



PHOTO: STAR

Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud speaks at a dissemination workshop on the report titled 'Institutional Mapping on Human Rights and Governance in Bangladesh' at CIRDAP auditorium in the city yesterday. From right are Nasreen Huq, Ahmed Kamal and Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno. The Manusher Jonno and Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) organised the event.

'Poor suffer as governance fails'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday said lack of transparency, good governance and violation of human rights are taking a heavy toll on the people, specially the poor.

They called for a holistic approach from the NGOs and donor agencies to help people come out of the vicious circle.

The dissemination workshop on 'Institutional mapping on human rights and governance in Bangladesh: An analytical overview' was organised jointly by Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and Manusher Jonno, an NGO, at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city.

PPRC Executive Chairman Hossain Zillur Rahman presented the keynote paper at the workshop while noted economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, lawyer Shaheen Anam, Ahmed Kamal, Naila Kabir, Salahuddin Aminuzzaman and Nasreen Huq took part in panel discussion.

Hossain Zillur Rahman in his paper said implicit political support for illegal income is undermining the efforts for establishing a disciplined market economy and accountable government, frustrating the prospects of a social order based on human rights.

He said vested-interest groups including mentors of terrorism and corruption have flourished through a vicious politico-

economic nexus.

Citing a survey, Hossain Zillur Rahman said a number of development organisations are, however, increasingly focusing their attention to human rights and good governance.

He said human rights in Bangladesh suffers from an inherent contradiction as its jurisprudence was inherited from colonial legacy.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno, in her welcome address focused on the survey findings and said more and more NGOs are becoming concern about human rights issues.

She said the combination of development work with human rights and good governance has become a norm at the programmatic level of many NGOs.

Shaheen Anam said a total of 184 organisations were surveyed for the mapping exercise and it was found that human rights activism is making significant achievements in the fields of education, health, disaster management and poverty eradication.

Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud lauded the role of the NGOs for their achievement in reducing child mortality rate and enrolment of girl students despite Bangladesh being a predominantly Muslim country.

He called upon the development partners to help create awareness among the masses to

elect honest and efficient public representatives for building a creditable society.

Economist Dr Atiur Rahman, and NGO leaders Sultana Kamal, Zakir Hossain, Rezaul Karim Chowdhury and Mobin Zinnah participated in the discussion.

Bhuiyan meets Singaporean minister

BSS, Dhaka

Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan had fruitful talks with the Singaporean Environment Minister Lim Swee Say on Saturday.

During his transit visit to Singapore, Bhuiyan met the environment minister and discussed bilateral issues with special emphasis on cooperation in the field of waste management in urban areas.

They also exchanged views on a wide range of issues including trade, investment, employment and technical cooperation as well as ways to further expand bilateral cooperation.

Bhuiyan particularly referred to the possibility of cooperation on protection of environment in the urban areas.

He appreciated Singapore's achievements in building a clean, environment-friendly and beautiful city and expressed his keen interest to apply Singapore's municipal waste management system in Bangladesh.

Lim Swee Say gave a detailed description of the system and agreed, in principal, to arrange exchange of visits of the experts to work out a technical cooperation programme.

JUTA demands VC's resignation

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) yesterday demanded immediate resignation of the vice-chancellor.

They also demanded punishment to the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists who kept the provost and eight house tutors of Shahid Salam Barkat (SSB) hall confined on August 11.

Addressing a rally on the university campus, the JUTA leaders alleged that the university authorities are acting at the whims of the VC.

Attack on general students and assault of teachers are taking place frequently, but the VC was not taking any action against the attackers, they said.

The JUTA will observe one-hour abstention programme today from

Contraband worth Tk 15 lakh seized

BSS, Dhaka

Members of Bangladesh Coast Guard seized Contraband worth about Tk 15 lakh from different areas of Bhola, Chittagong and Khulna on Saturday.

The contraband items included current nets, different brands of Myanmar-made liquor and 200 cubic feet timber.



PHOTO: STAR

Visitors at a photography exhibition that began at the National Museum yesterday. The exhibition was organised as part of the silver jubilee celebrations marking the founding anniversary of the ruling BNP.

10.20am to 11.20 am to press their demands.

Prof. Amin Mohammad Ali, president of JUTA, Prof. Anu Mohammad, Prof. Selim Al-Din, Prof. Mustahidur Rahman, Prof. Enamul Huq Khan and Prof. Abul Khair attended the rally.