

**237 UPs set role model for development**

METRO DESK

About 237 union parishads (UPs) in 25 upazilas of Bangladesh under Horizontal Learning Program (HLP) have set examples by implementing development schemes independently through peer learning process and without any project interventions.

The UPs have already identified more than 54 "good practices" of which about 23 were mostly replicated by different UPs.

This was disclosed at a two-day consultation workshop on scaling-up of HLP concluded in the city on Sunday, said a press release.

The replicated good practices include arsenic testing and medicines to patients; installation of water sources; participatory planning and open budget meeting; increase collection of household tax and community ignition to achieve 100 percent sanitary latrine coverage.

Local Government Division and LGRD and Cooperatives ministry in collaboration with Water and Sanitation Program of World Bank and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation organised the workshop.

Some 60 persons, including government officials, representatives from UPs and upazila administration and development partners, participated in the workshop.



(Clockwise from top left) Children with autism and developmental disorder perform a dance before the participants of the inaugural session of an international conference on 'Autism Spectrum Disorders and Development Disabilities in Bangladesh and South Asia' at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the city yesterday. Indian National Congress President Sonia Gandhi shows a gesture of departure at the event. Sonia Gandhi and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni had a talk during the programme. Participants, including the foreign guests, clap to encourage the performers. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her daughter Saima Wazed Hossain talking to Sonia Gandhi during the event. Sheikh Hasina shakes hands with Sri Lankan First Lady Shiranthy Rajapaksa.



PHOTO: STAR

**Beauty parlour worker found dead**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A beauty parlour worker was found dead in her workplace at Bangshal in the old part of the city yesterday.

Police recovered the hanging body of Suborna Sutradhar, 22, daughter of Ratan Sutradhar of Kamalpur in Bhairab, from inside the beauty parlour.

Co-workers found the main gate of the parlour locked from inside around 10:00am. They informed the matter to owner and found the hanging body after opening the door with a duplicate key. The victim hanged herself from the ceiling fan with her scarf, a co-worker said.

Suborna used to stay in the beauty parlour at night on the first floor of a residential building at Abdul Hadi Lane on the area while Rozina Musa, owner of the parlour, lived along with her family on the second floor.

Her colleagues couldn't ascertain the cause behind her committing suicide.

Her father filed an unnatural death (UD) case with Bangshal Police Station.

**SEVEN-POINT DHAKA DECLARATION ADOPTED**

**Call for quality healthcare for persons with autism**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The autism conference adopted 7-point Dhaka Declaration with a call for promoting stronger coordinated actions in the region and globally to improve access and quality of healthcare services for individuals with autism and developmental disorder.

Sri Lankan First Lady Shiranthy Rajapaksa read out the declaration in Ruposhi Bangla Hotel here yesterday.

Indian National Congress President Sonia Gandhi, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, wife of Vice President of Maldives Ilham Hussain and ministers and delegates from different countries attended the conference.

The conference adopted the following 7-point declaration:

1. Adopt this declaration with the objective of promoting stronger and

coordinated actions in the region and globally towards the improvement of access and quality of healthcare services for individuals with autism and developmental disorders;

2. Endorse the following priority actions for realising our vision to meet the health care needs of children with developmental disorders:

a. Increase awareness of the rights of children with developmental disorders and to highlight social responsibility to persons with such disabilities.

b. Strengthen health systems' capacity to address the needs of children with developmental disorders and their families.

c. Improve capacities of professionals involved in provision of integrated care services for children with developmental disorders at various levels, from primary

health care and communities to specialised services.

d. Mobilise and allocate increased human and financial resources for the health care of children with developmental disorders and for gradual implementation of the identified priority actions.

e. Support provision of care in close proximity with families, homes and schools, and promote normal participation in family life, education and society.

f. Establish measures for assurance of quality of services.

g. Promote a supportive national legislative and policy environment to ensure social inclusion.

h. Ensure effective group mechanisms across sectors and particularly, among health, education, and social services, and promote adoption of a holistic approach to care provision for develop-

mental disorders.

i. Hold regularly scheduled regional conferences to continue to share information and best practices as well as monitor progress.

3. Recognise that low and middle income countries need prioritisation and support for adaptation of methodologies of care according to local context and specificities;

4. Call upon the governments, especially the ministries of health, education and social affairs, to strengthen their mental health services and prepare them to attend to the needs of people with developmental disorders and autism.

5. Invite the United Nations, including the World Health Organisation, and other relevant UN agencies to provide scientific evidence and technical support to

member states in the implementation of actions towards increased public awareness, and improved health care services for children with developmental disorders, including autism, in the context of integrated case services for child mental health.

6. Request other international, bilateral and non-governmental organisations, especially those dedicate to developmental disorders and autism to support this declaration according to their specific mandates; and

7. Appeal to the donor community to pay attention to the unmet needs of millions of people affected by developmental disabilities and autism and financially support the technical programmes planned to improve the relevant systems of care and services.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT Ticket service begins today in Ctg**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Though inaugurated yesterday, ticketing service for public transport through counters would begin in the port city of Chittagong from today.

Convener of Chittagong District Road Transport Owners' Group Abul Kalam Azad said this at a programme in the city's New Market area where Chittagong City Corporation Mayor M Manjur Alam inaugurated the service.

Additional Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Safiqul Islam and Deputy Commissioner (North) Amena Begum were also present.

Abul Kalam said the service was not provided yesterday due to the inauguration ceremony and since it was "only the first day".

The group, previously on July 23, declared to provide the service from 7:00am yesterday.

Abul Kalam said they set up 137 ticket counters on 12 routes in different parts of the city including Colonel Hat, GEC Intersection, Bahodderhat, New Market, Tiger Pass and Badamtali.

CMP traffic police department Assistant Commissioner Nabo Joytee Khisa said they posted police at the counters for security.

Mentionable, the service began on April 14 of 2008 but was stopped after a few months.



Gano Shakti Andolon stages a demonstration at Topkhana Road in the city yesterday protesting the price hike of essentials.

PHOTO: STAR

**Ratify ILO convention on domestic workers**

*Demand rights activists*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labour rights activists demanded yesterday the government immediately ratify the recent convention of International Labour Organisation (ILO) that recognised domestic workers as labourer to ensure their basic rights and decent work.

The demand came from a news conference organised by Domestic Workers Rights Network (DWRN), a coalition of trade unions and rights bodies, at Jatiya Press Club in the city in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation.

The speakers also demanded amendment of the country's labour law in line with the convention "Decent work for domestic workers" adopted by the ILO on June 16 while its 100th annual conference was in progress. The convention recognised the domestic work as labour and domestic help as a member of the ILO.

Presenting the keynote paper, Dr Wajedul Islam Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra, said the

convention's ratification alone is not enough to uphold the domestic workers' rights; the government must make it work.

Dr Khan said oppression on domestic workers is increasing as 25 domestic helps, mostly children, were tortured to death and another nine injured seriously this year. Employers often escape punishment due to absence of effective measures to ensure punishment in such crimes, he added.

The speakers said more than 20 lakh people are working as domestic helps in the country with 80 percent of them being women and children.

Their other demands include quick approval of the Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy-2010, ensuring legal protection to stop killing and humiliation of the domestic workers and exemplary punishment to the torturers.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Labour Federation Adv Delwar Hossain Khan and Coordinator of DWRN Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed were present at the press conference among others.

**Unite to oust Awami League-led govt**

*Noman urges Bangalees, indigenous people*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

BNP Vice Chairman Abdullah Al Noman yesterday said the Bangali and indigenous people must be unite at the critical juncture of the country to strengthen BNP to oust the AL-led grand alliance government.

Noman said the present government is hatching "deep conspiracy" to establish 'Baksal' in the country through its "autocratic rules" to erase BNP from the history of Bangladesh.

He made the remark at a reception ceremony at Poursabha Town Hall in

the town. Rangamati District BNP and its front organisations organised the event on the occasion of joining freedom fighter Lt Col (retd) Monish Dewan in BNP.

District BNP unit President advocate Dipen Dewan chaired the gathering.

Noman said the AL as part of conspiracy to establish 'Baksal' in the country has passed 15th amendment bill scrapping the caretaker government system.

He said the government has snatched away the rights of mass peo-

ple particularly the indigenous people through 15th amendment to the constitution.

District BNP Secretary Shah Alam, AGS of JCD central committee Mahbubur Rahman Shamim, JCD central organising secretary MR Chowdhury, president of Poura BNP and mayor of Rangamati municipality Saiful Islam Bhutto, president of district Jubo Dal Saiful Islam Shakil, Saiful Islam Ponir, Shafiu Azam and district president of JCD Abu Sadat Sayem also addressed the event.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Lecture**  
Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will host a memorial lecture. Time: 5:00pm. Venue: The society auditorium.

**Discussion**  
Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee will hold a discussion. Time: 4:00pm. Venue: WVA auditorium.

**Seminar**  
Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) will organise a seminar. Time: 10:30am. Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

**Dialogue**  
Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) will organise a dialogue. Time: 3:00pm. Venue: Cirdap auditorium.

**Awarding Ceremony**  
Mymensingh Sangskritik Charcha Kendra, Dhaka will hold an award giving ceremony. Time: 5:00pm. Venue: Shilpakala Academy.

**Launch**  
Board of Investment (BOI) will organise a report launching ceremony. Time: 11:00am. Venue: Jiban Bima Tower.

**Human Chain**  
Voice of Bangladesh will form a human chain. Time: 3:00pm. Venue: Jatiya Press Club.