

# Ratify ILO Convention 138 to end child labour

Experts urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a workshop yesterday urged the government to ratify the ILO Convention 138 on minimum age for employment and formulate a policy in line with the recommendation in this regard to put an end to child labour in the country.

They also underscored the need to change the mindset of people to achieve the goal of eradicating child labour.

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) in association with Terre des Hommes-Netherlands organised the workshop on 'ILO Convention 138 and Recommendation 146 in the city.'

International Labour Organisation (ILO) Bangladesh Programme Officer TIM Nurunnabi Khan highlighted the related provisions of the Convention in his keynote paper at the workshop.

Bangladesh, as a member state of ILO, has agreed to abide by the ILO fundamental principles and rights at work, which includes the elimination of child labour, but it is yet to ratify the ILO Convention 138, he said.

"The government, however, has ratified the ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour (WFCL) and thus committed itself to elimination of WFCL as a matter of priority and in a time-bound manner," he added.

Referring to the Labour Code 2006, he said Section 3 of the code seeks to prohibit or restrict the child and adolescent employment.

Despite the government's good intentions to eliminate child labour, strengthening monitoring and inspection mechanism remains a major challenge in this regard, he added.

BSAF Chairperson Wahida Banu, who presided over the

workshop, emphasised the need for education of children.

She also suggested formulating a necessary policy as an effective instrument to fight child labour.

She also called for advocacy at door-to-door level to change the mindset of people in order to stop child labour.

Addressing as the chief guest, Labour and Employment Secretary Ashfaque Hamid said children must be removed from hazardous labour.

Speaking as special guest, Labour and Employment Joint Secretary Azizur Rahman said poverty and socio-cultural reasons are major obstacles to fighting child labour.

He emphasised the need to raise mass awareness and enforce laws to this end.

He also mentioned that necessary action plan has been initiated to eliminate WFCL by 2015.



PHOTO: ISPR  
US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs John Gastright calls on Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed at Army Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

## Govt urged to review Kalyanpur Pond Project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Landowners of Ramchandrapur, Boro Sayek and Adabor moujas in the city's Mohammadpur area yesterday urged the government to review the proposed Kalyanpur Regulating Pond Project to be implemented in the area to resolve waterlogging problem.

They said Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) would acquire about 112 acres of land in the area for the proposed Kalyanpur Regulating Pond Project, which would affect over 500 families.

The demands were placed at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the city, organised by the Committee for Rehabilitation of Landowners Affected by Kalyanpur Regulating Pond Project.

Alhaj Md Shariful Islam, general secretary of the committee, read out a written statement at the press conference.

Committee President Akter Biswas, Mizanur Rahman, Maulana Khalilur Rahman, Babul Ahmed, Ariful Islam and Mohammad Islam were also present.

## Barge, 2 companies fined in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A mobile court in separate drives at Karnaphuli estuary yesterday fined a barge and two companies Tk 4 lakh for overloading and risky movement.

The court led by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury fined a barge -Sun Light Tk 2 lakh while it

was heading for Shikalbaha canal after loading 1700 tonnes of steel coil imported for SAlam Steels.

It also seized two tugboats - Tug SS-1 and Tug Syka that were involved in pulling the barge.

The court fined two companies M/s Three Light Navigation Company and Penta Marine Company Tk 2 lakh for overloading and posing threat to accident at the port channel.

Meanwhile, another mobile court led by Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Magistrate Syeda Sarwar Jahan in a drive at the city's Gulum Rasul Market fined three traders Kabir Hossain, Md Hossain and Liton Tk 10000 each for illegally selling polythene products.



Yasmeen Murshed, chairperson of Scholastica, and Ann Puntis, chief executive of University of Cambridge International Examinations, sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Scholastica Head Office in the city recently.

### Scholastica courses under University of Cambridge Int'l

From September 2008, Scholastica students will study courses under University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), an internationally renowned exam board that operates in over 150 countries.

Scholastica, a leading education group of the country, signed an agreement with CIE in this connection recently to move its 3,000 students to Cambridge International O Level, A Level and the Cambridge International Diploma for Teachers and Trainers, says a press release.

CIE Chief Executive Ann Puntis and Yasmeen Murshed, chairman, Scholastica, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organisations.

Ann Puntis said, "We are delighted that Scholastica has chosen Cambridge. When any education group moves to us, we work together in a very strong partnership. We offer practical support for schools, ongoing training and access to up-to-date resources."

Yasmeen Murshed said, "Cambridge will ensure our education remains relevant in future years. Our students will be able to rise to the professional challenges facing them in the future, and CIE's teacher training programmes will enhance the skills of teachers who train at Scholastica."

Ann Puntis also paid tribute to the outstanding work of all CIE schools in Bangladesh.

### IJSG Secy Gen meets jute adviser

New Secretary General of the International Jute Study Group (IJSG) Sudipta Roy met with Textiles & Jute Adviser Geeteara Safiya Choudhury at her office in Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday, says a press release.

They discussed various issues related to the jute economy, challenges faced by the jute industry in relation to production, availability of quality raw materials, improvement of technology as well as the IJSG membership issue.

They opined that for the existence of the Group, the present member countries should sincerely take initiatives to involve more potential countries to enable the IJSG to undertake more programmes.

During the discussion they put more stress on producing innovative diversified products to harmonize with the consumers' choice and explore new markets.

Secretary General hoped that he would get all out support from the government of Bangladesh to move ahead with the objectives of the Group and make the organisation an effective forum to work for the betterment of the global jute sector.