

PM emphasises child-friendly environment

UNB, Dhaka
 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is very much sincere about creating a child-friendly environment in the country through ensuring the safety of children from all sorts of exploitation and deprivation. Terming children as future leaders, she said the present government is implementing various programmes for full flourishing of children and ensuring their equal partnership at all levels in this era of globalisation and information technology. The prime minister made the remarks while inaugurating the International Children's Day and Child Rights Week 2011 at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city. She directed the authorities to reduce the huge burden of textbooks for a smooth development of children's potential. Teachers and guardians, she said, should be more cautious about preventing all sorts of mental and physical torture both at home and in the schools. Hasina said the government will not allow anyone to use children for begging. "We are taking steps so that no child will be used as a tool for begging." She also asked the authorities concerned to ensure the availability of playgrounds for children.

In this regard, she mentioned that it is very hard to find any playground in the cities due to greed of the land developers. "We've to ensure safe places where children will be able to play. We are working to do this," she said. Hasina said Bangladesh is one of the countries which ratified the UN Child Rights Charter. In line with this charter and the country's constitution, she said her government has formulated the National Child Policy 2011. She said father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman loved children and had formulated the child policy in 1974, 15 long years before the adoption of the UN Child Rights Charter. In order to spread Bangabandhu's love of children to the new generation, she said March 17, the birthday of Bangabandhu, is being observed as National Children's Day every year. She said every child has the right to have a name since its birth, to have vaccine from its 25th day, breastfeeding up to six months and right to go to school from five years. Hasina said to ensure good health of mother and child, her government has created three thousand midwives, strengthened Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation, established health and family welfare centre up to union level and increased maternity



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina affectionately pats a child on the cheek at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday at a programme marking World Children's Day.

Child Rights Week as time befitting and encouraging, Hasina said there should be plenty of opportunities for every child to use the information technology, helping them to learn about the advancements of the world. Keeping this in view, she said, her government has started computer training programmes in every district and a process is underway to provide laptops to the students at a cheaper rate. Besides, she said, parks and playgrounds across the country were being freed from illegal occupiers to ensure the development of physical and mental health of children. Hasina asked the filmmakers to make at least one children's movie each year and assured them of government support in this regard. She also called upon all to dedicate "Your present for a better future of children" and make united endeavors for building a happy prosperous future for the next generation. State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, Unicef country representative Carol De Rooy and acting Women and Children Affairs secretary Tariqueul-Islam, and two children - Abidur Rahman and Sarah Mehjabin - also spoke on the occasion. The PM later witnessed a cultural programme presented by the children.

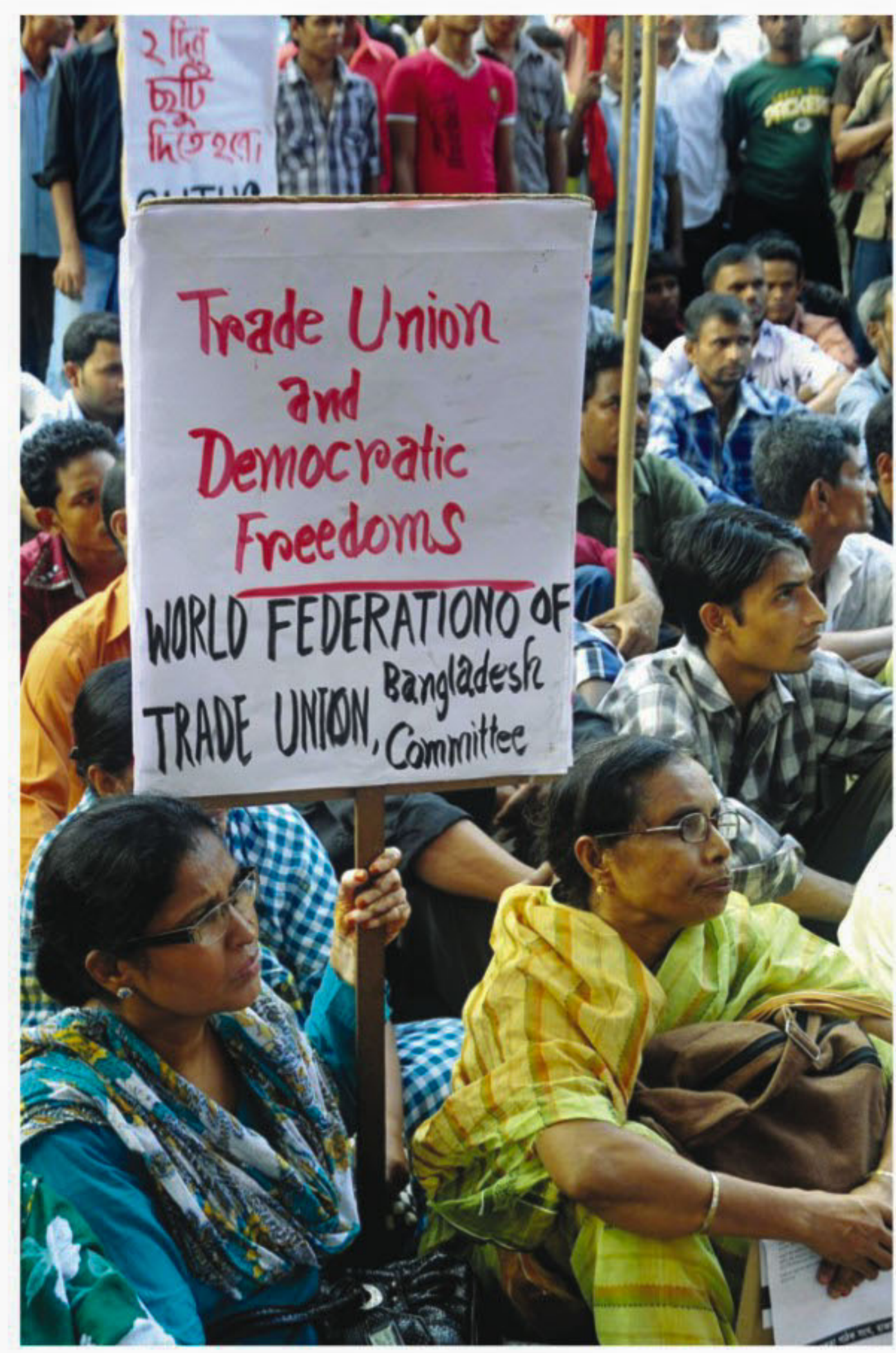
leave to six months. In this context, she mentioned receiving the MDG Award of the United Nations last year for the country's success in reducing child mortality. This year, she said, Bangladesh received South South Global Health and Children's Health Award in recognition of improving the health of women and children using information technology. Terming the theme of this year's

Ensure proper pay, social security to workers

Demand trade union leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers struggle to live their life in Bangladesh as they are not paid considering the rising price of essentials in the markets, said leaders and workers of different trade unions in the country yesterday. Besides, workers often have to work additional hours but do not get their due money or they have to work in vulnerable working conditions without any social security, they said. They were speaking at a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city to press home a number of demands including better wages and social security for the workers and freedom of running free trade unions. The Bangladesh Chapter of World Federation of Trade Unions organised the rally marking International Action Day. Following the rally, several hundred leaders and workers of the chapter's six wings brought out a procession with similar demands. Razequzzaman Ratan, general secretary of Socialist Labour Front, said "Freedom of running trade unions is a democratic right of the workers and we place collective arguments before the owners through such unions." The day was also observed in other countries of the world to ensure workers' rights, he said. Presiding over the rally, Shafi Uddin Ahmed, a trade union leader, demanded introduction of rationing system for the workers to cope up with the increasing price of essentials. He also demanded release of the workers arrested illegally at different times in the country. Trade union leaders also demanded five working days and 35 working hours in a week for the workers.



Bangladesh Chapter of World Federation of Trade Unions organises a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday marking the International Action Day.

Hasina-Sonia exchange pleasantries

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and president of India's ruling Congress Party Sonia Gandhi have exchanged pleasantries through letters and photo albums. Sonia Gandhi sent a 'thank you letter' to Hasina last week expressing her gratitude for the hospitality she received during her visit to Dhaka in July. The Prime Minister's Office promptly responded by sending an album of pictures taken during Gandhi's visit, informed sources said on Monday. Meanwhile, Dhaka and New Delhi are working towards an official ceremony scheduled for October 8 when Hasina will inaugurate the round-the-clock access to the Tin Bigha Corridor connecting Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves located in India with mainland of Bangladesh. In 1992, India allowed Bangladeshis 12-hour access till sunset through the corridor. During Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka last month, New Delhi announced 24-hour use of the corridor by Bangladeshi citizens.

Check carbon emission in urban areas

Environmental bodies urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of some environmental organisations yesterday urged the government to take necessary steps in controlling carbon emission in cities as urban living practices are, in many ways, responsible for climate change. They were speaking at a press conference in the city's Jatiya Press Club organised by WBB Trust and Save the Environment Movement marking World Habitat Day. They also demanded necessary measures restricting movement of privately-owned cars in cities and emphasised on encouraging people to walk and ride bicycles.

Reading out a written statement, WBB Trust Senior Project Officer Naznin Kabir discussed on the negative impacts of climate change and ways to create awareness among people in this regard. She also presented the possible consequences of leading a luxurious urban life, using motor vehicles and construction of buildings in an unplanned way. Nagorik Adhikar Sangrokkhon Forum President Hafizur Rahman Moyna, the movement Secretary Monower Hossen, Jahangirnagar University urban and regional planning department Associate Prof Mohammad Shafiq-ur-Rahman and WBB Trust Director Syed Mahbul Alam also spoke.

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Dhaka

Friday, 28th October
12 noon to 8 pm
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Please call to book your appointment today

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Dr. Gulshan K. Mukhiya obtained graduation & post graduation from R.N.T. Medical College, Udaipur (Rajasthan), India in 1997 and 2001 respectively. He was awarded DM in Nephrology in 2005 from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He then joined Himalayan Hospital, Dehradun, India as Assistant Professor of Nephrology in 2005, where he was subsequently promoted to Associate Professor in 2007. He has also worked in Singapore General Hospital and National Kidney Foundation, Singapore (NKFS). He has received training in endovascular procedures of haemodialysis vascular access under renowned interventional radiologist Dr. Turmel R. Luc in Tours, France. Dr. Mukhiya has more than 10 years of extensive experience in Nephrology. He has been actively involved in the teaching and training of undergraduate and post graduate fellows in Nephrology. He has a number of publications in reputed journals, and has presented papers in various national and international conferences.

Before joining Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, he was working as an Associate Professor of Nephrology at Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust, Dehradun, India.

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DHAKA TODAY

Rally
 National Girl Child Advocacy Forum will organise a rally; Venue: National Museum; Time: 9:00am.

Laying of Foundation
 Postogola Jatiya Mohashoshan Committee will hold a foundation laying ceremony; Venue: Shyampur; Time: 6:00pm.

Discussion
 Sri Sri Ramshita Mandir will organise a discussion; Venue: its premises; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion
 Oxfam will hold a discussion; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 1:45pm.

Rally
 Pragatishil Chhatra Jote will organise a rally; Venue: Central Shahid Minar premises; Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar
 The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh will hold a seminar; Venue: its premises; Time: 6:30pm.

Human chain
 Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samonny Parishad will organise a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Rally