



Adviser Dr CS Karim launches the BAT Bangladesh Social Report 2006-07 at a city hotel yesterday. On his right is Reazuddin Ahmed and on his left is Nicholas Hales.

‘Enact stringent laws to curb violence against women’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called on the government to enact stringent laws to curb violence against women.

They also laid emphasis on working out a common strategy for the South Asian region in this connection and raising awareness among the bodies concerned.

CARE Bangladesh and ActionAid Bangladesh jointly organised the two-day workshop on ‘Domestic Violence Legislation’ at the LGED auditorium in the city that began yesterday.

Speaking as a participant at the national workshop, Flavia Agnes, executive director of Majlish, a rights organisation, said, “The people of this region share the same cultural heritage and almost all the countries of this region are carrying the same colonial baggage...language could be different but the type of domestic violence plaguing this region is similar.”

She discussed the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 of India and stressed on people’s will’ to end all kinds of violence against women.

“You cannot expect an end to violence against women despite the very best of law

without people’s will,” she said.

Representatives from India, Sri Lanka and Nepal discussed their laws regarding domestic violence at the workshop.

Farah Kabir, country director, ActionAid Bangladesh and Hasan M Majumdar, acting country director, CARE Bangladesh inaugurated the workshop.

Domestic violence is a gender-based crime, the victim of which is mostly women. In the draft domestic violence has been defined as an act or an omission, committed against member(s) of the family by the member(s) of the same family usually living under the same roof, which gives rise to torture, pain, stress, suffering, and discrimination.

Highlighting the strength and weaknesses of the draft domestic violence act of Bangladesh, Dr Asif Nazrul, professor, department of Law, University of Dhaka said that though Penal Code, 1860, Dowry Prohibition Act 1980 and The Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act 2000 are operative in Bangladesh, but, in reality these laws appear insufficient.

“The Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act 2000 is nearest

in encompassing domestic offences as punishable offences...but its impact on addressing domestic violence is still inadequate because of its irrelevance to domestic violence disassociated with dowry,” he said.

Citing a sample survey of ICDDR,B, Naripokkho and the Government of Bangladesh, which shows domestic violence is on the rise and 60 percent of women experience either physical or sexual abuse, Dr Faustina Pereira, advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, said the failure of the governments to condemn, prevent or prosecute violence against women worsened the situation.

Advocate Fawzia Karim Firoze, BNWLA, meanwhile, stressed on starting counselling system even at the micro-level to face the crisis.

Barrister Sarah Hossain, Sumitra Nando Fernando of Women in Need, Sri Lanka, Sabin Srestha of Forum for Women Law and Development, Nepal, and Advocate Ramlal Raha of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad also spoke on the occasion.

BATB Social Report launched

British American Tobacco Bangladesh launched the publication of its Social Report 2006-07 at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Dr CS Karim was present as the chief guest and unveiled the BAT Bangladesh Social Report 2006-07.

BATB Managing Director Nicholas Hales shared with the audience the objectives and the process of BAT Bangladesh’s Social Reporting.

BAT Bangladesh as a part of their corporate social responsibility organises dialogue sessions with their stakeholders to understand their expectations during social reporting process since 2002. In the current cycle of social reporting process the topic of discussion was tobacco leaf growing operation.

The News Today Editor Reazuddin Ahmed moderated the dialogue sessions.

Drug peddler jailed for 4 yrs in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

A Rajshahi court sentenced a drug peddler to four years’ rigorous imprisonment in a drug case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Rezaul Islam handed down the verdict to Sirajul Islam on Tuesday.

According to the prosecution, Keshabpur police recovered 15 bottles of Phensidyl syrup and India-made ‘Potka’ or firecrackers during a raid on the house of Sirajul Islam at Haragram in the city at around 2:00pm on January 29, 2004 and also arrested him.

5 Bangladeshi children win int’l painting contest

Five Bangladeshi students won the 16th International Children’s Painting Competition on Environment, jointly organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Foundation for Global Peace Environment (FGPE), Nikon Corporation and Bayer, says a press release.

Among them, four were from Scholastica Middle Section, Gulshan.

Afiya Raisa of Class III and Zayan Masood of Class IV won the fourth prizes while Ehtesam Abdullah of Class III and Raisa Kabir of Class IV won the fifth prizes.

The theme of the competition was ‘Climate Change’. Over 14,000 entries from 104 countries around the world were submitted.

A reception and certificate distribution ceremony was held on the school premises to felicitate the winners yesterday.

Senior vice principal of the school mentioned the role of the school in providing a holistic education that encourages students to explore various fields of activities and discover their talents. She congratulated the winners and hoped their achievements will inspire other students to pursue their interests in all co-curricular activities and achieve success and worldwide recognition.

Winning entries were exhibited in Tromso, Norway on the occasion of the World Environment Day 2007.

These will later be exhibited in Japan and other countries. Some of these works will also be used in the 2007 Environment Calendar and distributed through internet, postcards, posters, picture booklets and various publications under the co-license of FGPE, UNEP, Bayer and Nikon. All the entries of the participants will be preserved in the National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, Japan.



Four students of Scholastica Middle Section who won the 16th International Children’s Painting Competition on Environment pose for photograph at a reception on the school premises at Gulshan in the city yesterday.

Prof Mozammel new RU treasurer

RU CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday appointed Prof Dr Mozammel Haque as the treasurer of Rajshahi University for four years, says a press release.

Prof Mozammel, a retired teacher of Physics Department, is the 15th treasurer of the university.

He took charge at a function yesterday morning. He replaced former treasurer Prof Abdul Zabbar Khan.