

## 'Incorporate issue of disabled into PRSP separately'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable called on the government to incorporate the issue of disabled people into the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) separately.

Although the issue was included in the disadvantaged group in the Inter Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP), it was not highlighted as a priority, said economist Atiur Rahman in his keynote paper. There are one crore and ten lakh disabled people in the country, he said, adding that the development of the country could not be achieved by ignoring them.

The Action on Disability and Development (ADD) organised the roundtable on 'PRSP and the Disabled People of Bangladesh' in the city on Saturday.

The speakers identified 29 causes of disability such as accident, domestic violence, poverty, increasing crimes, acid attacks, wrong treatment, malnutrition, polio, child marriage and lack of awareness.

They also recommended that the government should take necessary steps to reduce the risk of disability.

State Minister for Finance and Planning Shah Mohammad Abdul Hossain called for raising awareness about the disabled to protect their rights.

ADD Country Director Mosharraf Hossain said most of the disabled are poor and illiterate.

Physically challenged people from 23 districts also joined the roundtable.

They demanded a separate health policy to facilitate their treatment in all hospital and called for providing collateral-free credit and khas land for the disabled.

They also called for training facilities in different areas, including information and

communication technology.

They urged the government to enforce laws to protect women from violence and to introduce quota for the disabled in all educational institutions.



The 19th annual general meeting of Bangladesh Photographic Association was held at its office at Hatkhola in the city recently.

