Christian leaders call on President

UNB, *Dhaka*

A five-member delegation of Bangladesh Christian Welfare Association called on President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The delegation, led by its President Luis A Costa, presented the President with a Christmas cake and exchanged Christmas greetings with him.

The President wished a happy Xmas to the members of the Christian community of the world, including Bangladesh, and thanked the delegation members for presenting the Christmas cake.

The other members of the delegation were Barrister Albert Baroi, Mili Dayes, Montu Peter Rozario and Paul Gonsalvez.

City-dwellers urged not to use polythene bags from Jan 1

BSS, *Dhaka*

Environment and Forest Minister Shahjahan Siraj yesterday urged the citizens not to use polythene bags in the capital from January 1 to protect Dhaka from a colossal ecological disaster.

The minister made the appeal at an inter-ministerial meeting on ban on use of polythene bags at the secretariat.

Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif, state minister for Forest and Environment Zafrul Islam Chowdhury, state minister for Textiles Mizanur Rahman Sinha and deputy minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Advocate M Ruhul Quddus Dulu, among others, were present in the meeting while mayor of Dhaka and ward commissioners participated in the second meeting.

Shahjahan Siraj directed all government, semi-government, autonomous and private offices not to use polythene shopping bags. He also asked the concerned entrepreneurs and executives of jute-based industries and paper-bag makers to make their products available in the markets as early as possible.

He assured that alternative employment opportunities would be created for all entrepreneurs and workers who would be affected after imposition of restriction on the use of polythene sopping bags.

The inter-ministerial meeting stressed the need for launching a massive campaign in Betar, Television and national dailies for highlighting the magnitude and significance of the issue.

Meanwhile, the government sought allout cooperation from the print and electronic media in its extensive campaign against the use of polythene shopping bags across the country, particularly in Dhaka City.

"Certainly we will go for the ban on the use of polythene shopping bags in Dhaka City from the first January next. But, prior to that we need an extensive last minute campaign to include people in the move voluntarily," Environment and Forest Secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed told a press conference here.

Information Secretary Syed Margub Murshed and Chairman of the Forum of Environment Journalists in Bangladesh (FEJB) Quamrul Islam Chowdhury were also present and replied to different questions from journalists in the conference at the Information Ministry.

The government has plans to impose ban in phases on the uses of thin polythene bags that have already posed serious threat to land fertility, environment, public health and sewerage system of different towns and cities.

Referring to the directives of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for putting ban on the use of polythene shopping bags across the country by next two months, the environment secretary said prior to the ban, government wanted to allow a 'breathing space' to the users and manufacturers to adapt with the new situation voluntarily.

He also said a week long-campaign would continue till December 31 to motivate people in this regard.

When asked about the immediate alternative to polythene bags, he said government has already asked BGMC and BTMC to innovate environment-friendly shopping bags at cheaper rates. Jute mills in public sector have given the assurance of providing 12 lakh bags within a short time, he said.

Margub Murshed said government wants to encourage use of indigenous 'thonga' (packets made of paper sheets) in the country instead of polythene bags. He said if necessary, financial support would be given to the 'thonga' makers who provide employment to a number of poor.

British Film Week in Dhaka and Chittagong

The British Council with sponsorship from Lever Brothers Bangladesh is organising a British Film Week from December 27 to 30 at The British Council Auditorium in Dhaka and from January 7 to 9 at the Engineers' Institute Building, SS Khaled Road, Chittagong, says a press release.

Four recent 35mm films will be screened during the event. The films are Topsy-Turvey, Little Voice, Billy Elliot and Wonderland.

Admit cards at Tk 20 are available at The British Council, 5 Fuller Road and Sagar Publishers at Bailey Road in Dhaka and The British Council and Video Connection in Chittagong.

1193 more arrested

BSS, *Dhaka*

Police seized 16 firearms, three other types of arms and 48 bullets and arrested 1,193 people during the countrywide operation in the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday, a Police Headquarters press release said.

Fifteen persons were caught with arms and police lodged 10 cases under the Arms Act.

Six identified terrorists were also arrested during the drive, the release added.

Of the arrested, 602 were wanted by police.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Webster University U.S.A
International Campus in Thailand
MBA
BBA
Information Technology
Media Communications
International Relations
Final Call for January Semester !
Next Semester Starts in March.
Rush now to our local Representative
Samira Nuzhat
El-DORADO
Earn an accredited American Degree in Asia
Visit : www.webster.edu
Phone : 8917226, 018225407, House # 7, Road # 20, Sector # 7, Uttara, Dhaka.

ATTENTION: ALL JOSEPHITES

St. Joseph's Old Boys Association is organizing a full day of food, fun and games at a private exclusive re-treat outside Dhaka on Friday the January 4th 2002.

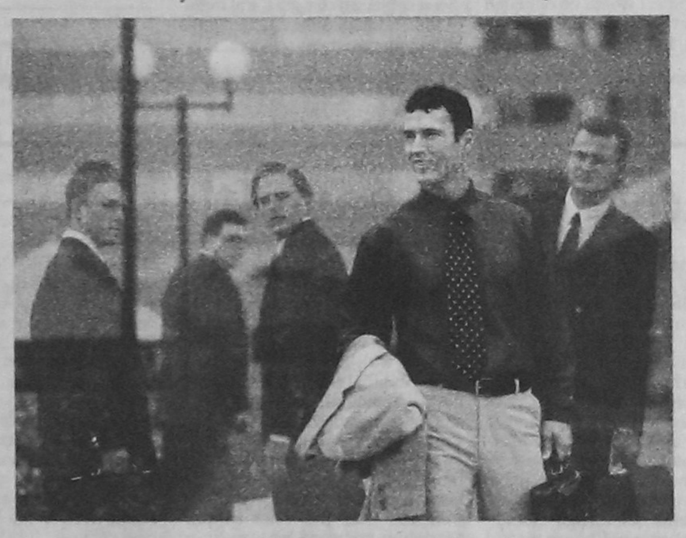
For Ticket and other detail, please contact:

Nessar M Khan	8312538 / 9345174
Waqar Chowdhury	9553536
Anisur Rahman	822 4473
Asif Mahmood	9121461
Farzad Ahmed	9882112

OR send an e-mail to: nessar@bdlink.com/nascom@bangla.net

FESTIVE SEASONS
REASONS TO CELEBRATE NOW AND FOREVER
wish your dear ones with
ARCHIES™ CARDS
Free return Air Ticket
DHAKA KUALALAMPUR DHAKA
Buy Products Worth Tk 350/= Including Two Seasons Card and Enter Your Coupon to Win
Offer will Continue till Jan 07, 2002
the newest ARCHIES Gallery
101-102 Rifles Square, BDR Road - 2, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.
visit us at : www.archiesonline.com
Check it out only at our exclusive outlets
BDR Rifles Square. Chittagong (IFCO Complex). Dhanmondi 9/A. Dhanmondi Orchid Plaza. Gulshan (Circle -2). Hatirpool (Opp. Eastern Plaza). Kawran Bazar (Karim Chy). Jamdabazar. Motijheel (Central Plaza). Mirpur-1 (Sabir Ali Shopping Complex). Monsurpara. Mouchak Market. Mymensingh. Shaheen college (Bdwa). Sylhet (Dhanmondi). Uttara (Sector -4). Wari (Rankin street).

When you Relax and Walk soulfully ...



and still draw attention !
It is certainly from Planet Fashion !
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
The exclusive mens fashion store that showcase world's 5 leading brands. It's a mega menswear store having Shirts, Trousers, Blazers includig Tie, Socks and Belts.
planet fashion
mega menswear store
74, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.
41, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka
Master Franchise Giant Distribution Ltd. A member of Giant Group.
Van Heusen POWER DRESSING
SAN FRISCO

GrameenPhone
GP-Regular
(T&T incoming - outgoing local, NWD & ISD)
IN
SYLHET
from
January 2002

THINK NOW
DECIDE ON FAIR DAYS
Environment Friendly Housing
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER • Advanced Development Technologies Ltd. • Agrani Apartment Limited • Amin Mohammad Foundation Ltd. • Amin Mohammad Lands Development Ltd. • Asset Developments & Holdings Ltd. • Atlantic Developments Ltd. • Bashati Consortium Ltd. • Bashundhara Group • Bay Developments Ltd. • Borak Real Estate (Pvt.) Ltd. • Brac Concord Lands Limited • Building For Future Ltd. • Building Technology & Ideas Ltd. • City Axis Ltd. • Concord Real Estate & Building Products Ltd. • Eastern Housing Ltd. • Ena Properties Ltd. • Globe Construction Ltd. • Hamid Real Estate Construction Ltd. • Hassan & Associates Limited • Japan Garden City Ltd. • Living Stone Ltd. • Mega Builders Ltd. • Metro Makers & Developers Ltd. • Navana Real Estate Ltd. • North South Society • Oriental Real Estate Ltd. • Praasad Nirman Ltd. • Property Development Ltd. • Rangs Properties Limited • Ridge Park Holdings Ltd. • Rupayan Real Estate Ltd. • Russell Lodge Holdings Ltd. • Sheltech (Pvt.) Ltd. • Shinepukur Holdings Ltd. • Sky View Foundation Ltd • Sumona Private Ltd. • Suvastu Development Limited. • The Structural Engineers Ltd. • Western Developers Ltd.
MATERIAL PROVIDER • Cemex Cement Bangladesh Ltd. • Kai Bangladesh Aluminium Ltd. • Octagon Fibres & Chemicals Ltd. • Pallac Paint & Chemical Co. (pvt.) Ltd. • Seven Circle (Bangladesh) Ltd. • Sundaram Tiles
HOUSING FINANCIER • Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DBH) • Industrial Development Leasing Company Of Bangladesh Limited (IDLC) • National Housing Finance and Investments Ltd.
REHAB HOUSING FAIR 2001
venue HOTEL SHERATON COMPLEX
date 27-29 DECEMBER 2001 time 10 am to 8 pm
co-sponsors: cemex IDLC
organizer: REHAB
REAL ESTATE & HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH
National Plaza, 6th Floor, 1/G Sonargaon Road
Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh Tel + Fax: 02- 9662482
E-mail: rehab@aitlbd.net URL: www.rehab-bd.org
www.bdhousing.com/rehabhousingfair