

Celebrating Rank 5

BANGLADESH has, once again, been marked in the world as the fifth worst among 125 countries in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) set in 2000 to eradicate poverty, says a report of a global civil society group.

Bangladesh was placed next to Ethiopia, Rwanda, Niger and Madagascar, the first four worst countries, by the Citizen's Global Progress Report on Poverty Eradication and Gender Equity.

Social Watch, who prepared the report and presented it in the United Nations meeting held from September 14-16 attended by heads of government and leaders from all over the world, said that Bangladesh should have reduced poverty by 2.2 percent a year to attain the target of poverty eradication by 2015. However, its achievement is only .52 percent a year, Social Watch's Bangladesh chapter Chairperson Dr Atiur Rahman said on the occasion of the report publication last week.

The gap between the rich and the poor has also widened over the period, said the report, which is of course not a breaking news for any of us living here in the country.

It will take 40 years to attain MDG target if

Bangladesh moves forward at this pace, Dr Rahman added.

According to the Basic Capabilities Index (BCI), countries have been placed in five categories--critical, very low, low, medium and high -- starting from the lowest performing ones to the best performing ones, where Bangladesh belongs to the "critical" category.

Bangladesh scores a little more than 30 out of a 100 on gender equity scale, which means Bangladesh has quite a poor performance in this area.

From 1990 to 2004, Bangladesh achieved significant progress in some areas like food security, education, environment and reproductive health in terms of attaining MDG goals.

In case of reducing morbidity and mortality rates, Bangladesh has made slight progress while remaining stagnant in the fields of information, science and technology, and public expenditure.

From 1995 to 2004, however, the picture looks a little brighter. In the fields of education and economic activities Bangladesh has made significant progress, and in case of empowerment it has suffered slight regression.

Khulna BNP leader killed in bomb attack

SARDER Munjir Ahmed, 46-year-old BNP president of Ward no. 4 was bombed to death last week, by unidentified assailant in Khulna City.

Headmaster of Atra Srinath High School in Khanjahan Ali thana of Khulna city, he was attacked at Atra Jubo Sangha club around 10:30pm. He was also the general secretary of Phultala Upazila Teachers' Association.

According to witnesses, it seems that the criminals hurled three bombs at him, one of which hit his back, while the other two exploded a few yards away from him.

He was admitted to a clinic at Sonadanga and later taken to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH). He died on the operation table in KMCH within an hour of the attack.

According to sources, Munjir received several death threats in the last one year for taking a firm stand against zealots and drug traffickers..

Political leaders including leaders of Khulna Awami League blamed the law enforcement agencies for failing to stop bomb blasts in the city and capture the zealots moving at large.