



Say yes for children

Staff Correspondent

With an achievement of saying "Yes" for children by more than 84 million people across the world, UNICEF is going to celebrate the first anniversary of the campaign, Say Yes for Children (SYFC), today (Saturday).

"In tune with the global trend, around 52,000 people of Bangladesh said 'Yes' for the children during the last year", UNICEF officials told a press briefing held at the National Press Club on Friday.

Under the SYFC campaign, "Educate Every Child" topped the list of the 10 principles set by the UNICEF with a percentage of 13.9 in terms of priority, they said, adding that the campaign was launched in 160 countries including Bangladesh.

The nine other principles and their percentage of priorities were

Leave no Child Out (11.8), Fight HIV/AIDS (10.0), Stop Harming and Exploiting Children (10.4), Care for Every Child (10.3), Fight Poverty: Invest in Children (10.6), Put Children First (8.4), Listen to Children (9.1), Protect Children from War (7.5) and Protect Earth for Children (7.9).

In celebration of the first year of the SYFC campaign, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) will hold a Special Session in New York from May 8 to 10. Nelson Mandela is expected to present results from the SYFC campaign at the UNGA.

More than 70 heads of governments including Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, about 1,000 NGOs and 100 children and adolescents are scheduled to attend the Special

Session to chart the next course for the wellbeing of every child.

UNGA has defined two objectives for the Special Session. Those are to make a review of the achievements in the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the 1990 World Summit for Children, and to have a renewed commitment and pledge for action for children in the next decade. UNICEF official Naseem-ur-Rehman told the journalists.

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the SYFC campaign, UNICEF has undertaken various programmes in Bangladesh that include presentation of theme songs, child drama, discussion meeting, rallies in five divisional headquarters and release of commemorative stamps.