

## Students to be involved in fighting trafficking in women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will involve the students of the country's secondary and higher secondary schools and their guardians in its efforts to fight trafficking in women and children.

The ministry of education has directed the concerned officials at the division and district levels to implement the decision, the ministry officials said.

Various programmes, including rallies, sports and debate competitions, will be organised regularly to create awareness among the students and guardians in order to highlight the adverse impact of trafficking.

Meanwhile, Home Secretary Abdul Karim yesterday held the

45th inter-ministerial meeting on 'Combating women and children' only to discover that the incidents of trafficking are on rise.

According to the latest statistics provided by the ministry, the number of trafficking cases tripled in May compared to that of April. A total of 48 women and children have been trafficked in May against only 13 the month before.

The increasing number of women and children rescued and the number of arrested alleged traffickers also indicated the sharp rise in trafficking in recent months.

The statistics revealed that a total of 47 women and children were rescued in May against 11 in April while being trafficked at

different points in the country.

Law enforcers arrested 47 persons in May against 11 in April in connection of their involvement in trafficking of women and children, it added.

Chaired by the home secretary, the meeting stressed the need for intensifying efforts in curbing the crime, creating awareness among the people and playing law enforcement agencies' active role to check the menace.

The meeting also called on the law ministry and police headquarters to take up steps so that cases related to the women and children trafficking can be solved in quickest possible time.

Senior police and BDR officials and NGO representatives were present at the meeting.



Fire fighters spray water at a burning CNG-run bus at the Science Laboratory intersection on Mirpur Road in the city yesterday. The bus caught fire after its engine burst into flames. However, no-one was injured in the accident.

## \$100m Danish help for water supply project

UNB, Dhaka

Denmark will provide US\$100 million for a new three-year project taken to ensure improved water supply in densely populated Dhaka city.

An agreement to this effect was signed between the governments of Bangladesh and Denmark here yesterday.

Dr AHM Mustain Billah, joint secretary, Coordination and Nordic, Economic Relations Division and Jan Møller Hansen, Chargé d' Affaires of the Embassy of Denmark in Dhaka, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

The project is aimed at providing help in designing and constructing a new large water treatment plant at Syadabad, said a press release.

The project, 'Syedabad Water Treatment Plant Project, Phase II (2008-11), will be implemented by Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) with an interest-free loan. Grants

will also be provided for monitoring of the process and supervision during implementation of the project.

The project is financed by mixed credits from Denmark and is part of the partnership agreement between the government of Bangladesh and five main development partners, which provide assistance to urban water supply and sanitation in Bangladesh.

Speaking at the agreement signing ceremony, Jan Møller Hansen said, "We hope that the Danish assistance will contribute significantly to the necessary improvements of the critical water supply situation in Dhaka city. The project is an element in the partnership framework between the government of Bangladesh and five main development partners that will address longstanding reform issues necessary for improving the governance and performance of water supply and sanitation services in Dhaka city."

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1) Back Cover (Ptg area. 7"x9.5")		Tk. 45,000/- per issue
2) Inside Front Cover (Ptg area. 7"x9.5")		Tk. 40,000/- per issue
3) Inside Back Cover (Ptg area. 7"x9.5")		Tk. 35,000/- per issue
4) Inside Full Page (Ptg area. 7"x9.5")		Tk. 25,000/- per issue
For advertisements from abroad only		
1) Back Cover (Ptg area. 7"x9.5")		US\$ 750 (Per issue).
2) Inside Front Cover (Ptg area. 7"x9.5")		US\$ 650 (Per issue).
3) Inside Back Cover (Ptg area. 7"x9.5")		US\$ 600 (Per issue).
4) Inside Full Page (Ptg area. 7"x9.5")		US\$ 500 (Per issue).

## 'Develop human resources to resolve issues of migrant workers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academics at a seminar yesterday called for developing human resources in a planned way to address the issues of migrant workers.

The high growth of population in the country forces people to migrate from one place to another, they said and called for turning the population into human resources.

Bangladesh Geographical Society (BGS) organised the seminar at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban on the Dhaka University campus.

Dr AQM Mahub of geography and environment department at Dhaka University presented a paper on 'Population growth, human settlement and sustainability' at the technical session of the seminar.

He said Bangladesh must know what the labour markets across the globe will need in near future and train the human resources according to the requirements of labour-importing countries.

"The export of manpower should be done in a planned and transparent way," he added.

Dr Mahub said the manpower exports are mainly done here through personal contacts and private initiatives.

The government help and assistance in this regard are very limited and for this people are often cheated, he added.

He said the country could have earned more through manpower exports if the embassies were helpful, service of Biman was good and the government had a strong policy.

Dr Mahub also called for returning to joint family system to save lands for farming.

In another presentation, Dr Manjurul Hassan of geography and environment department at Jahangirnagar University, said population increase and rapid industrialisation have negative impacts on environment.

He said due to environmental pollution people are facing new types of diseases.

"Protection of environment is a pre-requisite for sound human health," he added.

Dr Manjurul said reducing greenhouse gas emission is a must to save the environment.

Prof Shahnaz Huq Hossain, Prof Hafiza Khatun and Prof Amanat Ullah Khan of geography and environment department at Dhaka University spoke at the seminar chaired by Pro-Vice-chancellor of Stamford University Prof K Moudood.



Bangladesh Geographical Society President Prof AQM Mahub presents citation to Prof Nazrul Islam at a seminar on 'Geographical Perspectives on Sustainable Bangladesh' on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. (Another story on Page 16)

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