

White band day celebrated at Swat

G-8 countries should play their role to end poverty from the face of the earth. Poverty and peace cannot go hand in hand. Haji Hayat Ali, Haji Zahid Khan, Irshad Ali, Badar Zaman, Muhammad Roshan, General Secretary SYF and others at the end of a walk, organized by Swat Youth Front (SYF) and Oxfam GB Pakistan under the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) Campaign, expressed these ideas while celebrating 'white band day' at Mingora. Economic disparity and injustice is causing uncertainty in the minds of the people of developing countries and is the main obstacle in attainment of global peace, added the speakers. The developed and rich countries can contribute to the peace by cancellation of debt of the poor countries. The rich nations of the world should fulfill their promises made to achieve the millennium development goals, especially the eighth one, by giving a little share of their annual GDP to the poor countries to solve the problems of unemployment, health and education, further added the speakers. They demanded of government of Pakistan that to eliminate poverty from the country, it should follow the poverty reduction strategy in accordance with United Nations (MDG) goals. The walk started, the participants wearing white band and displaying banners and cards containing slogans of the campaign, from the office of Swat Youth Front and after covering main areas of the city ended at Nishat Choak Mingora.

Similar activity was organized by SYF at school of arts charbagh Swat, on the same day in afternoon. A large number of women participated in the activity wearing white bands and showing their concerns with international community. In order to encourage poor students to continue female education in tribal settings, SYF arranged an award distribution ceremony for top ten successful students in SSC examination of Govet Girls High School Charbagh Swat. Mr. Ghulam Akbar, Executive District Officer Education, the chief guest of the ceremony presented awards to the students. Other speakers included Mohabat Khan, Deputy EDO Education, Barkat Ali Khan, Programme Manager, Oxfam GB Pakistan, Badar Zaman, President SYF and Neelum Gul, Programme Officer SYF. While addressing the ceremony, speakers analyzed the poverty of the province and then that of the district and declared that the isolation of women was the main factor responsible for low pace of development in the region. Speakers emphasized for focusing on education and skill development for women to get rid of the extreme form of poverty, which they are experiencing in rural areas.

































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