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UNICEF chief due Dec 18

UNICEF Executive Director Ms. Carol Bellamy will arrive in the city on December 18 on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

During her visit, Ms. Bellamy will review the UNICEF programme in the country and more specifically the actions taken so far to solve the problem arising out of arsenic contamination of water. Arsenic in higher percentage is being found in recent years in waters of tube-wells supplied by UNICEF.

UNICEF Dhaka office sources said Ms. Bellamy might launch arsenic communication strategy on December 20, few hours before her departure ending the visit.

UNICEF has been working with the government and the people of Bangladesh since the early days of independence of the nation and the total inflow of UNICEF assistance to the country amounted to 700 million US dollars, official sources said.

Ms. Bellamy had earlier visited Bangladesh in November 1997.

While in Bangladesh, Ms. Bellamy will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and hold talks with a number of ministers including Finance, Foreign and Health. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had a meeting with Ms Bellamy during her visit to the UN in September this year.

The UNICEF chief executive is scheduled go outside the capital to see UNICEF-supported arsenic mitigation activities, her itinerary said.