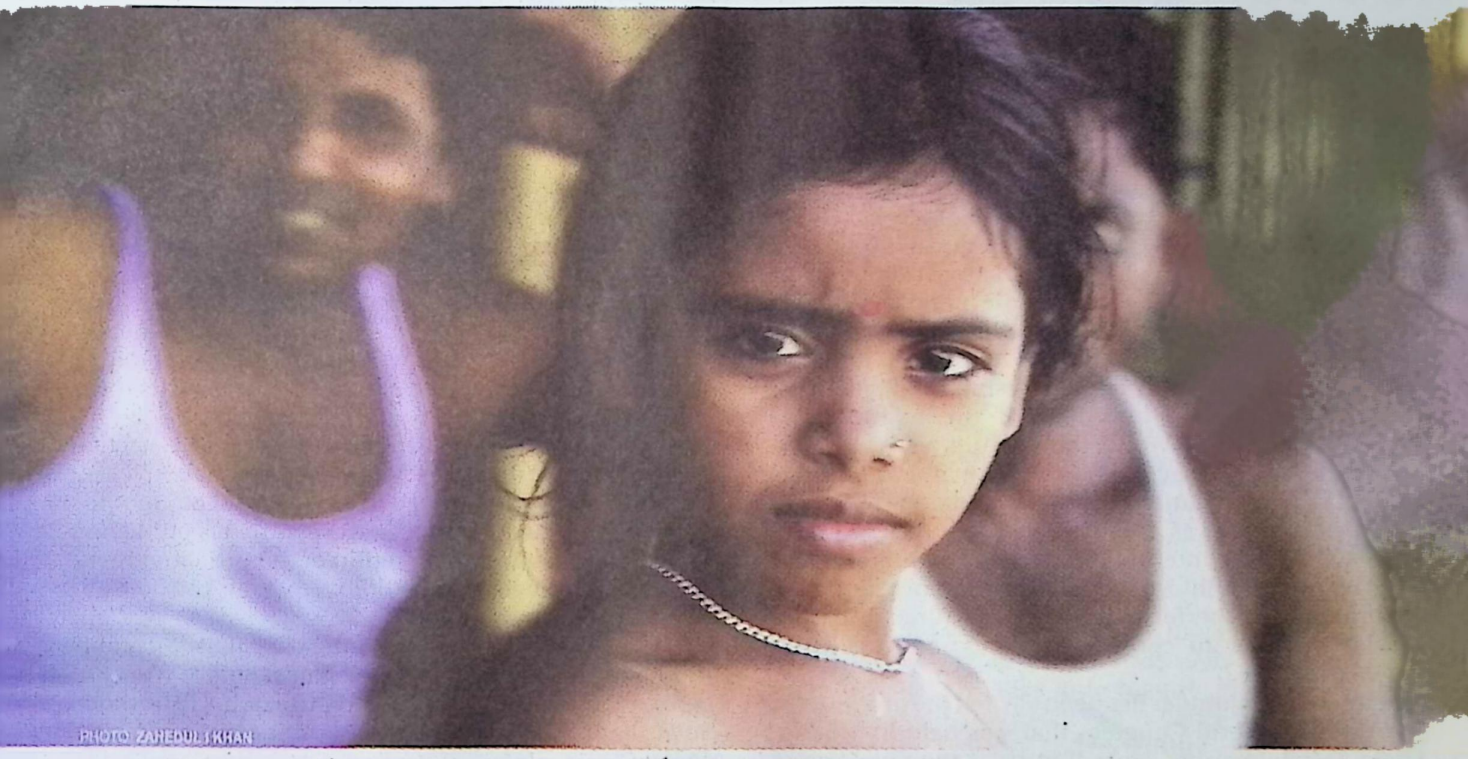
the National Action Plan at the Department of Social Services, Agargaon, on November 5, she highlighted a relevant point; the need for a child-friendly support service during legal process. She also stressed the need for protecting the rights of the victim, keeping in mind the issues of privacy and dignity and the need for a child friendly court, where no one will be in uniform so that the victim is not intimidated and feels comfortable about talking. Ali also pointed out the importance of extradition treaties with neighbouring countries. She specifically reminded the police to understand the difference between a raid and a rescue mission. In all the issues that need to be addressed the angle of child-friendly legal procedures in dealing with victims was emphasised, both in the legal and the security services and legal reform, court overload relief new paradigms and restorative justice.


PHOTO: ZAHEDUL I KHAN

UNICEF highlighted on the five important issues of National Plan of Priority Action, January 2009 - June 2010. It stressed that during the next 18 months these five goals can be achieved by the government. The issues are as follows:

Prevention- Children and community members will be aware about CSEC, get proper information on how to adopt protective behaviour and care. Professionals, social workers, police, lawyer, will be trained as active agents of preventing commercial sexual exploitation of children and related violence.

Protection- The legal framework will be harmonised with international instruments. Law will be enforced through deploying Special Forces and coordinated operation to rescue and recovery of victims. Child friendly legal and protection support/services available through victims support unit and child friendly policing.

Recovery and integration- Adequate services are available for all child victims' boys and girls including for their full systematic social reintegration and their full physical and psychosocial recovery including counselling and have access to rehabilitation services.

Child participation- Children participation should be integrated in all concerned policies and programmes and are consulted in all decision concerning their well being and development.

Coordination and monitoring- Activate and strengthen the National Steering Committee favouring coordination and cooperation in country and cross border activities of NPA.

The issues of CSA and CSEC have been open for discussion in Bangladesh where the NGOs are now working to develop a commonly owned set of standards of services. The broader civil society actors, the NGOs, the government are all engaged to make concerted efforts and some good practices have been found. However, these are either at policy level or at micro level and are yet to be implemented on a broader scale. The whole decade 2001 to 2010 is officially declared as the 'Decade of the Rights of the Child', in the country. NGOs, lawyers and legal aid institutions need to play the role of a watchdog to ensure implementation of child protection measures by the government.