

Ensure access to justice to protect HR

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ensuring access to justice is a must for protection of human rights and overall development, speakers said at a workshop in the city yesterday.

Strengthening National Capacity to Promote and Protect Human Rights in Bangladesh, a project of the law ministry, organised the workshop on 'Access to Justice'.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said police and prison reforms and an effective investigation mechanism are prerequisites for protection of human rights.

The police-people ratio in the country is 1:1300, he said, adding that 20 thousand police personnel would soon be recruited to improve the law and order situation.

The minister said the judiciary has been functioning independently.

"The High Court disposes of about 100 to 150 writ petitions every day and it proves that the judiciary is free and independent."

If any order of the executive infringes on the people's rights, it can be challenged in the Supreme Court, he said.

Responding to a question, the minister said, "Independence and separation of judiciary are two different things. We are working for the separation of judiciary."

"But the existing prosecution system is very weak as it takes a long time to dispose of a case," he said.

Appreciating the speedy tribunals

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed speaks at a workshop on 'Access to Justice' in the city yesterday. Strengthening National Capacity to Promote and Protect Human Rights in Bangladesh, a project of the law ministry, organised the workshop.

and acid control act. UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner said progress has been made in some areas to protect human rights.

"Lawmakers should not be lawbreakers," he said, referring to

the media reports that some parliament members do not pay telephone bills.

Incidents of human rights abuse are taking place over which the government has no control, Lissner

told media persons on the sideline of the workshop.

Project Coordinator Iqbal Chowdhury and joint secretary of the law ministry AA Khan Lodi also spoke.

PHOTO: PID

Pak naval chief in city

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of the Naval Staff of Pakistan, Admiral Shahid Karimullah arrived here yesterday on a six-day visit to Bangladesh.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba received them at the Zia International Airport. Pakistan High Commissioner Manzar Shafiq was present, says an ISPR press release.

Karimullah called on naval chief Admiral Mujtaba at naval headquarters at Banani and discussed matters of professional interests.

The Pakistan naval chief was presented guard of honour by a Naval Contingent. He inspected the guard and took the salute.

Karimullah also called on Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Hasan Mashud Chowdhury, Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam and Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Major General AIM Mustafa Reza Noor at their respective offices.

He also visited Shikha Anirban (the Eternal Flame) at Dhaka Cantonment and placed wreaths at the memorial to pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces martyred during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Adhunik Award announced

UNB, Dhaka

Adhunik, an anti-tobacco national organisation, has nominated seven individuals and its two branches for "Adhunik award" on the occasion of World No-Tobacco Day on May 31.

The persons and organisations are Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, Saiful Bari, chief advisor of ATN Bangla, Ashraf Huda, police commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Enayetullah Khan, Editor of the Dhaka Courier and chief editor of the news agency UNB, Prof. Muhammad Salim Shakur, president of Children's Voice and academic director of the Bangladesh Institute of Child Health, Habibur Rahman, chief executive officer of the Dhaka City Corporation, Prof Shiry Farhad, Director of Hamdard Foundation and Hamdard Laboratories (Wakq) Bangladesh and Adhunik Rajshahi University branch and Rajshahi Medical College branch.

Adhunik gives award (crest and certificate) to individuals and organisations for strengthening anti-tobacco campaign in the country every year.

Uganda to back Dhaka for OIC post

Khaleda holds meeting with Musaveni at Shanghai

BSS, Shanghai

Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni said here yesterday that his country would support Bangladesh candidate for the post of OIC secretary general.

The assurance came during a meeting between Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and President Yoweri Museveni.

The meeting discussed matters relating to mutual interests. The forthcoming election to the post of Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) figured prominently in the discussion.

The Ugandan President invited Khaleda to visit his country and said, "I will personally phone you for the confirmation of a date".

Musaveni appreciated Khaleda for her long struggle for establishing and institutionalisation of democracy in Bangladesh. He also congratulated her for her thought pro-

voicing speech to the micro-credit conference here.

In her reply, Khaleda commended Museveni for his long struggle for establishing democracy in his country.

Advisor on Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman, Political Secretary to the PM Haris Chowdhury, Bangladesh Ambassador to China Ashfaqur Rahman and Director General Far East, Khairuzzaman were present.

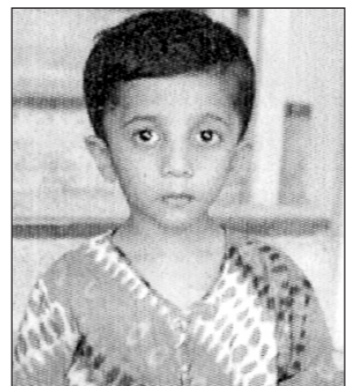
Suite and discussed various matters of mutual interest.

President Da Silva congratulated Khaleda for her speech to the micro-credit conference aimed at poverty reduction.

The Brazilian president told the Bangladesh prime minister that he has undertaken a "Zero hunger Programme" for 11 million families in Brazil.

He praised Khaleda for her success in micro-credit sector and her endeavour in reducing poverty in Bangladesh.

Khaleda also exchanged views with the Brazilian President on scaling up poverty reduction.



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of a three-year-and-eight-month-old boy, Abu Naser, seek financial assistance for his treatment.

An immediate open heart surgery and vein operation can save his life, said his brother Mahmudul Hasan, adding that such operation will cost around Tk five lakh.

But his father Abul Hashem, who maintains his six-member family with a meager income, could not afford such an expensive treatment.

Naser is getting thinner day by day due to loss of appetite, said his mother Anjuman Ara Begum, with tears rolling down her face.

Doctors at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases said Naser needs immediate open heart surgery and vein operation.

His family appeals to the generous people to extend a helping hand to save the boy's life.

Contributions can be sent to the following account Nos.: Nazma Alam, Account No. 34039759, National Bank, Karwan Bazar branch, Dhaka, or Abul Hashem, Account No. 7043, Sonali Bank, Mill Gate branch, Tongi, Gazipur.

Interested persons can also contact the family over mobile phone No. 0189256923.

Arrested outlaw admits to involvement in 3 murders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of four outlaws arrested in Dhaka this week admitted to his involvement in three murders that took place in Rajshahi, police sources said yesterday.

Abdur Razzak alias Art Babu told Ramna police that he was involved in three murders, said Deputy Commissioner (South) of Police Khan Sayeed Hasan.

Razzak, 28, of Bagmara, Rajshahi, Ali Tareq, 35, of Chitalmari, Bagerhat, and Shafi Sarkar, 29, of Chowhali, Sirajganj, were arrested from Aziz Super Market in Shahbagh on May 22 and Mahfuzur Rahman Jewel was arrested the next day. They have been taken on remand for interrogation.

Police said they are members of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCB-Lal Pataka).

"We are interrogating them about their party activities, background and lifestyle," said Officer-in-Charge

Mahbubur Rahman of Ramna Police Station.

Police will produce Jewel before court today and will seek further remand, while the five-day remand of the other three will end tomorrow.

Meanwhile, sources said that Shafi Sarkar is not a member of the PBCP; he works as a computer composer in a shop at Aziz Super Market.

He has been working here for two and a half years, said an employee of the market seeking anonymity.

But the OC of Ramna Police Station said Shafi admitted during the interrogation that he is a member of the party.

The members of the party usually print their leaflets and books from Dhaka, he added.

Bagmara Police Station in Rajshahi in a letter to Ramna Police Station said the arrestees are accused in several murder cases.

Sub-inspector Sirajul Islam of Bagmara Police Station had also interrogated them at Ramna Police

Chinese aid for launch capsized victims

UNB, Dhaka

China has provided 20,000 dollars for the families of the recent launch capsized victims.

The Charge d' Affaires of Chinese Embassy in Dhaka handed over a cheque for the amount to Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf at his office yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League presidium member Amir Hossain Amu addresses a public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday protesting the threat to blow off the grave complex of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara.