



Mahub Jamil, 2nd from right, gives away prizes among the winners of 'Book Reading Programme 2003-2004' of Biswa Sahitya Kendra as chief guest at a ceremony yesterday. On his left is Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed.

## Make world free from poverty, hunger

### Speakers urge rich countries on World White Band Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World White Band Day was observed yesterday with a call on the rich countries to fulfill their commitment to make the world free from hunger and poverty.

The day was observed as part of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (G-CAP) to strengthen the declared commitment 'Hunger and Poverty-free World by 2015' by the world leaders in Millennium Conference in 2000.

To observe the day, the People's Forum on MDG in association with Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) organised a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Poverty-stricken people including physically disabled persons and representatives from different organisations took part in the rally.

"We are the poorest amongst the poor. The rich nations must fulfill their commitment to cut poverty," said M Rafiqul Islam, a disabled.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, conve-

nor of Peoples Forum on MDG, said the day was observed in 124 countries including Bangladesh with the slogan 'We demand poverty-free world, food and education for all.'

Nilufar Banu, director of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, read out a declaration marking the day.

The declaration said the rally was organised to send a demand to the leaders of rich countries so that in the upcoming G-8 conference on July 6-8 in Scotland they can fulfill the commitment of providing 0.7 percent of their national revenue to cut poverty.

Prof Shafi Ahmed of Jahangirnagar University and Executive Director of Bangladesh Manobadnikar Sangbadik Forum Khairuzzaman Kamal were present on occasion.

Later, a cultural group from Rajshahi performed the popular 'Gomvira' programme at the rally depicting the significance of the day.



The National Committee for Protection of Oil-Gas Resources, Power and Port stages a demonstration at Muktagang yesterday demanding compensation for Tengratila gas field blowout.

## Feud over leadership of madrasa teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami and National Committee to Resist Aggression (NCRA), backed by another coalition partner Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), are at loggerheads over the leadership of madrasa teachers in the country.

The Jamaat move for holding a

convention of madrasa teachers in the city today in a bid to form a separate organisation has angered the IOJ and other Islamic organisations which already have strong hold among them.

NCRA Convenor Mohiuddin Khan in a statement on Wednesday alleged that some people under direct patronisation of Jamaat has organised the convention to foil their movement for establishing a separate Arabic University in the country.

He categorically accused the Jamaat of conspiring to create division among the madrasa teachers.

The NCRA is going to hold a similar convention of madrasa teachers in the city on July 4.

"Formation of a separate organisation of madrasa teachers is nothing but a move to create division among them when they are united for the demand of an Arabic University," said the statement.

## International Co-operatives Day today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The 83rd International Co-operatives Day will be observed today in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world.

The theme of the day is "Micro-finance is our business! Co-operating out of poverty".

Co-operatives have been providing micro finance services to people throughout the world for over 100 years and the International Co-operative Alliance calls on co-operators to observe the day.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gave a message on the occasion of 83rd International Cooperative Day.

In her message, Khaleda said cooperative movement is playing an important role in poverty alleviation, employment generation and socio-economic development of the country.

Prime Minister has congratulated the co-operators in Bangladesh.

Cooperative movement has become an effective platform for improving living standard and social progress of poor people worldwide, she mentioned in the message.

Cooperative department and different cooperative organisations have chalked out different programme to mark the day.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will inaugurate a cooperative programme, organised by the department at the cooperative Bhaban Saturday. He will also lead a procession.

## No alternative to quality edn: Moyeen Khan

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Minister for Science, Information and Communication Technology Abdul Moyeen Khan yesterday said quality of education has no alternative to groom the future generation.

"Quality of education is a must to build the future generation to take the responsibility of the nation in the days to come, and handle the national issues efficiently," he said at the annual function of an English medium school, International Education Centre (IEC) at Uttara Club.

Presided over by chairman of the school governing body Farid Ahmed, the function was also addressed by Principal Shirin Ahmed.

Appreciating the performance of the school at GCE 'O' level, he said, "We want quality of education, not the quantity."

He asked the school authorities to keep up the standard of education in the school to cope with international curricula.

The IEC principal said the school provides all sorts of facilities needed for modern education, and the authorities plan to move to a bigger campus shortly along with more facilities.