

CIRDAP MINISTERIAL MEETING ENDS

## Call for halving poverty, hunger by 2015

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The member states of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (Cirdap) yesterday adopted the Dhaka Declaration with an aim for halving poverty and hunger by 2015.

They also agreed for making the voices of hardcore poor, the disadvantaged women and marginal groups stronger and ensuring empowerment of the local governments for effective administration of policies and programmes for rural development.

According to the Dhaka Declaration, there will be intensive efforts to provide the poor with land, water, ICT and financing facilities, decentralised good governance with transparency and accountability will be prioritised to ensure people's participation in the rural development activities and capacity of national rural development institutions will be enhanced to make them centres of excellence.

The Dhaka Declaration-2010 was

adopted at the concluding ceremony of the four-day 'Second Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific' at Hotel Sheraton in the city.

Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, also the chairman of Cirdap, announced the Dhaka Declaration.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the meeting on January 24 as the chief guest.

In the declaration, the leaders of the region also invited all countries in Asia and the Pacific to join Cirdap to share their experiences in rural development activities.

"We invite FAO, IFAD, Commonwealth and other partner organisations of Cirdap to provide all technical support to regional level rural development organisations, including Cirdap, to play greater role in agrarian reform and rural development," Ashrafur Islam said.

Syed Ashrafur Islam from Bangladesh, CP Joshi, minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj of India, Purna Kumar

Sherma Limbu, minister for Local Development of Nepal, Abdul Razak, J Thahim, minister for LGRD of Pakistan, J Khalghani, vice-minister for Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture of Iran, Ty Phommasack, vice minister for Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR, Hasan bin Malek, deputy minister for Rural and Regional Development of Malaysia, Ajmal Shirazai, senior adviser to the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development of Afghanistan, U Phae Thann Oo, ambassador of Myanmar in Bangladesh, Arwan E Surbakti, director of Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment of Indonesia, Elena C Cabanes, director of Department of Agrarian Reforms of Philippines, Ranjith Premalal De Silva, a director of the Ministry of Agriculture Development and Agrarian Services of Sri Lanka, Kanok Khatikarn, adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand and Pham Khanh, deputy director general of Department of Cooperatives and Rural Development of Vietnam, signed the Dhaka Declaration.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League leaders and workers offer prayers after placing wreaths at the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday following execution of his killers on Wednesday midnight.



PHOTO: PID

Head of EU Delegation in Bangladesh Ambassador Dr Stefan Frowein calls on Law Minister Shafique Ahmed at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

## \$6.8 lakh ADB grant to face climate change

BSS, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) yesterday signed an agreement with the government for 6.80 lakh US dollars as grant technical assistance to tackle the challenges of climate change.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Joint Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed and ADB Country Director Paul J Heytens signed the agreement on behalf of their respective side at ERD in the city, a press release said.

The agreement forms part of a total of two million US dollar in grant provided by the Japan Special Fund (JSF), which will be administered by the ADB.

Paul Heytens said the ADB assistance would support to make Bangladesh more climate-resilient and help strengthen its food and energy security.

Bangladesh, with its low-lying delta and heavy monsoon rains, is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

## Use Bangla in every sphere of life

Language movement veterans urge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Language movement veterans reactivated their platform 'Ekushey Chetona Parishad' yesterday with a call to use Bangla in every sphere of life, including the highest judicial establishments, educational institutions, and offices.

They also called for upholding the true history of the language movement for the next generation, alleging that some quarters are distorting the facts about it.

Addressing a press conference at the Liberation War Museum, Parishad General Secretary Kamal Lohani said, "We have been inactive for some time. However, we recently felt the need to restart our activities as the anti-liberation forces are also distorting the history of the language movement."

Parishad President Ahmed Rafique said, "The historical language movement is our pride, which ultimately led to the war of liberation in 1971. The

Parishad aims to prevent any conspiracy to distort history."

They also thanked Bangla Academy for taking an initiative to establish a language museum.

They demanded steps to prepare an accurate list of the language movement veterans and to make Bangla as one of the official languages of the United Nations.

At the press conference, the Parishad launched a book entitled 'Muktishangramer Roktofolok Ekushe February', a compilation of 31 speeches and essays by the language movement veterans.

Gono Prokashoni published the book edited by Ahmed Rafique, Kamal Lohani and Shafique Khan.

The Parishad also announced a new executive committee for the Parishad.

Dr Sayeed Haider, Justice Ghulam Rabbani, Syed Ziaul Haque and Dr Col (ret'd) Sharfuddin Ahmad of the new committee were present at the press conference.

## 7 injured as students clash at Eden College

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least seven students were injured in a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Bangladesh Chhatra Federation on the Eden College campus in the city last night.

Federation leaders claimed that BCL activists attacked its workers in front of the academic building.

Earlier in the night, the BCL activists also prevented the Federation workers from submitting a memorandum to the principal, college sources said.

The students wanted to submit the memorandum to press their various demands, including reduction in meal charge in the canteen.

Five injured students received treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

## Mamun granted bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday in a verdict granted bail to controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun in a money laundering case.

The Anti-Corruption Commission on October 26 last year filed the case with Cantonment Police Station against Mamun on charge of laundering over Tk 20 crore.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Rais Uddin came up with the verdict following a bail petition filed by Mamun.

Mamun's lawyer Sabbir Hamza Chowdhury yesterday told The Daily Star that there was no bar for his client to get released from jail following the HC verdict, since he earlier got bail in all other 20 cases against him.

Mamun was arrested on January 30, 2007 on different charges, he said.

## BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

### Rule of law established thru' execution of verdict

Says Ashraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rule of law has been established in the country through execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu murder case, said LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam yesterday.

Execution of the death sentence against five Bangabandhu murder convicts has proved that no-one can escape the law after committing any heinous crimes, Ashraf, also the general secretary of the ruling Awami League, said.

Five killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman were hanged in Dhaka Central Jail shortly after Wednesday midnight.

The nation has now become free from the stigma, Ashraf said.

"Now it is time to complete the trials of Jail Killing Case, war crimes, 21 August grenade attack and Zia killing case," he told reporters.

Ashraf said this when the reporters asked for his comments on the sidelines of the concluding ceremony of the 2nd ministerial meeting of Cirdap at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

"We have already requested the governments of

different countries to send back the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu," he added.

Those who opposed BAKSAL are the beneficiaries of Bangabandhu killing, he said.

He added that late president Ziaur Rahman gave jobs to the killers of Bangabandhu in Bangladesh missions abroad instead of bringing them to book.

Ashraf also said the government has taken tight security measures to prevent any kind of sabotage by any quarters in the wake of the execution of death sentence.

## ALCWC meet tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The extended meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will be held tomorrow at the prime minister's residence at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

AL President Sheikh Hasina will chair the meeting where working committee members, members of national committee and advisory council, presidents and general secretaries of district committees, upazila committees and pourashava committees will be present.

Cabinet members, party lawmakers, Dhaka city unit AL leaders and former joint secretaries will also attend the meeting to be held at 11:00am.

Earlier on January 25, Hasina invited the party lawmakers and cautioned them to be present at the meeting as the grassroots-level leaders may raise different types of allegations against them.

### Know Bangladesh Better

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## Congratulations, New Super stars!

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