



Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote holds a candlelight vigil near Bangabandhu Bhaban in the city yesterday to mark the 33rd death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15.

COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN, CHILDREN

Take steps to remove repatriation hassles

BNWLA urges Saarc leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) yesterday urged all Saarc countries to sign bilateral agreements or memorandum of understanding to minimise the hassles of repatriation of trafficked women and children and protect their rights.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium, Advocate Salma Ali, executive director of BNWLA, said the Saarc summit beginning in Colombo today should further consider some articles of the Saarc Convention on 'Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution' as it

does not clarify the recipient countries' accountability in rescue, rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration of affected person.

"The recipient country should be accountable for the welfare of the victims by providing mental and physical support, legal advice and financial compensation. So it is very important to sign bilateral agreement or MoU to reduce the hassles of repatriation of trafficked women and children," said Salma.

She said it is very important to develop and implement a mutual agreement among the source and destination countries.

"Otherwise, trafficking issue will not be addressed properly," said Salma, also chairperson of Action

Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC), Bangladesh.

She said the definition of trafficking in Saarc Convention that was adopted at the 11th Saarc summit in Nepal in 2002 needs to be broadened.

"It is true that we are lacking concrete and authentic data to combat trafficking," said Salma emphasising that an updated data bank will have to be established.

She said quick formulation of regional task force for proper implementation of the provisions of the Convention is needed urgently.

"Along with, the issue of HIV and AIDS needs to be incorporated in

bilateral arrangement as a lot of trafficked women and children have been found as AIDS patients," she added.

Salma said trafficking still remains an issue of concern due to its cross-border nature and thus requires further regional initiatives.

"Now it's the time to think how we can improve our legal assistance delivery mechanism among the Saarc countries especially in investigation and prosecution, and how we can ensure women and child-friendly environment for trafficked survivors," she added.

Farida Yasmin and Kakali Roy of BNWLA were present at the press conference.

Maldives keen to recruit more workers from Bangladesh

BSS, Colombo

Abdullah Shahid, foreign minister of the Maldives, said that his country is keen to have more semi-skilled and skilled Bangladeshi workers for the growing tourism sector.

The Maldives foreign minister said this during a bilateral meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at Sri Lankan capital city Colombo on the sidelines of the Saarc Council of Ministers on Thursday evening.

Shahid lauded the Bangladeshi workers who are contributing to the development of the Maldivian economy to date.

Iftekhar said that 37 Technical Training Centres in Bangladesh would develop hundreds of skilled persons this year and hoped that it could meet a part of manpower

needs of the Maldives.

He also expressed satisfaction at the opening of a new Maldivian High Commission in Dhaka. He hoped that this initiative would

help widen and deepen bilateral relations.

Later, Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Chowdhury held a bilateral meeting with the Nepalese Finance

Minister Dr Ram Saran Mahat.

They discussed ways and means of increasing trade, investment and cultural ties between Bangladesh and Nepal.

Community pry teachers call off hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Community primary teachers yesterday decided to postpone their indefinite hunger strike following a request from Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Choudhury.


The Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers Association (BCPTA) planned to stage indefinite hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital from August 3 to press for their five-point demand, including nationalisation of their job.

In a joint statement, BCPTA President Habibur Ahsan Bablu and Secretary General Hafizur Rahman said Adviser Rasheda requested them to postpone the strike.


"She assured us that our demands will be met after the chief adviser and the finance adviser return home after attending the 15th Saarc Summit," the statement said.

BCPTA Secretary General Hafizur Rahman, however, said they would stage the hunger strike from August 25 if their demands are not met by August 24.

As many as 10,565 teachers are teaching underprivileged students in 3,778 community schools in remote areas. They receive a monthly salary of only Tk 1200.



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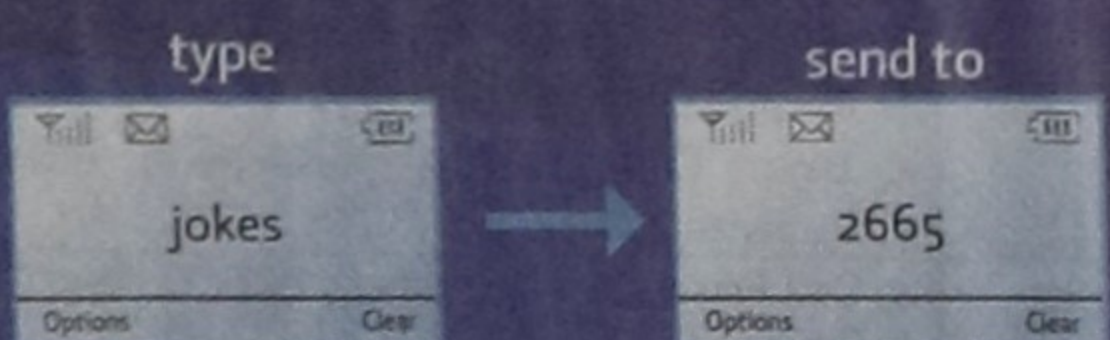
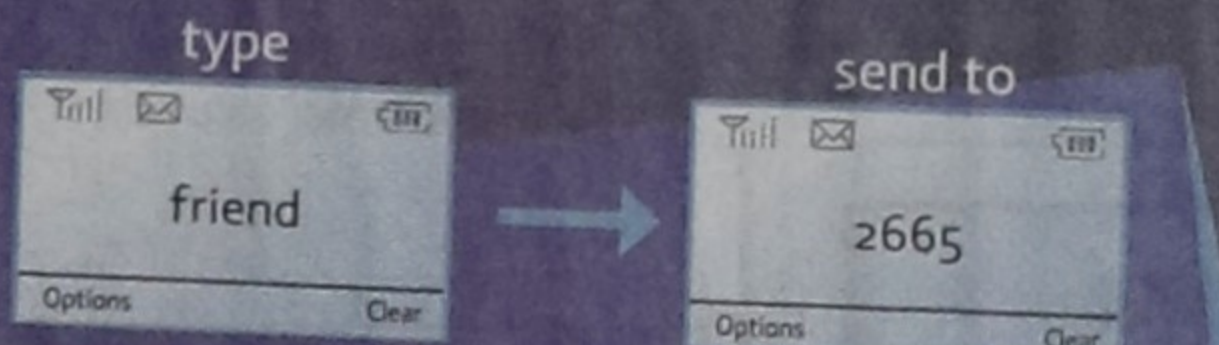
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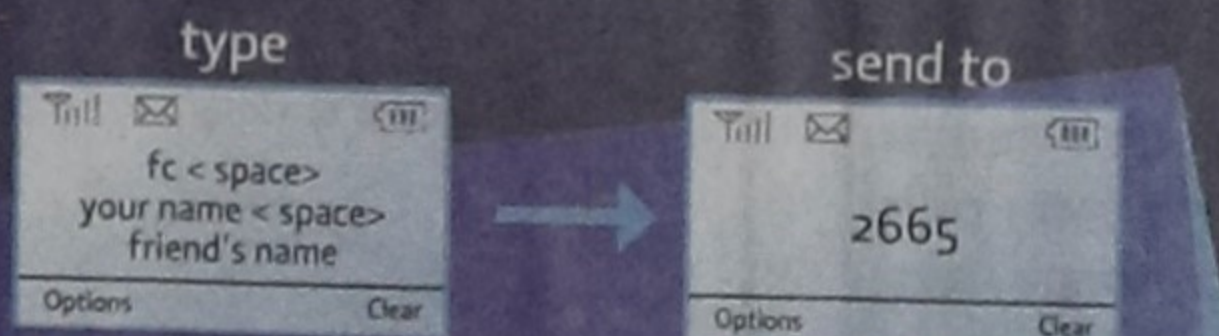
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Orascom Telecom Investing in Future Leaders



The talent management program participants with Orascom Telecom's CEO Naguib Sawiris and other OTH top management

With firm commitment towards the development and career growth of its employees, Orascom Telecom (parent company of Banglalink) launched its 'Talent Management Program' in March '08. The two year program encompasses a structured, rotational, and project-based exposure, coupled with customized training programs designed and delivered by the Centre for Management Development at London Business School for Orascom Telecom's chosen talents. Participating talents were selected from various operations including Banglalink (Bangladesh), Mobilink (Pakistan), Mobinil (Egypt), OTA (Algeria), and WIND (Italy) to become Orascom Telecom's future leaders.

With great pride Banglalink announces that five talented individuals have been selected for this program. These young talents will not only be representing Banglalink in this program and hence get the opportunity to become business leaders, but will also represent Bangladesh as ambassadors on this global platform.

Banglalink is always looking for talented individuals in all areas and at all levels.

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