

'Appoint victim support officer at all police stations'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday stressed the need for appointing a officer at each police station to ensure better and more effective victim support services, as victims, particularly women, often do not report crime and

harassment against them considering social and cultural barriers.

They also emphasised strengthening referral services at police stations, training of the officers to deal with victims, effective coordination among government and non-government agencies on victim support and raising

community awareness of existing services, says a press release.

Police Reform Programme (PRP) of the UNDP organised the workshop titled 'Existing victim support services in Bangladesh' at city's Brac Centre Inn.

Representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry

of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Bangladesh Police and Department of Social Services participated at the workshop.

Former inspector general of police ASM Shahjahan said that the police department could engage policewomen for supporting the victims side by side the male officers.

He said that crime is significantly underreported in Bangladesh, specially by women who often do not report because of social and cultural barriers, which the country must overcome.

Additional Inspector General NBK Tripura and Programme Manager of PRP Hubert Staberhofer also spoke at the workshop chaired by Deputy Inspector General (Training) Fatema Begum.

LABOUR LAWS, RIGHTS Illiteracy major obstacle to creating awareness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Illiteracy is the major obstacle in creating awareness among the workers about their rights and duties, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

They suggested launching of primary education-based workshops and training courses to remove ignorance from the workers.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) organised the workshop on 'Experience exchange of trained workers: Future action plan' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, vice president of BLAST, said workers would remain ignorant of their rights if they remain illiterate.

"We have sufficient labour laws but workers are always being deprived of their rights. They should at least be literate to be aware of their rights," he said while addressing as the chief guest.

He suggested incorporating primary education into all training programmes for the workers.

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, assistant executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), said around 90 percent workers are not aware of labour laws. Theses laws remain unimplemented because of such ignorance.

Farida Yasmeen, deputy director (law) of BLAST, suggested introducing letter and alphabet learning courses every weekend.

"Most of the workers are illiterate and the rate of illiteracy among women workers is higher than their male counterparts. We should launch special training courses and workshops for female workers with a view to removing such ignorance," She said while presenting the keynote papers.

Flight Lt Fuad gets 'Chief of Air Staff's Trophy'

UNB, Dhaka

The certificate award ceremony of No. 74 junior command and staff course of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) was held at the BAF command and staff training institute at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman attended the ceremony as chief guest and distributed certificates among the graduating officers.

Flight Lieutenant Mohammad Fuad Bin Rahman of Bangladesh Air Force was awarded the 'Chief of Air Staff's Trophy' for his best performance in the course.

Addressing on the occasion, the Chief of Air Staff thanked the government of participating countries and hoped that they would continue to send their officers in future.

One officer from Indian Air Force, four officers from Royal Saudi Air Force, one officer from Royal Malaysia Air Force, one officer from Sri Lanka Air Force, one officer from Bangladesh Army, one officer from Bangladesh Navy and seven officers from Bangladesh Air Force participated in the course.

Principal Staff Officers of BAF, Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Bangladesh V Krishnamoorthy, Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dato Abdul Malek Abdul Aziz, Defence Adviser of Indian High Commission Brigadier Arobindo Mitra, Defence

Attache of Saudi Embassy Brigadier General Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Dayel and senior BAF officers were present on the occasion.