

'Special laws fail to contain violence'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The loopholes in laws and abuse of laws are hindering the disposal of cases, noted the speakers at a meeting in the city yesterday.

Despite enactment of several new laws, violence, especially those against women, is still widespread, they said.

The Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) organised the meeting on 'Present criminal proceedings under special laws assisting the rights of the citizens and also effecting the effectiveness of the criminal prosecution system.'

The enactment of special laws like Acid Control Act 2002 and Prevention of Women and Child Repression Act 2002 has virtually failed to contain violence against women, said Fawzia Karim Firoze, advisor to the BNWLA.

Issuing warrants by the magistrate and police without proper investigation is one of the loopholes in the existing laws, Fawzia noted in her key-note paper. Improper use of special laws by the lawyers is another problem, she added.

The speakers noted that sometimes innocent persons become victims in disguise of effective use of special laws. Number of false cases is also increasing while the genuine cases are not being proceeded, they added.

They observed that unawareness and improper use of special laws by the law enforcing agencies and lawyers also dwarf the effectiveness of laws.

However, some speakers also

mentioned the inconveniences the law enforcers and lawyers suffer from.

"Most of the time cases are filed long after the incident of violence when most of its evidences are lost," said Abdul Motalib, Officer-in-charge, Shabujab police station.

"Moreover, the police lack financial support to perform such tasks as to get the photograph of the victim or to do medical tests."

Apart from enacting new laws, a social awareness should be created to curb the unbridled violence against women, said Abdul Quyum Mukul, joint editor of the Prothom Alo.

"Male chauvinism is deeply rooted in the minds of men which breeds violence against women," he clarified. "They need a basic counselling to overcome it."

The meeting was moderated by Advocate Salma Ali, executive director of BNWLA. Ashraf Huda, additional inspector general of police, Criminal Investigation Department, was present as chief guest while Mahbul Alam, editor of the Independent, spoke as special guest.

1,375 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,375 people, including 10 listed criminals, from different parts of the country in 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

They also seized five firearms, five other weapons and three bullets during the period and filed seven cases against 13 people under the Arms Act.



The joint forces recovered a number of firearms and ammunition from a hidden room of the house of a criminal godfather at Farashganj in the old part of the city yesterday.

PHOTO STAR

Over 2 pc suffer from diabetes

BSS, Dhaka

Over two per cent of about 130 million population suffer from diabetes in the country and the number of such registered cases has increased by eight-fold in last two decades since 1980, a health researcher said yesterday.

"The prevalence of diabetic was 143 million globally in 1977 and expected to be 300 million by the year 2005. A recent study detected the prevalence rate of 2.1 per cent in Bangladesh, Dr Shireen Begum of NIPSOM told a conference in the city.

Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) and the UN Population Fund jointly organised the Reproductive Health Research Conference at the IDB Bhaban. Over 60 physicians, statisticians and NGO activists attended the

conference that covered important areas of reproductive health like health education and health status of pregnant adolescents and nutritional status pregnancy outcomes.

The conference came across on food misconceptions and maternal malnutrition, sexual behaviour

JUTA threatens strike

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA) threatens to go on strike again to realise its three-point demand including regularisation of temporary teachers, promotion under upgrade system and bill for extra classes. They called upon the university authorities to meet the demands within seven days, sources said.

JUTA took this decision at its executive committee meeting at teachers lounge of central cafeteria yesterday.

JUTA also decided to donate one day's salary for the injured students of Archaeology Department.

Nazrul Academy executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 15-member executive committee of the Nazrul Academy has been elected for a three-year term, says a press release.

The election was held on the academy premises at Belalabad Colony, Moghbazar, in the city on December 25.

The elected members of the committee are Sabir Ahmed Chowdhury, Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui, Murshid Alam, Khairul Alam Sabuj, Nashid Kamal, Prof. Md. Abdul Gafur, Mintu Rahman, Mahabub Alam Kamal, Nasim Ahmed, Syed Hossain Sayeed, Reza Matin, ABM Siddiqur Rahman Majumder, Mahtabul Alam, SD Sumon and Md. Idris Ali.

DRCL executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

M Atiqur Rahman and Nasim Ahmed have been elected president and general secretary of the Dhanmondi Recreation Club Ltd. (DRCL) respectively for 2003-2004, says a press release.

The election to the executive committee of the club was held at its third annual general meeting on the club premises in the city on Friday.

The other elected office-bearers are MA Matin (treasurer) and Dr. Syed Jahangir Haider, Khairul Anwar, Golam Mustafa, Dewan Sadequr Rahman Babla, Md. Siddiqur Rahman, Harunur Rashid, Dr. Rezwan Siddique, Md. Ismail Zabihullah, Mujibur Rahman, Salim Ahmed, Hanif Bhuiyan and Md. Anwar Hossain (members).

Book Publishers, Sellers' Assoc executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md. Abu Taher and AFM Shah Alam and Abul Quasem were elected president and vice president of the Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association respectively.

Thirty-five directors were elected at the bi-annual election was held yesterday. Later Shah Alam and Quasem were elected president and vice president from among the directors.

The elected directors, among others, are Md. Yusuf Khan, Md. Abdur Razzak, Md. Abdus Salam, Kamrul Hasan Syok, Md. Abu Taher, M A Ohab, Md. Tajul Islam, Md. Hamdul Haq, Md. Abidur Rahman and Serajul Haq.

Combine ethical, legal aspects to ensure justice

Moudud tells district judges

BSS, Dhaka

Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed called upon the district judges to practice ethical aspects side by side of legal one in disposing their judgement.

"Judges are completely independent under the provision of the constitution in disposing of their verdict. However, they should combine ethical and legal aspects to ensure justice," he said.

Moudud was addressing the inaugural session of a day-long convention of district judges as the chief guest here yesterday.

Organised by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs ministry, the session was also addressed by State Minister of the ministry Shajahan Omar as special guest. Secretary Afzal Hossain Ahmed presided over the session.

Over 100 district judges and officials of same rank of the ministry attended the convention. Moudud said most of the judges have not been discharging their duties, specially those are related to ethical aspect and upholding human rights. Referring to the provision of legal aid law, he said there are a few cases that were disposed of under the provision of the law.

"There are many districts where no case was taken under consideration by the district judges to mitigate human rights violation," he said. "Even the fund, allocated in this connection, remains over 90 per cent unutilised," he added.

"We have got hundreds of reports about the prisoners, specially women and children, whose cases can be considered under Legal Aid Law from district level jail authorities. However, the district judges have shown a little interest in the cases," he said.

In this connection, he reminded the judges of their duties, including case management, court administration, visiting jail and supervision and monitoring of judiciary in the district, beyond trial in the court.

He also urged the judges for speedy disposal of cases to alleviate harassment of the litigant and ensure better judiciary service in the country.

Referring to the different murder cases during the past Awami League government, he said they had exercised political intervention in the trial processes of the murder cases as their party leaders or workers were involved. The charge sheets of some cases were

not given even after one year during the regime, he said.

Moudud said, the four-party government has taken initiatives for rapid trial of various cases. As a result, Shihab and Trisha murder cases were tried within two months.

"The government is committed to ensure justice for the people of the country. None of the accused, including ruling party leaders and workers, will get rid of punishment if found guilty, he said.

Urging the judges to discharge their duties freely and independently, he assured that the government would not interfere in the natural course of trial process including in political intention.

He also assured the judges to fulfil their demands. He said the government would construct court building in each district under Legal and Judicial Capacity Building Project.

Besides, computer and fax machine would be provided to upgrade information process system for ensuring better judiciary services at the district courts.

Shajahan Omar said the judges have vital role to ensure cost efficient and effective judiciary in the country.

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