



Members of People's Forum on MDGs, Bangladesh pledge to stand up against poverty at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

INT'L DAY FOR ERADICATION OF POVERTY TODAY 'Stand up against poverty'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of children and representatives from different organisations yesterday observed 'Stand Up Assembly' in the city with a call to stand up against poverty.

The programme was organised to motivate world leaders and policy makers to implement their pledges for alleviating poverty by 2015.

A total of 132 different social and voluntary organisations including Proshika, Brac, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Democracy Watch, Manusher Jonno, Coalition Urban Poor, ECLAB and UCEP observed 'five-minute silent stand up' programme at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The 'Stand Up Assembly' was also observed at 30 locations, including school, college and university campuses, in the city and its outskirts.

People's Forum on MDGs (PFM), Bangladesh organised the assembly titled 'Stand Up Against Poverty' coordinated by Campaign For Population Education (CAMPE).

The 'Stand Up Assembly' was a

part of the month-long programme to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The day is being observed today in the country as elsewhere in the world.

Over 100 countries took part in different programmes including human chain, stand up assembly, cultural programmes and youth seminar during the month.

The mobilising programme against poverty will end today with the announcement of number of participants in the 'Stand Up Assembly' that will be included in Guinness Book of World Records, said Rasheda K Chowdhury, PFM convenor and CAMPE director.

Dr Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, is expected to announce the number of Bangladesh participants in the afternoon, she added.

"In New York, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and in Johannesburg former president of South Africa Nelson Mandela will announce the number of participants in those places respectively," Rasheda further said.

Earlier at the Central Shaheed

Minar, Dr Nilufar Banu, research director of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, presented a declaration paper on

Stand Up Assembly.

She stressed the need for political will to achieve poverty alleviation by 2015.

She also urged the leaders of wealthy nations to give adequate assistance and pursue a supportive trade policy for poverty alleviation in poor countries.

"We want to make a world record by creating the largest crowd demanding active initiatives in poverty alleviation," she quoted from the declaration paper.

Lawmaker Motiur Rahman Ranga, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Shaheen Anam and cultural activist Shomi Kaiser also spoke on the occasion.

They urged all to follow the ideology of Dr Yunus to eradicate poverty nationwide and worldwide.



First anniversary of MA Samad's death today

Toady is the first death anniversary of MA Samad, founder of Bangladesh General Insurance Company (BGIC), says a press release.

Born in 1923 at Kulaura in Moulvibazar, he had been associated with the insurance industry since 1946.

An honours graduate from the Presidency College, Kolkata, MA Samad established the BGIC after his retirement as managing director of Jiban Bima Corporation.

He was also the founder-director of Bangladesh Insurance Academy and chairman of Bangladesh Insurance Association, the country's apex insurance entity.

Besides his two books written in Bangla, one on life insurance and another on general insurance, he is the author of two more English textbooks on life insurance, which received high appreciation from a number of renowned insurance organisations of the world.

MA Samad was enlisted as an international expert in the Technical Assistance Programme on Trade and Development of the United Nations.

He represented the country at a number of seminars and conferences abroad and visited most of the insurance training institutions in the UK and the USA under UNDP Fellowship Programme.

Husband, mother-in-law to die for killing Tania

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man along with his mother to death for killing his wife Tania Akhter Lucky for a dowry of Tk 5 lakh in June 2004.

Judge Mohammad Firoz Alam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-3 handed down the sentence in absence of convict Shafiqul Islam while his mother Firoza Begum was present in the court during the delivery of the verdict.

The punishment of the fugitive will be effective from the day of his arrest or surrender and the convicts can appeal to the High Court against the verdict within 30 days from the day of receipt of the judgement copy, the judge said.

The court acquitted Shafiq's brothers Asad Ullah, Wahid Ullah, sisters-in-law Masuda Begum and Fatema Begum, as the charges brought against them were not proved.

Earlier, the prosecution and the

defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 10 prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, housewife Tania, 23, of Kanthaldia Beraid in Badda, was killed by her husband Shafiqul's family members on June 2, 2004, as she refused to bring Tk five lakh as dowry from her parents' house. But they buried the body at the Town View Project area to divert the incident.

Later, victim's family members filed a murder case with Badda Police Station against Shafiq and five others two days after the incident.

Shafiq has been absconding since the incident and his trial was completed in absentia.

Police arrested Firoza and recovered the body on the basis of her information on June 6. The investigation officer (IO) pressed charges against Shafiq and five others on April 30 last year.