



PHOTO: STAR  
Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain speaks at the Multi-sectoral Dialogue on South-South Collaboration at Cirdap auditorium on Saturday.

# Launch social movement against human trafficking

Speakers tell nat'l consultation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a national consultation yesterday called for a social movement against trafficking in women and children, involving all stakeholders, including the local government bodies.

Terming the issue an emerging social problem, they called on the government to come up with a holistic policy and programme to check human trafficking.

The speakers suggested raising mass awareness, building capacity of the stakeholder and empowering women and children to deal with the issue as it has multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional impacts on the society.

They also called for providing

assistance to the victims' families and relatives.

Identifying the poverty as a major reason behind the human trafficking, they said community development and poverty alleviation are a must for addressing the issue.

The speakers also underscored the need for safe and speedy migration of the labourers for overall economic development.

"The illegal trafficking must be stopped but that should not be at the cost of labour migration," said Tasneem Siddiqui of Dhaka University while conducting a working session of the meeting.

The session was facilitated by Ferdous Ara Begum, joint secretary, ministry of women affairs. AKM Masud Ali presented the executive summery of review of the pilot project on coordinated programme to combat child trafficking.

The government officials, donor agencies, non-governmental organisations, social workers, lawyers, representatives from law enforcing agencies attended the meeting orgnaised by International Organisations for Migrants (IOM) at the Brac Inn at Mohakhali.

Minister for Women and Children Affairs Khurshid Jahan Haque inaugurated the meeting in the morning.

IOM South Asia Regional Representative Shahidul Haque and Norwegian Ambassador Aud Lise Norheim also spoke.

## 'South-South initiative helps improve healthcare'

BSS, Dhaka

The South-South collaboration has accelerated development in the field of reproductive health and family planning in developing countries, said Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain.

"If all the developing countries come together to combine their efforts and share their experiences, expertise and best practices for mutual benefit, it will make more significant change to the lives of the poor," he said at a dialogue on South-South Collaboration in the city on Saturday.

The health ministry organised the dialogue with the assistance of the South-South Centre. Sponsored by the Partners in Population and Development (PPD), the event was held at CIRDAP Auditorium.

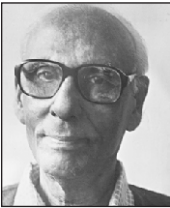
Health Secretary AFM Sarwar Kamal, Editor of The Independent Mahbubul Alam, Executive Director of PPD Dr Timothee Gandaho and Director of 'South-South Centre Jalaluddin Ahmed also spoke.

The health minister said Bangladesh is committed to the promotion and expansion of the forum, which accommodates 20 countries, with Benin as its latest member.

The situation in the partner countries, he said, could be far better, provided better understanding was made in all the crucial fields such as adolescent reproductive health, HIV/Aids, women empowerment, maternal and child healthcare, gender parity and population control.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Professor Reza-e-Karim of Islamic history and culture of Dhaka University passed away at his Kalabagan residence in the city on February

2 at the age of 85.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Chakhar under Banaripara thana in Barisal.

Teachers and students of Dhaka University and members of Itihash Parishad expressed deep shock at his death.