

# Call to unite against torture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday urged the people to unite to raise voice against all sorts of torture and repression in the country.

They said people are often repressed and tortured with the direct and indirect support of the government and other organisations.

The seminar on 'Together Against Torture' was organised jointly by Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights and Women Voice at

the CIRDAP auditorium.

Presided over by Justice KM Sobhan, the seminar was conducted by Tahura, president of Women Voice.

Prof Dr Ruhul Haque presented at the seminar a paper on 'Physical and mental reaction of torture and rehabilitation problem' while Prof Dr MA Sobhan, and Assistant Prof Dr Abu Nashar Rizbhi discussed the paper.

Dr Khalikuzzaman presented another paper on 'Economic aspect of torture'.

The seminar was attended by

Prof Dr Harun-ur-Rashid, Prof Rawzan Ara, Advocate Mahbubay Alam, Akram Hossain Chowdhury and Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury.

The speakers said the tortured persons need physical, mental and social rehabilitation to lead a normal life in the society. But the government is not doing anything to rehabilitate them properly, they alleged.

The speakers said it is very difficult to forget the agony of torture and as a result the victim often becomes mentally feeble and burden of the family.



Parts of Prohati Sarani at Shahjhatpur are littered with garbage. The authorities seem negligent to cleanliness.

# 'Political will a must for curbing drug abuse'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political will is a must for curbing drug abuse, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

They called on the political parties to reach a consensus on a comprehensive long-term strategy to address the rising trend in drug abuse among the youths.

They also observed that there are huge expenses on war against drug abuse, but the impact on the prevention of drug-related crimes is very little.

The networks of drug traffickers and smuggling routes are so strong and well organised that 90 per cent of drugs reach the hands of the consumers despite best efforts to cut the supply route, said a participant.

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) organised the seminar on 'Let's talk about drugs' in the city to mark the 'International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking'.

The speakers suggested launching a massive awareness campaign against the drug abuse.

They also called for large-

scale community mobilisation against drug abuse and raising awareness among the students.

Presenting the keynote paper, Muzibur Rahman Howlader, Director (operation) of DNC, said there is an increasing trend in abuse of drugs, its trafficking and selling. And a total of 45,858 drug-related cases have been lodged since 1990.

He said transit of drugs through Bangladesh caused a significant spillage.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury attended the seminar as chief guest while State Minister for Home Md Lutfuzzaman Babar and secretary of Home Ministry Muhammad Omar Farooq were present as special guests.

## 1831 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,831 people including one listed criminal from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

# 'Feasibility study on Ganges barrage soon'

BSS, Dhaka

The government has a plan to carry out a feasibility study on the proposed Ganges barrage soon, Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed told parliament yesterday.

Replying to a question from Shamsur Rahman Sharif of Awami League, the minister said the government also plans to implement an irrigation project in north

Rajshahi using the Ganges water.

He said agriculture irrigation projects are being taken through proper utilisation of waters of major rivers. He said irrigation facilities are being provided in greater Rangpur district by constructing a barrage in the river Teesta.

He told the House that work to implement the Kurigram irrigation project by using waters of the Dharia and Dudhkumar rivers had been taken.

