



Women's Day Special



LAW campaign

SECRETARY GENERAL'S MESSAGE ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
Women must take rightful place in world's decision-making

The theme of this year's International Women's Day -- the role of women in decision-making -- is central to the advancement of women around the world, and to the progress of humankind as a whole. As the Beijing Declaration tells us, "women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace".

RIGHTS monitor

Report on violence against women in Bangladesh in 2006

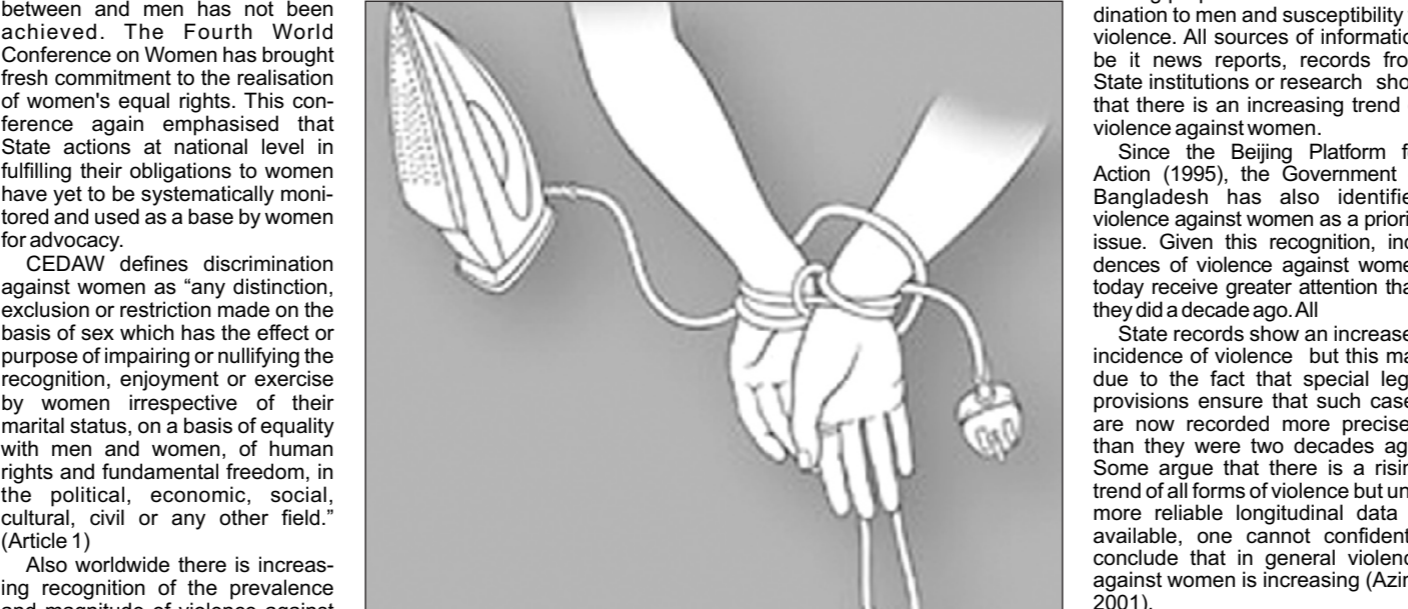


In the last five year two month women were the most vulnerable groups in Bangladesh that witnessed an alarming increase in human rights violations. From 1 January 2001 to 28 February 2006 a sum of 5217 women and children were raped across the country. Among them 614 women were killed after raped and 61 women committed suicide after being violated. Besides, a total of 1575 women found to be victimized of dowry related violence. Of them 1009 women were killed, 420 were brutally tortured, 55 found acid burns, 84 committed suicide and 7 were divorced due to dowry.

HUMAN RIGHTS analysis

FACILITATING THE FULFILLMENT OF STATE OBLIGATIONS
Towards women's equality

Background and international context
During the last two decades, many global initiatives had been taken to promote and enforce women's rights. They include the Declaration of the Decade for Women (1975-85), the adoption of the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1979 (ratified by Bangladesh in 1984), four World Conferences on Women, the adoption by consensus of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (1985), and the Beijing Platform for Action (1995). In spite of all these initiatives, progress in the achievement of women's rights has been slow worldwide.



Also worldwide there is increasing recognition of the prevalence and magnitude of violence against women. It is increasingly seen as a violation of women's rights and a barrier to women enjoyment of other rights. Gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

LAW events

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2006
'Love in family, not violence'

ACTION Network to Combat Violence Against Women (ANCVAV) has observed the International Women's Day 2006 with due solemnity and respect. The ANCVAV and its members organized different colorful events including rally, cultural Show, signature campaign and Candle light vigil at Dhaka. Celebrity performers from mass media, singer, writer participated in the day's programs.

LAWweek

Biggest arms haul in CHT in 3 years

A joint team of army and BDR seized another huge cache of arms and ammunition from Naikhongghari upazila in this district, destroying two dens of gunrunners in a 36-hour operation on Mirinjan hill. The security forces however could not capture any of the criminals during the operation. This was the biggest arms haul in the last three years in this hilly area close to Myanmar border, an army spokesman said.

EC to wait for publication of voter list as appeal pending

The Election Commission (EC) will have to wait for some more time to schedule publication of the draft and final voter rolls as its appeal against the High Court's (HC) January 4 directives is still pending. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday deferred for the fifth time the hearing on the appeal against the HC directives for revising the existing electoral roll. It fixed March 12 as the date for hearing.

Tyrant Bangla Bhai finally captured

Bangla Bhai, the tyrant who once spread Islamic militancy with the administration's protection, was captured wounded from a remote Mymensingh hideout after skirmishes with the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). As the splinter-hit and explosive-burned militant top gun was carted along the rutted roads of Rampur village in Muktagachha, the curtain dropped on his reign of terror in the northern Bangladesh where he killed and tortured scores amid the government's denial about his existence.

World wants strong probe, open trial

Foreign diplomats in Dhaka at a meeting with Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan strongly advocated vigorous investigation and trial of Islamist militants in a "transparent and open" manner. The US envoy also expressed Washington's willingness to assist Dhaka in investigating the cases involving the recently captured top two JMB masterminds--Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai. The foreign diplomats highly appreciated the government and the law enforcement agencies for their efforts in capturing the most-wanted militant leaders and called for bringing the perpetrators to justice so that the crimes are not repeated.

Dr Kamal asks govt to sack JMB-linked ministers

Dr Kamal Hossain has demanded the dismissal of ministers, including the Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haque, who are accused of providing shelter to JMB militants and instigating militancy. "Suspend and hand over the identified ministers to the police immediately," the Gono Forum and Jatiya Oikya Mancha president asked the prime minister in a written statement at a press conference on "Terrorism, National Security: What needs to be done" at the Jatiya Press Club. Citing statistics and information on militant activities of Bangla Bhai, he said the tyrant leader and his men killed 16 people and disabled hundred others during April 2004 to January 2005.

Fire Service Act
Babar orders action against lawbreaking factories

Lutfuzzaman Babar, state minister for home, has directed the director general (DG) of Fire Service and Civil Defence to take steps against the factories that are not following the code of conduct of Fire Service Act. "I will monitor the drive against those violating the laws and if necessary I will amend the Fire Service Act," Babar said. He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Fire Service and Civil Defence Week-2006 at Mirpur training complex. He said there have been casualties in fire incidents as many factories lack the necessary firefighting equipment and are violating the code of conduct.

Kibria Killing
SC adjourns hearing on re-probe

The Supreme Court (SC) adjourned the hearing of a leave to appeal petition against a High Court (HC) verdict that affirmed the lower court's order rejecting a plea for further inquiry into Kibria murder. After hearing both sides for an hour, a four-member Appellate Division bench headed by Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassar Husain ordered the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Sylhet, to submit records of the murder case within a week. The court adjourned the hearing for a week by extending the stay on operation of the HC verdict until the next hearing on March 14. Within three hours of charge framing by the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Sylhet, against the 10 accused of Kibria killing, the Supreme Court on February 7 stayed for three weeks the proceedings of the case following a leave to appeal filed by Advocate Abdul Majid Khan, complainant of the case. Kibria and four others were killed in a grenade attack at Boddhayer Bazar in Habiganj on January 27 last year. Dr Kamal Hossain and Advocate Mahubey Alam appeared for the petitioner while Additional Attorney General Abdur Rezaque Khan stood for the state.

Corresponding with the Law Desk
Please send your mails, queries, and opinions to: Law Desk, The Daily Star 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215; telephone 8124944, 8124955, fax 8125155; email <dslawdesk@yahoo.co.uk; lawdesk@thedailystar.net