Reform laws, raise awareness to prevent child marriage

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for legal reform and increased social awareness to prevent child marriage.

They said as early marriage is a

social problem it should be faced socially using social power structure. The discussion titled 'Child marriage: Prevention and our duties' was organised jointly by Weekly 2000 and

thecity. Advocate Elena Khan said contradictory laws that have been in effect

in the country should be amended. She said the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 should be amended so that the common peoin preventing child marriage.

The drawbacks of early marriage and the provisions of legal punishment should also be incorporated Farah Kabir was present as chief into textbooks so that the children and adolescents become aware of it, she added.

"Still we consider marriage a attitude encourages the guardians to

get their daughters married at the age below 18 years. This attitude must be changed," said Ayesha Khanam of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

However, there are many people who are forced to arrange child marriage due to poverty and social insecurity, she said, adding, "If we want to prevent early marriage, we must address the economic and social issues as well.

The speakers stressed the need The Action Aid at Biam auditorium in for changing social attitude towards child marriage.

They said there is no alternative to increasing awareness in the society against early marriage and media can play an important role in this

Eliminating gender discriminaple could play active and direct role tion and empowering the women would also help in preventing child marriage, they added.

Action Aid Country Director guest at the roundtable which was moderated by acting editor of the Weekly 2000 Moinul Ahsan Saber.

BNP Standing Committee memticket for security of women and this ber Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, former lawmaker Begum

Selima Rahman, Women Affairs Secretary of Awami League Dr Dipu Moni, Chairman of Islami Oikyajote Misbahur Rahman Chowdhury, psychologist Farida Akter and reporter Munni Saha of ATN also spoke on the occasion.

Action Aid covering 113 married young men and women in six admin-

istrative divisions in the country was presented at the beginning of the discussion.

The study conducted from October to December 2007 made some recommendations for the government, donor agencies, Earlier, a research conducted by national and international organisations to prevent child marriage.



Sri Lankan Chief of Army Staff Lt General GSC Fonseka calls on Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam at the Naval Headquarters at Banani in the city yesterday.

Asian Higher Edn Summit begins Oct 6

UNB, Dhaka

A three-day Asian Higher Education Summit will begin in the city on October 6 where around 200 eminent education personalities will come up with new ideas to share their views.

USAID Bangladesh is organising the summit in collaboration with Dhaka University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

USAID Bangladesh Mission Director Denise Rollins said this at the monthly luncheon meeting of American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

She said USAID in Bangladesh focused on seven core areas, including population and health, small business and agribusiness, natural resources management, energy, food security and disaster management, education, and democracy and human rights.

AmCham President Syed Ershad Ahmed presided over the meeting while Vice President Trevor Macdonald gave the vote of

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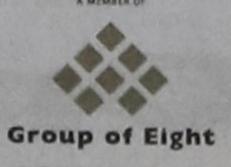






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