



# Gender equality key to development

## Speakers tell workshop

"Government officials need gender sensitisation to implement effectively the government gender policies already in place in the country and ensure that grassroots people experience gender equality," said Md Murtaza Hussain Munshi, secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MWCA) yesterday, says a press release.

"Improving the status of women will be reflected in the development of the nation," he added.

Munshi was speaking as chief guest at the Second Trial Run of the Gender and Development Training Manual being prepared by the Capacity Building for Gender Mainstreaming (CBGM) Project at a training programme being conducted at the National Academy for Educational Management (Naem).

Dr Shirley Randell, project implementation specialist of the CBGM Project supported by the UNDP, said gender equality is the key to development and peace both in Bangladesh and other parts of the world.

"Gender equality policy is the single most significant policy to affect government progress in poverty reduction, conflict resolution and sustainable economic and social development in every country," she said.

Md Asahabur Rahman, additional

secretary of the Ministry of Education, said it was important to prepare the manual after fully recognising the traditional beliefs as well as modern ideas.

Dr Tehmina Hussain, policy advisor for the Programme Based Approach to Gender Mainstreaming, said gender is a cross-cutting issue and the government ministries' gender projects will be taken under one umbrella through PBA.

In his welcome address, Prof Md Kahlilur Rahman, director general of Naem, said it is an excellent institution to disseminate information about gender issues throughout the country.

The four-day workshop has been organised jointly by the CBGM Project and Naem.

## 1,368 more held

**UNB, Dhaka**

Police arrested 1,368 people on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers recovered four firearms and seven bullets and filed a case against one under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.

