People united to beat poverty

Says minister

BSS, Rangpur

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader has said that the present pro-people government has called upon all to forge a national unity in combating poverty and building a developed Bangladesh.

The people of the country have now become united under the leadership of the grand alliance government to fight hunger, poverty and all sorts of deprivation in making independence meaningful through eradicating poverty once for all, he said.

He said these at a huge

তিক সম্মেলন কেন্দ্ৰ, ঢাকা

্যাম্পেইন জাতীয় কমিটি

on Page 1)

FROM PAGE 1

extent, he said.

boycotting the rally.

people's welfare."

continued.

eradicate poverty.

Referring to opposition

leader Khaleda Zia's absence

from the rally, Finance

Minister MA Muhith said it

tive pledge against poverty.

But the opposition's absence

had weakened it to some

the House, launched a

broadside against her politi-

cal archrival Khaleda Zia for

cised the previous BNP-

Jamaat-led coalition govern-

ment for "not working for

not have liked the

programme's theme 'na-

tional unity will prevent

poverty'. She would have

come here if it was 'loot

property, get rich'," Hasina

The prime minister also

blasted BNP for boycotting

the parliamentary proceed-

ings over the issue of seating

opposition lawmakers to

ment and speak for people."

She also called upon the init.

arrangement in the House.

speak for the people.

"She [Khaleda Zia] might

Hasina, also the leader of

s supposed to be a collec-

ENDPOVERTY

াংলাদেশ ভাতীয় সংসদ

ল হামিদ এডভোকেট

public rally titled 'Big Stand-Up' at Rangpur Zila School ground yesterday, organised by Rangpur district administration in observance of the International Poverty Alleviation Day.

Rawshan Ershad MP, convener of district Awami League (AL) Abul Mansur Ahmed, district JP president Moshiur Rahman Ranga, senior leaders of different political parties including AL and Jativa Party were present at the programme.

Hundreds of rallies with anti-poverty banners paraded the streets of the town before

১৭ অক্টোবর ২০০৯

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at an anti-poverty rally marking the International Day for the

Eradication of Poverty at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. (Story

Curb graft to get rid of poverty

poverty alleviation," Hamid

national committee on pov-

erty, also criticised the oppo-

sition leader for "breaching

work for the country's devel-

or leaders joined the rally

following Khaleda Zia's

announcement on Friday

that she would not take part

"She does not want to

No opposition lawmakers

promise to join the rally."

opment," Shahid added.

parliament secretariat.

joining the rally.

At 3:00pm, the observance began when the huge crowd stood up for a minute and put their hands together and vowed to eradicate poverty once for all by united efforts of the countrymen through a rock-solid national unity.

Later, a function that was organised at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka and the speeches of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was broadcast through Bangladesh Television on a big screen at

বাংলাদেশ চাই

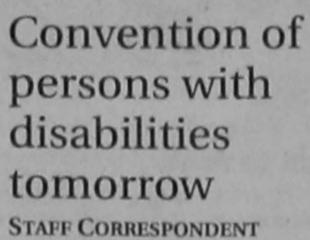
INTERN

per extension in

STATE OF THE PARTY.

আন্তর্জাতিক দারিদ্য নিরস্

THE ERADICATIO



The 5th national convention

of the persons with disabilities (PWDs) will be held in the city tomorrow with the theme 'Empowerment, participation and development'.

Some 2,000 persons with disabilities from 32 districts across the country will participate in the programme at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will formally inaugurate the event as the chief guest, while Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid and Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) President Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed will be present as the special

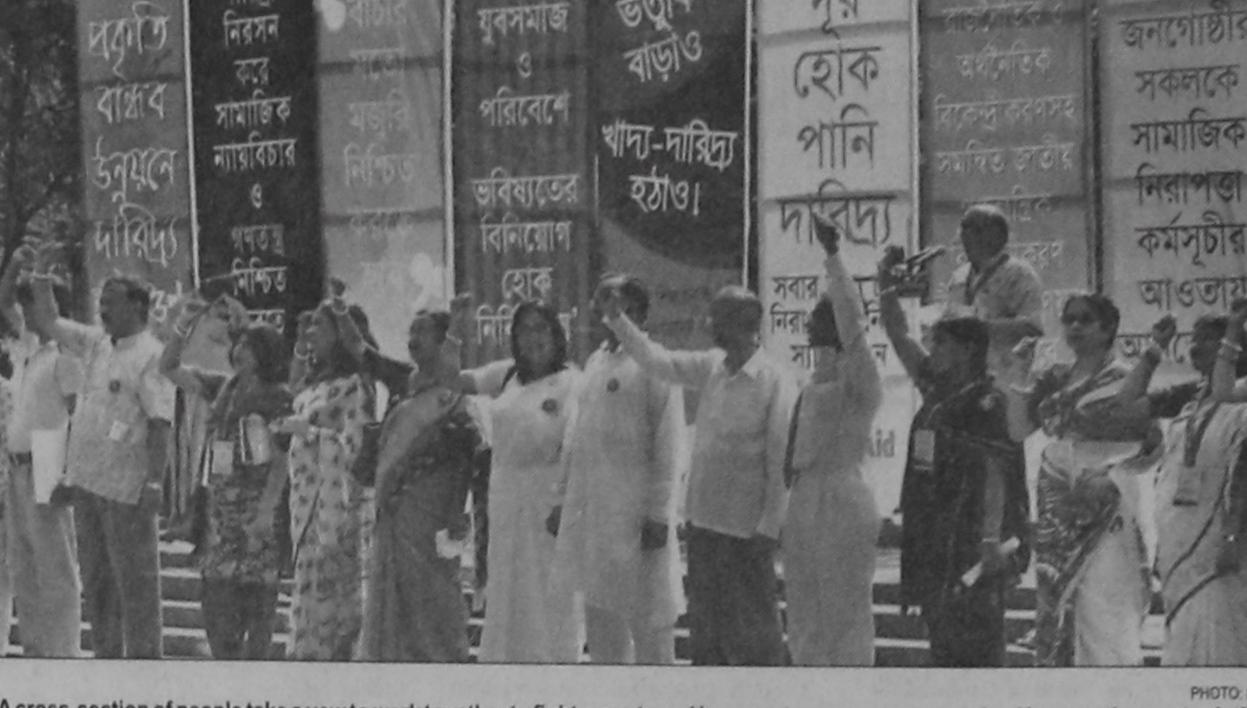
Action on Disability and Development (ADD), National Grassroots Disabled Peoples Organisation (NGDPO) and National Parishad of Women with Disabilities will jointly organise the programme aiming to draw the attention of the policy makers about amendment to Disability Welfare Act in line with the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Representatives of the three organisations said this at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday.

The other objectives of the convention include ensuring participation of PWDs in all decision-making levels and ensure their involvement in employment, education health and entertainment programmes, they added.

ADD Deputy Capacity Building Coordinator Joychand Karmaker and Deputy Programme Coordinator Ferdousi Begum and presidents of NGDPO and National Parishad of Women with Disabilities Akhter Hossain and Umme Kulsum Ranjana were present at the conference.

2 BCL leaders



instructor

A cross-section of people take a vow to work together to fight poverty and hungry at a programme organised by an anti-poverty platform of 16 citizens' organisations at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

5 Rohingyas arrested, arms seized in Teknaf

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans yesterday arrested five Rohingya smugglers of Myanmar from the river Naaf at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar and seized illegal arms from their possession.

Sources said BDR patrol team led by Company Commander Subedar Sirajul Islam of Shahparir Dwip Border Observation Post (BOP) seized an engine boat coming from Myanmar and arrested Myanmar citizens La Mohammad, 40, Abdur Rahman, 25, Ismail Hossain, 22, Abdul Mannan, 35, and Syed Alam, 32.

BDR jawans also seized a pipe gun, two cartridges, four sharp weapons and six buffaloes from the boat.

Operation Officer of Teknaf 2 Rifles Battalion Maj Abi Naeem Khandker confirmed the arrest and selzure of the arms.

DUCSU ELECTION

DU student leaders meet Oct 20

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different student organisations of Dhaka should be held to end criti-University (DU) will sit together on October 20 to find out ways for holding the longawaited election to Dhaka University Students' Union (Ducsu).

This was decided at a yesterday.

Bangladesh Chhatra election," he added. Union (BCU) organised the meeting which was participated by senior leaders of DU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Bangladesh Chhatra Federation (BCF), Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree (BCM), Bangladesh Chhatra Kendra (BCK), JSD Chhatra Heague (ICL) and Bangladesh Chhatra Front (BCF).

"We had discussion on washeld in 1990.

overall situation on the campus and we agreed on one point that Ducsu election cism against present student politics," said Obaidul Haq Nasir, joint-convener of JCD DU unit.

"We, along with senior central leaders of all student bodies, will sit at Ducsu meeting at Madhu's Canteen building on October 20 to find out the ways for holding the

"In the next meeting we will decide our agendas and fix other tasks for holding the election," said BCU General Secretary Manabendra Deb.

"All active student bodies should take the issue seriously by ignoring partisan interests for the welfare of thousands of students," said Sajjad Saqib Badsha, general

secretary of BCL DU unit. The last election to Ducsu

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

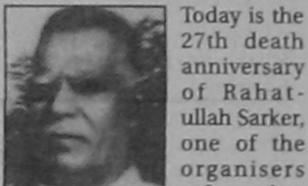


(Music), Training Department, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, passed away due to diabetes and high blood pressure at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 51,

says a press release. He left behind his wife, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at Azimpur graveyard.

Death anniversary STAFF CORRESPONDENT



27th death anniversary of Rahatullah Sarker, one of the organisers

Liberation War and member of the provincial assembly of the then East Pakistan, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held at his village home at Parbatipur in Dinajpur. Food will also be distributed among the destitutes.

Dilruba Shiparin Joyanti

METRO DESK



versary of Dilruba Shiparin Joyanti, a

government official and member of Bangla Academy, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at the residence of her husband Md Khairul Islam at 17 College Street, Dhanmondi after Maghrib prayers.

Relatives, friends and wellwishers are requested to attend the milad.

the best we can do," said Prof

Mesbah Kamal, who conducted

to study in mother tongue,

absence of indigenous teachers,

inadequate number of institu-

tions, schools at distant places,

worst communications,

involvement of children in

economic activities, and lack of

awareness about important of

education are the reasons

tion of a multilingual education

system to make it possible for

the Adivasi children to face the

challenges. They also recom-

census on sociocultural and

education status of the Adivasi

people, separate academic

calendar and setting up of a

mother tongue would not be a

tough job for the government as

the work is being carried out

largely by different donor

organisations and non-

organisations including Oxfam,

Danida and Action Aid have

about 800 elementary and

Different NGOs and donors

government agencies.

Arranging education in

residential education system.

Experts suggest introduc-

Poverty, lack of opportunity

the study in 2004.

behind dropouts.

Garment Sramik Federation forms a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding steps to fix a minimum salary of Tk 5,000 for RMG workers.

30 Adivasi languages

But lawmakers and leaders return to parliament and of the ruling party and its associate organisations in "I am happy that the large numbers joined the opposition lawmakers in rally.

parliament are attending A few lawmakers and standing committee meetleaders of the components of ings and joining teams to ruling AL-led alliance were participate in international seen at the rally.

events abroad. I urge the opposition to come to parliathe measures her government had taken in various sectors On the much-talked issue including agriculture, health of offering the opposition and education for people's the post of deputy speaker, Hasina, also chief of ruling

Hasina said the BNP-led Awami League, said she four party coalition govern-

name for the post to the ment scrapped some development projects taken by the previous AL government out "We waited for their proposal till the last moment. In of vindictiveness.

"We want to elevate fact they did not want to accept the offer," Hasina Bangladesh to a developed country by 2020 as the next claimed. Speaker Abdul. Hamid. war will mark the golden jubilee of our independence," said he was hurt by the absence of the opposition said Hasina, specifying her party's electoral pledge to leader. "The rally would have have a hunger and poverty

free Bangladesh by that time. been a more meaningful one, "Our aim is to provide had she joined it. I still hope security and welfare to the both the government and the people. Some political parties opposition will work The premier also crititogether in future on all might have other intentions," national issues including

With an oblique reference to the Zia Orphanage Trust case, the premier said how Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, the people who embezzled also co-chairman of the orphans' money could contribute to the nation's welfare

> and development. Former premier Khaleda Zia is facing trial on charge of embezzling Tk 2 crore from

the Zia Orphanage Trust. Speaker Hamid said the programme was not a political one and the entire nation eagerly waited to see the two leaders on the same stage.

He said he finalised the programme after getting the opposition leader's approval. "There is no alternative to

national consensus," Hamid

He also hoped to see the two leaders together sometime in the future.

Sunil Shetty, global direc-The premier pointed out tor of Millennium Development Goals, said Bangladesh has made commendable progress in many segments of the MDGs and has been an impressive performer compared with many South Asian countries.

killed in Munshiganj road accident UNB, Munshiganj Two leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were killed in a tragic road accident

as a bus rammed their motorcycle on Dhaka-Maowa highway at Khanbari under Louhajang upazila in Munshiganj on Friday.

The deceased were identified as Taposh, 26, president of BCL Dhaka city ward no. 56 unit and Rajon, 25, jointsecretary of the same ward.

Police said the accident took place in the afternoon when a Dhaka-bound bus hit their motorcycle when they were going to Maowa, leaving them critically injured.

Taposh succumbed to his injuries on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while Rajon died at the same hospital after admission.

Police seized the bus but its driver managed to flee. A case was filed in this connection.

FROM PAGE 16

Dhaka University.

educationists.

higher secondary level.

education in their mother

tongue at least at primary level.

Otherwise, the 'education for

all' campaign cannot be suc-

cessful," comments Shourav

Sikder, chairman of the

Department of Linguistics,

India, the indigenous people

study in mother tongue till

ignored the demands of the

Adivasi people to introduce

primary education in their

mother tongue and thus drew

flak from the experts and

Even the government agen-

"Our predecessors did not

He adds a national Adivasi

cultural academy would be

formed besides necessary

expansion of current Adivasi

cultural centres for research and

practice of their literature and

Though the indigenous

people have no alternative to

using Bangla for education the

government even does not have

any programme to teach them

But the Adivasi people are

The government institutions

languages.

the state language.

keen to learn Bangla.

In neighbouring Tripura of

Successive governments

RMG workers demand Tk 5,000 in minimum wage

UNB, Dhaka

Garment workers from a human chain here yesterday urged all concerned, including the government, to fix their minimum wage at Tk 5,000 per month. "It's essential to fix our

cies concerned do not know the minimum wage at Tk 5,000 a exact number of indigenous month so that the families of languages spoken in the country. 25 lakh garment workers may have two square meals a day," concentrate on the population said president of National issue. I'll try to bring up the current standard of literature, lan-Garments Worker Federation (NGWF) Amirul guage and culture of the indigenous people," says State Minister Islam Amin. for Culture Promod Mankin.

The NGWF formed the hour-long human chain in front of the National Press Club at noon marking the International Poverty Alleviation Day.

NGWF central leaders M Faruk Khan, Sultana Aktar and Arju Ara, among others, joined the human chain.

Amin said the minimum wage of workers is only Tk 1.662 in the country now while the World Bank says that those earning Tk 4,200 a month are living below the poverty line.

pin the blame on each others showing lack of infrastructure in initiating any efforts in this regard. They however say any initiative taken by the Adivasi people to protect their language would be welcomed. **ENDANGERED LANGUAGES**

Kuruk, the language of Orao ethnic community, is an example of Adivasi language getting extinct over the years.

Research shows just three generations earlier the language was widely used and practised by about80,000 Oraos.

In course of time the population reduced to only around According to a survey con-20,000 from a population of 2 ducted by the Research lakh. Most of the Oraos now even don't understand Kuruk properly and cannot communicate smoothly using the lan-

guage. Khumi, Khiyang and Pankho languages have also become endangered as population of each of these indigenous communities has reduced to less than 2,000.

and Hajong are in no better situation as their use has dropped over the years. Among the 30 indigenous

languages only Chakma and Marma have their own alphabets, while 12 indigenous communities have adopted Roman alphabet for their use.

Some other indigenous communities, especially the 2 lakh people living in Rajshahi, use a language called "Sadri percent people are illiterate. adopting alphabets from Hindi, Bangla, Urdu and other Adivasi

"Each community has their own literature in spoken forms and they have poetry, songs and fairy tales. The forms of literature will be lost unless the communities are given education in their mother tongue," Shourav Sikder observes.

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Bangla Academy deny responsibility of conducting any research or census on Adivasi languages showing lack of workforce, infrastructure and fund crisis.

EDUCATION

Development Collective in mend special government association with Brac, only 1.3 percent Adivasi people -- especially from larger communities including Chakma, Mahato, Santal and Garo -- complete graduation, while statistics show the rate of completing

master's degree and above is nil. The survey also shows only 2.3 percent indigenous people Languages of Koch, Patra complete higher secondary education, while 11 percent pass secondary school certifi-

cate exams. The survey was conducted on 10 indigenous communities across the country both on plain

land and in the hills. In CHT the condition of Mro their mother tongue. people is the worst as they have only 15.5 percent enrolment at

primary schools with only 2.7 percent girls. "There are places where 100

primary institutions for Adivasi children across the country in Apart from this, Brac also runs about 1,600 schools for indige-

nouseducation in the country. There are also 500 missionary schools offering education for the Adivasi children in their With limited resources this is mother tongue.

wanted to do it but the opposition did not submit any JS team off to Switzerland to attend IPU confce STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A nine-member parliamentary delegation left for Switzerland last night to attend a conference of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to be held from October 19 to 21.

Chief Whip Abdus Shahid will lead the team at the conference. Speaker Abdul Hamid was scheduled to lead the team, but could not join the conference due to antipoverty rally.

Other members of the delegation are Awami League lawmakers Sagufta Yasmin, Shamsur Rahman Sharif, Khan Tipu Sultan, Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, MA Mannan, ABM Anwarul Haque, Jatiya Party lawmaker Noor-e-Hasna Lily Chowdhury, and BNP lawmaker Ashifa Ashrafi Papiya.



UNB, Dhaka Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours

until 6:00pm today. Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:29pm today and rises at 6:58am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 33.9 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Satkhira and lowest 23.7 degrees

Celsius at Chuadanga. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: Humidityin Temperature in City/Town

	Celsius		percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.0	24.5	72	75
Chittagong	31.0	24.0	90	80
Rajshahi	32.8	24.6	87	80
Khulna	33.0	25.0	80	75
Barisal	33.0	24.2	92	90
Sylhet	31.5	24.5	89	77
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.6	76	83
	MARKET SHEET		NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.	