



Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) demolishes Rangamati Bus Terminal at Muradpur in the port city yesterday.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

'Include it in curriculum to raise mass awareness'

RU CORRESPONDENT

Human trafficking is the second highest profitable business after arms trading in the world, said the speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They said illiteracy, poverty, unemployment and ineffective laws are mainly responsible for human trafficking in the country.

In order to raise mass awareness about the horrific issue, human trafficking should be included in national curriculum, they added.

The daylong seminar titled 'Counter-Trafficking Intervention in Prevention, Protection and Prosecution for Victims and Trafficking persons in Bangladesh' was organised jointly by International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and Ministry of Home Affairs with the financial assistance of USAID/Bangladesh.

With a view to combating human trafficking, the government in association with the non-governmental organisations in 18 districts has been implementing a three-year-long (September 2005 and September 2008) programmes focusing on three main objectives- prevention, protection and prosecution.

Presided over by Prof

Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan of Rajshahi University, the seminar was attended by District Social Welfare Officer Mozammel Haque as chief guest, and IOM Dhaka Programme Officer Mizanur Rahman, and Association for Community Development Director Salima Sarwar as special guests.

The stakeholders from Dhaka, Khulna, Bogra, Thakurgaon, Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi presented their papers on regional scenario of trafficking at the seminar held at Pink Cassia Auditorium of Rajshahi Tennis Complex.

Local lawyers, community leaders, journalists and civil society members also took part in the seminar.

Meanwhile, a US-based NGO Daywalka Foundation has extended its support to help create mass awareness about human trafficking.

Sunny Petit, deputy programme director for Asia of the organisation, told newsmen that they are launching scholarship for around 100 underprivileged girls in six regions of the country and framing an advocacy scheme for journalists soon.

‘Green South Asia-2007’ from March 15

BSS, Dhaka

The Ministry of Forest and Environment will observe the three-day "Green South Asia-2007" from March 15 attuned to the spirit of "Saarc Car Rally" that will start its seven-nation journey from Cox's Bazar the same day.

In line with the Saarc Car Rally,

the "Green South Asia-2007" will also travel from Cox's Bazar to Burimari.

As per programmes, the Green South Asia rally will start from Cox's Bazar on March 15 and will conclude at Burimari on March 18.

On its way, the rally will halt at Ramu, Dulahazra Safari Park, Inani Resort Chittagong, Kanon Lake Resort, Sonargaon, Dhaka, Savar War Memorial, Jamuna Resort, Bogra, Mohasthangarh, Kantaji Temple, Rangpur Parjatan Motel and Lalmonirhat.

"The Green South Asia-2007" will bid farewell to "Saarc Car Rally" at Burimari point of Indo-Bangladesh border.

