



'80 pc criminals go unpunished'

BNWLA prepares draft law to protect victims of crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) has prepared a draft law with an aim to protect and promote the rights of victims and witnesses of crimes.

The law titled 'The Victim and Witness Protection Act' was presented at a roundtable in the city yesterday to share it with the experts for further consultation.

About 80 percent of criminals in the country go unpunished due to lack of security of the victims and witnesses, said the speakers at a roundtable organised by the

BNWLA

In most cases, the victims withdraw the cases and witnesses do not appear before the court following threats issued by the criminals, they said.

Also, the criminals sometimes force the victims to settle the case outside the court, they added.

The judicial system is in question today as it cannot ensure safety of the victims, said Salma Ali, executive director of BNWLA.

"The poor and helpless people are losing their trust on the judicial system. People are being

deprived of justice everywhere, from shalish to police station and court, due to lack of security," she said.

The victims and witnesses feel a sense of insecurity due to threats by criminals, lack of provision for compensation and safe shelter and offensive attitude towards the victim at thana court, she added.

Advocate Sharmin A Faruk read out the draft law at the roundtable.

The draft act provides clear definition of victim and witness and describes who can apply for the protection.

Former attorney general AF Hassan Ariff said the crime has reached such high level that the country needs elite forces like Rapid Action Battalion to control it, although the action of Rab is tantamount to disrespect to criminal justice system.

Senior Research Officer of Law Commission Mahmuda Khatun, Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Judge Monwara Begum, Special Public Prosecutor Rezaul Karim Mizan and Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University also took part in the discussion.

Mahbub Anam's 4th anniversary of death today

Today is the fourth death anniversary of eminent journalist and author Mahbub Anam, former editor of the now-defunct Bangladesh Times, says a press release.

During his long and successful professional career, Mahbub Anam also served as a senior executive of the then Pakistan Observer and director of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

He worked as a senior vice-president and executive committee member of Bangladesh Editors' Council and was actively involved with Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad, Bangladesh Press Council, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Parichalona Board, Bangladesh Film Censor Board and Bangladesh Public Library Special Committee. For his contribution to journalism, he received the Swadhinata Padak, Sher-e-Bangla Gold Medal, Maulana Akram Khan Gold Medal, Kaloddhani Padak and Tritraj Gold Medal.

Mahbub Anam actively took part in the Language Movement in 1952. He was jailed for his role in the movement as general secretary and joint secretary of the Tamaddun Majlis, Mymensingh unit, and the Rashtrabhasha Sangram Parishad respectively. He was again taken into custody in 1954-55 while he was the general secretary of Salimullah Muslim Hall of Dhaka University.

In recognition of his contribution to the Language Movement, he was awarded the Bhasha Andoloner Bir Sainik Padak by President Ziaur Rahman and Matrihasha Padak (posthumously) by the Tamaddun Majlis.

He was actively involved in politics from his student life and was appointed acting publicity secretary of the Jukta Front on behalf of the Awami League in 1954.

Mahbub Anam authored several books on the cultural and political identity of Bangladesh, including 'Amra Bangladeshi Amra Bangali' and 'Ithasher Shikhi Banam Bikriti'. He also served as the president of Nattyamancha Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Sahitya Sangskriti Kendro.

He was the second son of eminent litterateur, journalist and politician late Abul Mansur Ahmad and elder brother of Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star and publisher of the Prothom Alo.

On the occasion of his death anniversary, fateha will be offered at his grave at Banani and Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his Dhanmondi residence in the city.



PHOTO: STAR

Pat-Suta-Batra Kal Sramik-Karmachari Sangram Parishad stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday to press for its various demands.

SCBA condemns attack on lensmen

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday condemned and protested the assault of photojournalists by the National Security Intelligence (NSI) men.

SCBA President Advocate Mahbubey Alam and Secretary Advocate Enayetur Rahim told the BDNEWS that the NSI men acted against the spirit of the constitution by obstructing the photojournalists in discharging their professional duties.

They demanded punitive actions

Saifur released from hospital

UNB, Dhaka

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman was released from the hospital yesterday afternoon.

A press release from Apollo Hospital, signed by Dr PB Pawar, said the doctors reassessed Saifur's condition at 4:00pm and discharged him from the hospital at 6:00pm after reviewing the test reports.

The Finance Minister was admitted to Apollo Hospital on Wednesday with complications of urinary retention.