

1.5 lakh people trafficked in South Asia a year

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD and Cooperatives Adviser Anwarul Iqbal yesterday said Bangladesh being one of the major source countries of migrant workers is facing challenges of managing the movement of hundreds of people everyday.

"Some of them are taking up temporary overseas employment while others leaving for permanent settlement," he said at the inaugural session of a workshop at Radisson Hotel in the city.

The three-day workshop titled 'People Smuggling Targeting Workshop' has been organised jointly by Bangladesh Police and Australian Federal Police.

Home Secretary Abdul Karim, Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett and Inspector General

of Police Nur Muhammad also addressed the inaugural function.

Iqbal said the present government is firmly committed to combat trafficking of women and children.

The government has set up anti-trafficking monitoring cell at police headquarters and in all district headquarters, he said, adding that every upazila has also motivational committee on trafficking in women and children.

The adviser said migration management is becoming an emerging issue in the globalised world.

Governments around the world are now recognising the importance of the issue and are trying to coordinate in this area both regionally and internationally for better management of migration of various nature headed.

Abdul Karim said the overall picture regarding people's smuggling

was abtgrimasof2004.

A remarkable improvement has been marked since then following some effective measures by the government, he said.

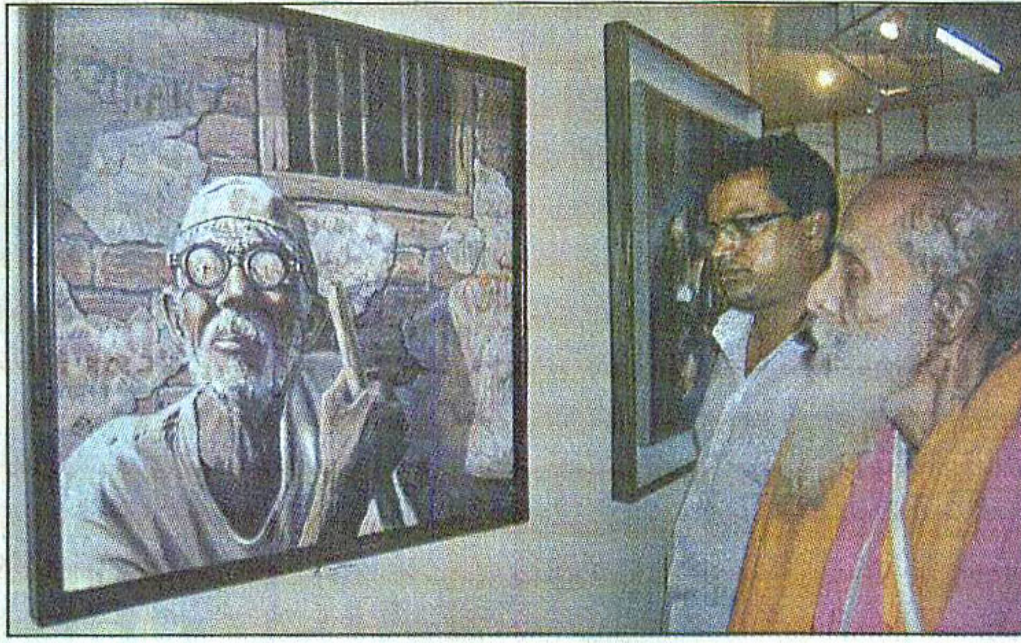
The workshop was told that approximately 150,000 people are trafficked within the South Asia annually.

Organisers said the workshop, which is a follow-up meeting of the Bali Ministerial Meeting in 2002, will help participants to share their operational and professional experiences and ideas on the issue.

It will also help participants combat effectively the trafficking of people.

Representatives from 11 countries are taking part in the workshop.

Apart from Bangladesh, the other countries include Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Timur, Turkey and Iran.



A four-day exhibition of artworks selected from the entries of Berger Young Painters' Art Competition begins at Zainul Art Gallery of Institute of Fine Arts on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

EXTORTION, ARMS

Three cases against KCC mayor brought under Emergency Rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two of the nine extortion cases and an arms case against the detained mayor of Khulna City Corporation, Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, were brought under Emergency Power Rules yesterday.

Officer-in-charge at Khulna Police Station said the home ministry made the arrangement after investigation officers in the cases applied to the ministry to that effect on November 4.

The mayor will be tried under Section 19(1) of EPR, 2007, said the OC.

The two extortion cases were

filed with Khulna Police Station by SM Hafizur Rahman, a suspended city corporation official, on November 2 and Ali Abdullah Elin on November 3.

The mayor was implicated in the arms case on November 4 after joint forces recovered arms and ammunition at his Khulna residence the previous night.

Tayebur, who was arrested in Dhaka on November 2 night, made confessional statements in six of the nine extortion cases under Section 164 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc).

He is now in Jessore Central Jail.

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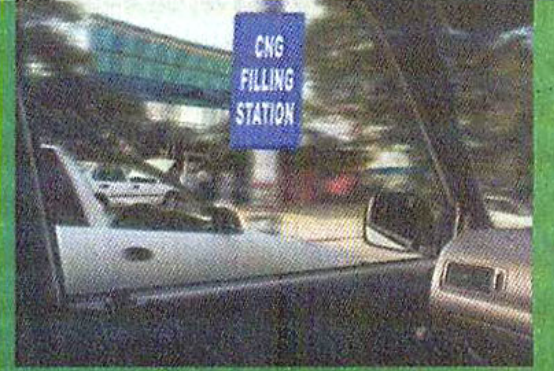
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