

# Strengthen campaign to stop repression on women

## Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for strengthening media campaign to stop repression on women.

The seminar on 'Raising awareness of violence against women and assistance to the victims' was organised by Jesh Foundation in the city.

The foundation has been working at Kalaroa in Sathkhira district since 1997

with the financial assistance of the Academy Education Development (AED), an organisation working for the USAID locally.

Presided over by Jesh Foundation Chairman Enam Hoque, the seminar was attended by Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam as chief guest and USAID Director Carol Horning as special guest.

Mahfuz Anam said physical

atrocities against women are increasing across the country.

"We are aware of it and we have taken up the women repression as an issue", he added.

Mahfuz Anam suggested for holding more such seminar to share experiences with political and local leaders to reduce violence against women.

"We have to raise our voice against repression on women specially in rural areas," he said.

Mahfuz Anam said sharing of opinion with the religious leaders in rural areas could help reduce violation against women there.

He also welcomed the arrival of more women in the world of journalism to speak about their problems.

Prof Ali Ahmed, a former parliament member, said people have to be united to build the country.

"Politics is not controlled by the politicians. It is no more in their hands," he added.

Ali Ahmed said the country is now divided into two groups for personal interests of the vested quarters.

AED Chief Susan Ward, Chairman of Bangladesh Cooperatives Insurance Limited Alhaj Abdus Salam, Advocate Salma Ali of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, Sultana Kamal of Ain O Salish Kendro, Elena Khan of BSEHR, Engineer Saifur Rahman Khan and Kazi Zahan Miah of the foundation took part in the discussion.

Two journalists were awarded crest and cash worth Tk 50,000 and Tk 10,000 for their outstanding reporting on the violence against women and assistance to the victims.

They were Tawhidur Rahman of the Prothom Alo and Julfikar Ali of Juger Barta, a daily published from Sathkhira.



PHOTO STAR  
New Delhi-based Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh Walter Gyger made a farewell call on Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence yesterday.

# Current nets worth Tk 1.94 crore seized

UNB, Dhaka,

Bangladesh Coast Guard members in separate raids seized 13.24 lakh metres current and other illegal nets worth Tk 1.94 crore from Chandpur, Mohonpur and Nilkomol coastal areas during the last fortnight.

The seized nets were burnt in front of the local people and fisheries officials, says a Coast Guard

press release.

The coast guard also seized different contrabands including timber, heroin, beer, sugar and urea fertilizer worth Tk 8.07 lakh during the period.

The seized contrabands were handed over to the customs officials.