

Sweden supports roadmap to democracy, HR

UNB, Dhaka

Swedish Human Rights Ambassador Jan Axel Nordlander yesterday said Sweden supports Bangladesh government's roadmap towards establishment of full democracy and human rights.

"We're hopeful about the current developments and we support Bangladesh's roadmap to full democracy and human rights," he told newsmen after a meeting with Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury.

In reply to a question about HR situation in Bangladesh, he said they have some concerns about it here the way they have about his own country, saying that no country is perfect on the question of human

rights.

"We do have concern about human rights condition of vulnerable groups like women and children, we do have concern about extra-judicial killings," he told a questioner.

The Ambassador, who also had meetings with the Home Secretary and other officials here, said he underlined the necessity of respecting human rights even at the time of hunting serious criminals.

Iftekhar said the Swedish envoy appreciated the steps being taken by the government and extended full support.

The government is working on establishment of national human rights commission to improve the situation further, he added.



Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) bulldozes illegal structures at Dilkusha Commercial Area in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Deal with criminals with iron hand

President tells police

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday asked the members of the police force to deal sternly with terrorists, toll collectors and lawbreakers as well as their patrons.

The government is pledged to build a country free from terrorism and corruption, he said at a meeting at Bangabhaban on the occasion of Police Week-2007.

The president said terrorists, toll collectors, lawbreakers and their patrons are the enemies of the nation. "It is one of your main duties to identify the enemies and deal with them with an iron hand," he told the police.

"The onus rests with you to promptly tackle any situation, including providing security to the people and property and maintaining law and order," he said.

"Your promptness, honesty, devotion, bravery and sense of responsibility to society and state will play a significant role in facing this challenge."

Reminding the police that their duty is service-oriented, he hoped that they would perform their duty with utmost devotion.

The neutral role of law enforcers would help improve the law and order situation greatly, the president said.

He called on the policemen to

behave cordially and humanly with people in any situation so that they can regard police as their friend.

The president said a positive change of attitude from top to bottom of the police is very significant in this connection. "It has to be ensured that people are not harassed unnecessarily during the discharge of your duty," he told the policemen.

Saying that cooperation of people is very important for improving law and order, he called upon the police force to create such atmosphere that people spontaneously come forward to help others.

He advised the police force to earn people's confidence. "Once you earn their confidence, people will extend all-out cooperation," he said.

The president also stressed the need for special training for the members of the police force to "root out all conspiracies and contacts between criminals in this era of free flow of information."

He recalled the contribution of the policemen who had sacrificed their lives while discharging their duties.

Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain and Communications Adviser Maj Gen (retd) MA Matin, Home Secretary Abdul Karim, IGP Nur Mohammad and high officials of police were present on the occasion.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Respectful bond can end problem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a conference yesterday said respectful relationship and equal approach towards men and women can bring an end to domestic violence against women in the country.

Domestic violence against women is not merely an internal affair of a family, rather it is a social problem that affects not only the family but also the society, they observed.

Dhaka District Change Maker, a member of Alliance to Resist Domestic Violence, organised the conference at Engineers' Institute of Bangladesh auditorium in the city in association with Nari Maitree and Alliance to Resist Domestic Violence.

Speaking on the occasion as the chief guest, ASM Shahjahan, former adviser to the caretaker government, said all have to be untied against domestic violence from the family level to stamp out domestic violence in the country.

There are loopholes in the existing laws regarding women repression as women are still facing negligence in the admin-

istration and a concerted effort is needed in this regard, added the former adviser.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University said changes are inevitable and necessary in life but they should happen in a positive way.

He also said about 70 percent people of the country are not aware of their rights and that is why they would be provided with education and information.

Ayesha Khanam, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Anil P Tambe, country representative of Oxfam GB and Shahin Akter Dolly, executive director of Nari Maitree, also spoke.

Ctg Quick Prescription Service launched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Quick Prescription Service (QPS), a new concept of pharmacy, started its journey in the port city yesterday with a view to serving people in healthcare.

Organisers at a press conference at a local restaurant said the service would offer guidance with different information on treatment side-by-side dispensing medicines.

QPS is a project of Comprehensive Health Care Limited owned by a group of young pharmacists, they said.

They launched three outlets in the port city initially where patients would get medicines of the highest quality that would be preserved in required congenial environment, they added.

QPS would facilitate the customers with information about new and current medicines as well as face to face help on how to take them under the direct supervision of graduate pharmacists.

QPS Managing Director Md Fariduddin Kawser Khan, Branch Director Md Anwarul Hoque, Biplob Chowdhury and Mohammad Wahiduzzaman were also present at the press conference.



New Lions Club Int'l executives

Ln Md Nazrul Islam and Ln Engr Md Sohel Khan have been elected district governor and vice district governor of Lions Clubs International District 315B3, Bangladesh respectively for the term 2007-2008.

Ln Nazrul, also the sitting vice district governor, is the vice president and head of Human Resources Division of Standard Bank Limited while Ln Sohel is the chairman of Solar Television Mfg Ltd.