

20,000 women, children smuggled out a year

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC) Bangladesh Chapter and Bangladesh Journalist Forum Against Human Trafficking (BJFAHT) recently organised a daylong workshop for media representatives on anti-trafficking.

According to an estimate, some 20,000 women and children are trafficked every year from Bangladesh on an average and speakers at the workshop last Thursday stressed on the need for creating awareness so that this evil trade can be resisted.

The participants were informed that women and children are the common victims. They are smuggled across the border and eventually end up in India, Pakistan, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and Middle-Eastern countries. Children are used mostly as camel jockeys or put into risky jobs and even begging in certain cases. For trafficked women the usual destination is a brothel or nightclub. There have been reports too of internal organs like kidney, liver etc of the smuggled person

removed from their bodies and being sold.

The workshop clarified that human trafficking does not necessarily mean taking the victim away from the country through force or persuasion. A person can be trafficked from one place to another within the country also. A trafficked person loses his or her control over life. His/her movements get restricted and a third person who abuses his human rights is the ultimate gainer.

Nurul Abedin, Project Director of ATSEC, Bangladesh informed that a staggering 20,000 women and children throughout the world are trafficked every year and find themselves misplaced. "The number of trafficked women and children is around 4,000,000 in South Asia alone," he said.

The speakers said that poor people are the ones most vulnerable to trafficking as they can be lured with the promise of fulfilment of basic needs like

food, clothes, shelter, health and employment. Some get easily persuaded because of their career and social ambitions. Some just fall for the feel of adventure.

Sometimes the social surroundings in our country makes a woman an easy victim, said Ataus Samad, Editor of Weekly Akhon while delivering the chief guest's speech of the inaugural session.

"Social problems like child marriage sometimes leave a

minor girl returning to her father's place if she has been divorced at an early age. There's every chance that she will be never married again and thus the girl becomes a target of traffickers," he said.

"At least 187 reports of woman and child trafficking were published in 10 national dailies in 2003," said Mostafa Hossain while presenting his paper 'Woman and Child Trafficking: Reflection on Newspaper'. Based on reports published in the dailies, Hossain observed that human trafficking is rampant in Chapainawabganj, Bogra, Rangpur and Cox's Bazar.

The study also pointed out the discrepancies regarding data on trafficking. "The number of trafficked women and children provided by the NGOs differ from that of the government. Also the data of international organisations or the UN do not match with those of local NGOs," the paper said.

The speakers said that the common people should be aware of agents who provide opportunities to travel abroad as trafficking takes place in the form of marriage and employment contracts.

DCC working out ward-wise maps with basic data

Mapping of all 90 wards is likely to be complete by December.

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is generating Geographical Information System (GIS) of the city for detail area map that will help convenient development of all sectors of DCC.

38 maps out of 90 wards have all ready done and another 52 maps will be done by December this year. The maps have been recorded basic information including holding numbers, identifying building types, location and steroid, name and length of roads and narrow streets, connection of utility services, purpose of uses of the structures and owners name.

"The maps were produced on the basis of basic and important information. It will be helpful not only for the DCC but also utility service providing organisations, over all city dwellers will be benefited through this detail area maps," said a official of Urban Planning Department (UPD) of DCC.

Meanwhile, a team of World

Bank visited DCC on March 23, assured to provide financial and technical support for detail area mapping on the basis of GIS. Planners of UPD asked for the supports for scientific way of mapping and issued an initial proposal to WB on March 23.

"When these maps will be completed, we hope that numbers and amount of taxpayers will be increased as the total holding numbers will be present in the map. None can be escaped from paying taxes," another DCC official said.

DCC officials say, connections and lines of utility service providing organisations including WASA, DESA, ITTAS, TNT can be easily located from these maps. Due to lack of scientific detail area plan, these organisations are over dilemma as they had to hunt for their service lines when these lines create disturbance. So that city roads are dug out by these organisations one after another.

"After completing area map, utility service providing organisations will get basic help to locate each and every utility lines. City dwellers' sufferings from road digging will reduce," UPD official said.

"The maps will be mirror picture of the city as it is involving every thing regarding to the city," the official added.

FOR A MORSEL OF FOOD



Like many others in the city, Rokhsana had to move to Dhaka from Kishoreganj for a living. But her van-puller husband cannot earn enough to feed the kids. So Rokhsana came to his aid turning herself into a betel-leaf vendor near the High Court building.

Secondary schools to follow academic calendar from 2005

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry has made it compulsory that secondary schools and madrasahs follow the same curriculum from January 2005.

The ministry has laid out the programme to ensure quality education and strict monitoring of secondary classroom lessons.

The classroom lessons will be pre-planned and exams will be held according to the calendar date and time. Every secondary school will follow the same class routine as specified, as the calendar will determine the subject and lessons of each period.

"The calendar will help school inspectors monitor class

lessons and curriculum and it will bring back discipline to the secondary classes," an education ministry official said.

The calendar will include weekly class test schedules, ethical education, health and environment education, informative and educational programmes on national days and the life sketches of great people.

According to the calendar, first term exam will be held from April 17 to May 1 and results given out by May 18 for classes VI-X and the second term exams will be held from August 5-18 and results by August 31.

The final exams will be held from November 24 to December 7 and results given out by December 30.

The selection test for SSC candidates will be held between September 26 and November 10 and results published by December 23. There will be 28 class tests on Thursdays.

The calendar also includes a provision for review classes for students who miss classes because of illness or hartial.

A committee headed by the district education officer will monitor the implementation of the calendar in secondary schools in a district. The committee will be able to take action against the school administration if the calendar is not maintained.

Experts believe the calendar will reduce cheating in exams and ensure quality education in government secondary schools.

healthouting,taxicab&train timing

HEALTH



MARKET CLOSED



TAXI CAB



LIBRARY & INFO-

Hospitals

Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

Shamaria Hospital- 9131901
Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800,
9122560-69

Elephant Road-Friday
Bishal Center-Friday

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday

Yellow Cab

Kool 0171826731

Cab One 7113282-3

Palki 0171052500

Eye
Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794,
919315

Salimullah Medical Collage
Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6

Cholera Research Hospital
(ICDDR,B)- 8811751-60

Polwell Market-Friday
BCS Computer City-Friday

Salida 9344477, 0171620881

Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191

Cab I 7113282

Jatri 0171540074

Dental
Dental College -9002035

Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday

Nihon 8624741-2
Orion 9347277

Cab One 7113282-3

Cabline 8321162

Nipur 9572277

R-Cab 8914782

Orthopaedics
National Orthopaedics (Pangu)
Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061,
7310061,7319022

Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital-
8626812-9

Stadium Market-Friday
Bangabazar Market-Friday
National Museum-Thursday
Ahsan Manzil-Thursday.
New Market-Tuesday

Anudip 8125285 and 8127611

Capital 9352847

Star Cab 9571919

Sajan 018126036

Shihab 018202477 & 018228675

General
Dhaka Medical College Hospital-
8626812-6

Sandhani International Eye Bank-
8614040

Holy Family Hospital-
83111731-25

Gausia Market-Tuesday
Mouchak Market-Sunday
Dhamondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Subarna Express

Mahanagar Prabhati

Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10:15 pm

Diabetes
Diabetic Research Hospital
(BIRDIM)- 9661551-5,
8616641-50

Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail)
9336611, Gondaria 7319808,
7318166,
Al-Markajul Islam 9127867

Eastern Plaza-Sunday
Farmview Super Market-Sunday
Muktijuddha Jagduhar-Sunday
Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
Shishu Jagduhar-Sunday

Turna

Parabat Express

Joyantika Express

Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am

Reaches Chittagong at 2-55 pm

Mother & Child Care
Shishu Hospital- 9119119,
8116061-62

Bangladesh Medical College &
Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,

Al-Markajul Islam 9127867

Leaves Dhaka at 3:05 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 7:05 am

Leaves Dhaka at 6:30 am

Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm

Azimpur Mother & Child Health

Upakul Express

Tista Express

Leaves Dhaka at 9:30 pm

Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 pm

Shishu Jagduhar-Sunday

Ekta Express

Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am

Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm

Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:55 pm

Al-Markajul Islam 9127867

Padma Express

Leaves Dhaka at 6:00 am

Reaches Noakhali at 1:35 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280,
9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
British Council- 8618867-8,
8618905-7
Community Development Library-
8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka-
9126525-6
Indian Information Centre &
Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre-
9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125,
8112954, 8123412