation in different areas of the country have been deteriorating alarmingly after the election.

Killing, rape, looting, extortion, and persecution of minority classes have been increasing especially in Khulna and Barisal Region because of the indifferent attitude of the law enforcing agencies in some of the cases, the report said.

The report also said that the minority classes are very scared due to the intensity of the torture on them and are thus reluctant to complain to thanas fearing further attacks on them.

MAEM, a project under Bangladesh Center for Development of Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) prepared reports on election day incidents and the incidents after the election days. With the help of 141 journalists across the country presented its reports at press conference at a city hotel yesterday.

Earlier, in its reports on Election Day, MAEM had reported that except for a few scattered incidents of violence the election on October was held peacefully throughout the country.

The report mentioned that in some places the minority voters were threatened and obstructed from going polling centers. False voting, snatching of ballot boxes and ballot papers and mismanagement of the administration took place in different constituencies, it added.

Naimul Islam Khan, advisor Editor, Aker Kagoj, noted journalist Mahfuzullah Khan, NGO officials and a large number national and local correspondents of different national and local dailies attended the press conference.

Bangladesh tops Muslim states in contraceptive prevalence rate

UNB, Dhaka

Despite unfavourable socio-economic situation, including religious barriers, low literacy rate, poverty and low status of women, family planning programme in Bangladesh has made a remarkable success and secured top rank in contraceptive prevalence rate among all Muslim countries.

Country's present contraceptive prevalence rate is 54 while it was 7.7 in 1975.

This was disclosed at a brainstorming session "Behaviour Change Communication and Advocacy: Searching the Future Directions for UNFPA," arranged by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the city on Thursday.

Country Representative of UNFPA, Suneta Mukherjee inaugurated the session at IDB Bhaban.

She said it is the part of a series of programme for the future guidelines aiming at formulating UNFPA's 6th country programme in Bangladesh and making reproductive health and family plan-

ning programme effective. The session was said that total fertility rate (TFR) declined to 3.3 in 1999-2000 from 6.4 in 1972 and in past six years the parametre remained static on 3.3 which UNFPA Country Representative termed as "alarming" for country's demography.

The session was apprised that child birth rate has been declined remarkably in the last 25 years. Country's child mortality was 150 per thousand live births in 1975 and it decreased to 57 in 1999.

"Credit of most of the success goes to BCC programme which is being assisted by the UNFPA," said Khondker Fazlur Rahman, Additional Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Ministry.

But in last few years the BCC programme is facing hurdles to achieve desired target due to lack of coordination, non-availability of sufficient and updated data and information, lack of administrative directives and gap in interpersonal communication.

Representatives from con-

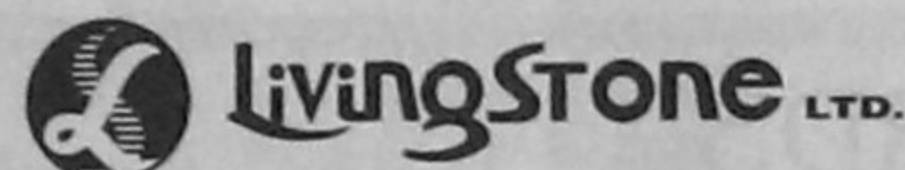
cerned government offices, development partners and NGOs attended the session and pointed out their views on current BCC/Advocacy strategies and came out with broad guidelines for future.

They stressed on inter-sectoral integrated coordination and intensive monitoring and involving religious leaders and students of Madrasah and technical institutions to make the reproductive health Behaviour Change Programme (BCC) effective.

In the 5th programme of UNFPA, religious leaders and students of Madrasah and technical institutes were not included.

Director General of the Directorate of Family Planning, Mir Shahabuddin, Assistant Representative of UNFPA Md Nurul Ameen, Line Director, UBCCU M Akhtaruzzaman, Prothom Alo Editor Mattiur Rahman and chairman of Population Science Department, Dhaka University, Prof Nurunnabi also spoke at the function.

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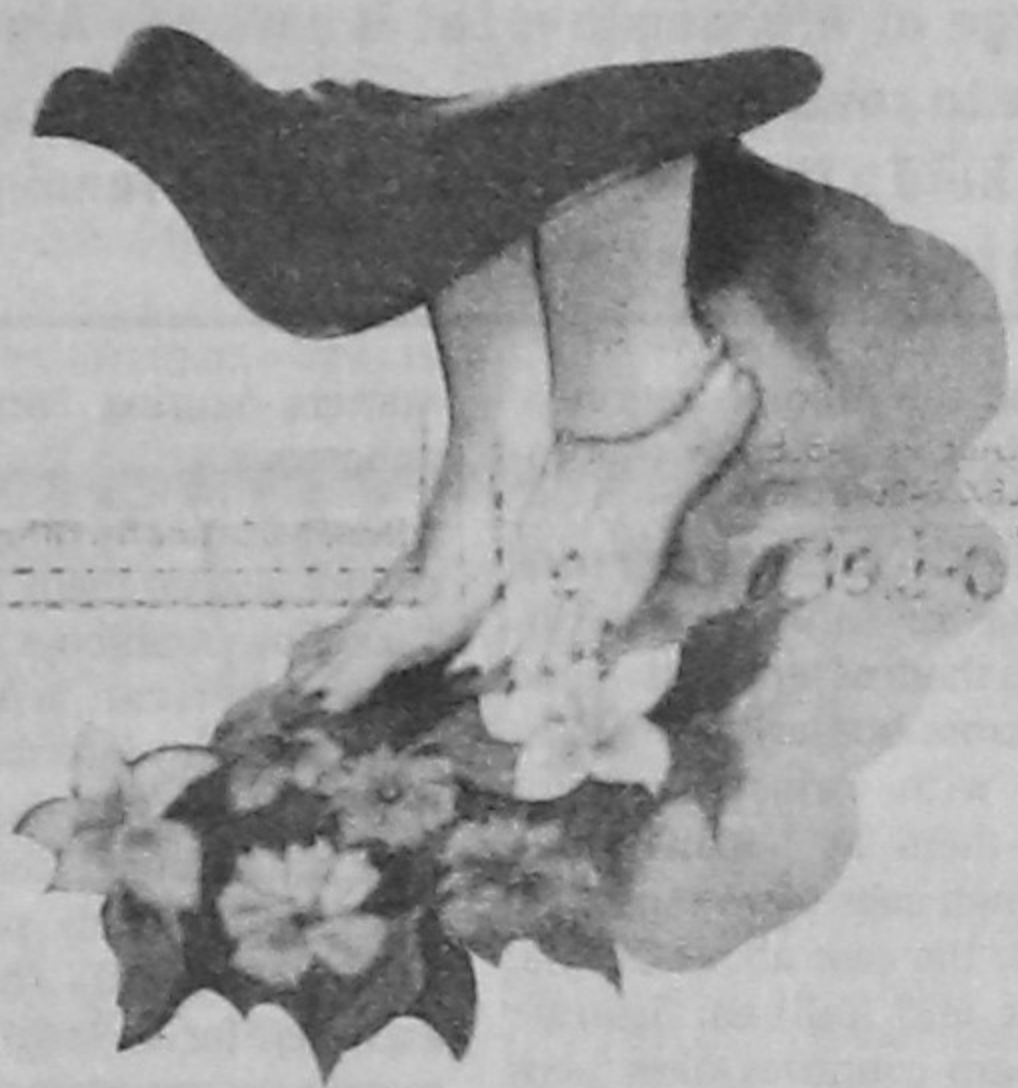
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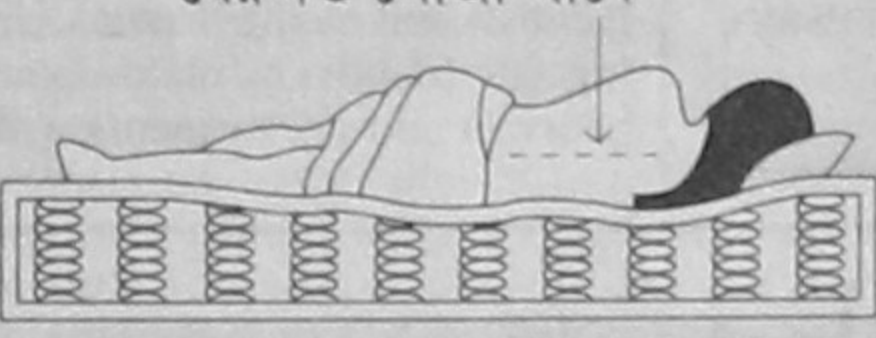
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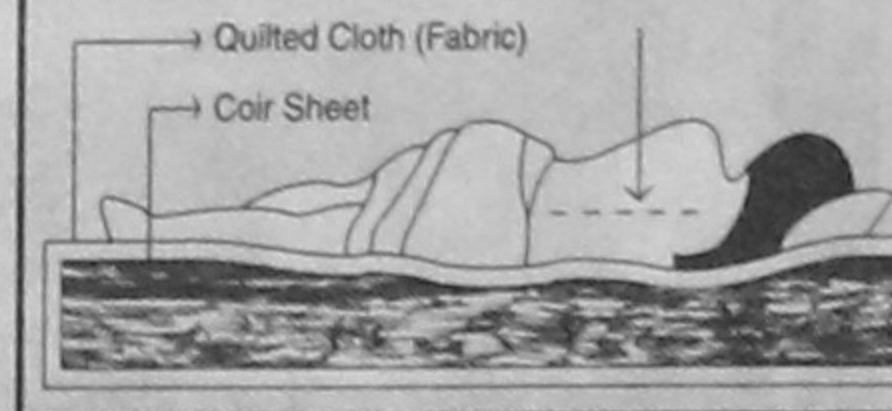


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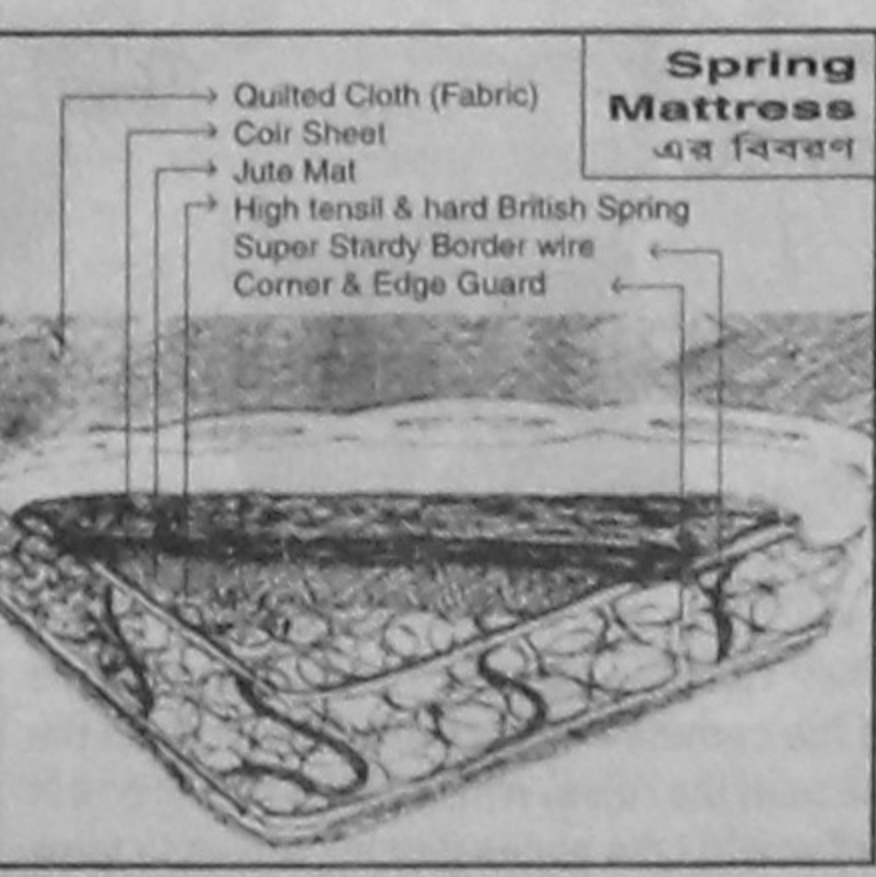
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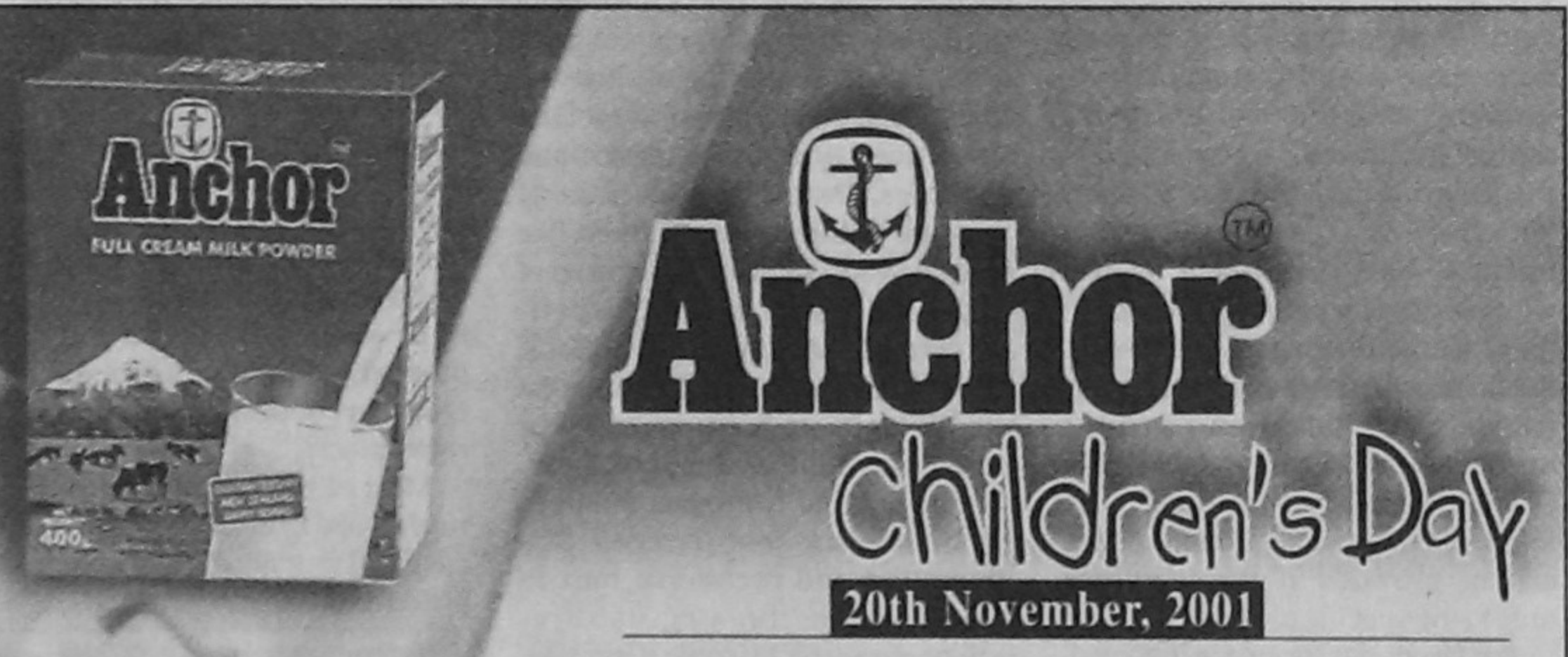
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Remember friends-this is your day. So, tell us what you really want on this day. Write in 30 words what you want from the world, or even from the people around you.

Don't feel like writing? How about making a poster? Paint it now. Put your name, a passport size photo, father/mother's name, address, phone number, class and school name on it and send it to the following address.

This contest is for children from Class I to V. You can participate in the slogan or poster or both contests. Winners' slogans and posters will be published on newspaper along with their photos. Also, they will have a chance to appear on TV on 20th November 2001. More attractive prizes await!!

So, Hurry!! Send in your slogans & posters quickly!! We are waiting to hear from you. Send in your entries by 31st October 2001.

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