

## Support centre set up for victims of violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Victim Support Centre (VSC) set up at the city's Tejgaon Police Station formally started working yesterday to provide legal support to women and children who fall victim of different types of violence, including rape and acid throwing.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun inaugurated the centre where some 17 trained female police officers will provide round-the-clock legal services to such women and children victims.

Inaugurating the centre, Sahara reaffirmed the government's commitment to combat violence against women and children.

"Every day a huge number of women and children fall victim of rape and other sexual harassments, acid throwing, trafficking as well as domestic violence," she observes.

Quoting police record, the minister said some 15,246 cases were recorded in connection with the act of violence against women and children, which is almost 10 percent of the total cases, filed with the country's police

stations.

Referring to Awami League's election manifesto in ensuring law and order and establishing good governance, Sahara Khatun stressed the need for proper implementation of the different laws enacted to combat such crimes.

She urged people for extending their supports to the law enforcing agencies in implementing the existing laws.

State Minister for Home Affairs Tanzim Ahmed Sohel Taj stressed the need for establishing inter-ministerial cooperation for providing a comprehensive support to the victims.

A total of eight victims will get residential opportunity at the VSC for maximum five days for the services," said NBK Tripura, AIG and national project director of Police Reform Programme.

He said the VSC would also protect women and children victims from second time victimisation and it would formulate an effective policy guideline on prevention of crime and its information.

He said six VSCs will also be

set up in six divisional headquarters soon.

The services at VSC include providing proper information to the women and children victims on the legal process, lodging complaint of the victim, providing them assistance of filing First Information Report (FIR) as well as medical services and psychosocial counselling.

IGP Nur Mohammad, DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed, Dr Hameeda Hossain of Ain O Salish Kendra, Tom Crowards of DFID and Stefan Priesner of UNDP, among others, spoke.

Bangladesh Police and 10 partner NGOs will work for the victims through the centre with the assistance from donor-funded project Police Reform Programme.

The 10 NGOs are Ain O Salish Kendra, Association for Community Development, Association for Correction and Social Reclamation, Aparajeyo Bangla, Acid Survivors' Foundation, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, and Mary Stopes.

## Local development to sink in MP

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upazila parishads functional. "It will be a violation of articles 59 and 60 of the constitution, if lawmakers are allowed to have authority over local governments," said Badiul Alam Majumder, secretary of Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujan), adding that the move will also go against court verdicts on the matter.

The opinions came from a roundtable titled 'Making Upazila Parishad Operational: Challenges and Prospect', arranged by The Daily Star in the conference room of its headquarters, with participation of 23 newly elected upazila chairmen, vice-chairmen and women vice-chairmen from six divisions of the country, and governance experts.

The elected upazila officials expressed their worries about whether they will be able to work without any outside interference, if the central government's move to not ratify the local government ordinances successfully passes through the parliament.

They said feuds between MPs and upazila parishad officials are likely to erupt, if lawmakers are allowed to interfere with the functioning of the parishads.

The parishads will face serious difficulties if the MPs are provided with offices in upazila parishad complexes, they said adding, it might also disrupt local development.

Interference of MPs with the functioning of the local government has been blatant, they said alleging that lawmakers want to get involved in upazila level development because an enormous amount of money is circulated through the local government circuit.

"We want the ordinances to become laws, so we may work without any outside interference," said Asaduzzaman Asad, a new vice-chairman elected to Natore Sadar upazila parishad.

Strengthening the local government system was one of the electoral pledges of Awami League (AL), its President Sheikh Hasina in one of her books also emphasised on a strong local government system for ensuring development and poverty reduction.

LGC Chairman Muhammad Faizur Razaque said it is possible to enact rules, if necessary, even after ratifying the ordinances.

"LGC was preparing a proposal on power decentralisation, we should consider whether a local government service structure could be formed, which would start at the union parishad level," he said.

Upazila parishads will remain, even if the ordinances are not ratified, he said adding, "LGC will be with local govern-

ment representatives, if the commission is allowed to exist." Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, president of Shujan, said it is possible to set up offices for MPs in the parliament complex, so why offices should be set up for them in upazila parishad complexes.

The ministry concerned or LGC will have to formulate rules, in a participatory manner, specifying the duties and responsibilities of local government institutions, he added.

He also said the revenue sources of upazila parishads should be protected from political interference, and the role of bureaucracy in local government also need to be re-justified, as the people want to see a strong local government.

Prof Tofael Ahmed, a member of LGC, said the local government ordinances promulgated by the caretaker government should be ratified, albeit after removing inconsistencies in it, if there is any, for removing the uncertainty the local government system is facing right now.

But, the ratification must be upon discussions with the elected local representatives, he added.

Awami League (AL) and BNP both talked much about a strong LGC, but now none of them wants it anymore, he said adding that the commission should exist, but its officials could be changed, if needed.

Prof Tofael suggested that the chairmen and vice-chairmen of upazila parishads work on the basis of consensus among them for strengthening democracy.

Another LGC Member Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury said remote areas and areas where opposition leaders were elected as representatives should get protection through a specific policy. "Who will formulate the policy when there will be no commission?" he quipped.

"MPs are not made advisers to city corporations, so why they should become advisers to upazila parishads?" he questioned again, adding that a decision has to be taken whether upazila parishads will work as institutions of governance.

Terminating the authority of MPs over upazila parishads 'unconstitutional', Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder said MPs like to meddle in upazila parishads, so they can thwart emergence of competitors at the local level.

"The local government system is a part of the fundamental structure of the constitution, and so it cannot be changed by formulating new laws," he said adding, any indirect authority of MPs over local governments will also be in contradiction to the constitution and relevant court verdicts.

Dr Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman, professor of public administration at Dhaka University, said the upazila ordinance should be placed in the parliament with amendments, if needed, and should be ratified in the current session.

He also said a parliamentary committee on local government affairs should also be constituted immediately to suggest new guidelines for strengthening the local government system with particular focus on upazila parishads.

Dr Salahuddin suggested forming a task force to assist LGC for ensuring pragmatic criteria for disbursement of government development grants, and developing a regulatory mechanism for making the bureaucracy accountable to elected upazila parishads.

Ruling parties' secretaries-general should never be appointed as the LGRD minister, he added.

Sheela Tasneem Haq, director (election programme) of The Asia Foundation, said women's representation in upazila parishads show that they will reach the parliament one day.

She emphasised the need for creating awareness among elected women representatives about their duties and responsibilities.

Gazi Abdul Hadi, chairman of Dumuria Upazila Parishad in Khulna, said the Election Commission is yet to publish the gazette of the election results even though 26 days have passed since the polls to upazila parishads were held.

"People gave us the mandate to serve them and we want to do so, but it seems the upazila parishads are being made ineffective by changing the upazila parishad ordinance," he said.

Abul Kalam Azad, chairman of Uzurpur Upazila Parishad in Barisal, said he would file a case if any decision is made that weakens the upazila parishads.

Suraiya Begum, vice-chairman of Betagi Upazila Parishad in Barguna, said, "The new government is trying to abolish the LGC changing the rules... this is suicidal."

She said to strengthen the local government bodies it should be kept free from all kinds of political and economic interferences.

Khan Mohammad Rustom Ali, vice-chairman of Bhandaria Upazila Parishad in Pirojpur, said, "We want lawmakers to enact laws not interfere in our work."

All women vice-chairmen

present at the roundtable demanded that administrative security and transportation service for them be ensured. They also demanded equal facilities for chairmen and vice-chairmen.

There should be coordination between the chairmen and vice-chairmen to ensure smooth running of the parishad, said Noor Alam Sheikh, vice-chairman of Mongla Upazila Parishad in Khulna.

Moderating the roundtable, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said a strong and truly effective local government is a must for the country as there is no alternative to strong local government for spreading democratic practice all over the country as well as economic development.

The local government has to be given its dignity and it has to be brought to the centre of the development process, he added.

Dewan Zainul Zakerin, chairman of Sunamganj Sadar Upazila Parishad, Aaur Rahman, chairman of Godagari Upazila Parishad in Rajshahi, Khairul Kabir Khokan, chairman of a upazila parishad in

Netrakona, Humayun Islam Kamal, vice-chairmen of Golapganj Upazila Parishad in Sylhet, Shamima Shahriar, vice-chairman of Jamalganj Upazila Parishad in Sylhet, Rockeya Khatun, vice-chairman of Habiganj Sadar Upazila Parishad, Shova Rani, vice-chairman of Mothbaria Upazila Parishad in Barisal, Sajeda Begum, vice-chairman of Hathazari Upazila Parishad in Chittagong, Akhtar Jahan Laki, vice-chairman of Atrai Upazila Parishad in Naogaon, Shova Rani Halder, vice-chairman of Dumuria Upazila Parishad in Khulna, Parul Begum, vice-chairman of Rupsha Upazila Parishad in Khulna, Zakir Hossain Selim, vice-chairman of Rangamati Sadar Upazila Parishad, Khaleed Akhtar Chowdhury, vice-chairman of Chandanais Upazila Parishad in Chittagong, Fatema Monir, vice-chairman of Narayanganj Sadar Upazila Parishad, Kohinoor Islam, vice-chairman of Sonargaon Upazila Parishad in Narayanganj and Fazlul Haque, vice-chairman of Netrakona Sadar Upazila Parishad also spoke at the roundtable.

## Proshika chief

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Vice-Chairmen Mahbul Karim and David William Biswas, Chief Executive Officer Yusuf Ali Miah, and Finance Coordinator Alamgir Kabir.

Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court set bail at Tk 20,000 each provided with two guarantors. Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Deputy Director Syed Iqbal Hossain filed the case against them with Motijheel Police Station June 9 last year.

Investigation officer ACC Deputy Director Arif Siddique submitted charge sheet against Faruque and five others to Dhaka CMM's Court showing 23 people as witnesses.

According to the prosecution, Faruque and the others spent \$24.69 lakh from Proshika fund on their children's educational expenses abroad on different dates.

Another accused Mirza Aminur Rahman did not appear before the court yesterday.

Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman moved the bail petition on behalf of the accused and Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu opposed.

## Lower courts

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2,153 through a preliminary test. The selected candidates will sit for a written test of total 1,000 marks.

The commission is now taking preparations for holding written test in the middle of next month to select candidates for viva voce, the official said, adding that the commission after completing necessary process will recommend the President to recruit the successful candidates as judges.

In May last year, the government appointed 390 assistant judges/judicial magistrates in courts across the country following separation of the judiciary. Some of the judges either left the jobs or have been transferred to other services on deputation creating vacancies in judiciary, sources said.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed recently said over 15 lakh cases have been pending with the lower courts across the country and around two lakh cases are pending with the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

A total of 1,158 judges are now discharging judicial functions in the lower courts of the country while there are 65 judges in the High Court, sources said.

## More fortunes found

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name. And he has three lakh pounds in his bank account in London, according to the information given to Dhaka.

Hong Kong also provided Dhaka information about wealth and bank deposits of some ministers and lawmakers.

Although both UK and Hong Kong wanted to know Bangladesh government's views regarding these money and wealth, it is yet to respond.

Meanwhile, a case in connection with Siemens' bribery scandal is now under trial at US District Court for Columbia, and former prime minister Khaleda Zia's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko is involved in it.

Muhtib said yesterday Bangladesh government has written a letter to US government for getting back the money.

Talking to journalists after a meeting with UN Assistant

Secretary General Ajay Chhibber at his Secretariate office, the finance minister said they are also considering writing such a letter to UK government.

He noted since there is no agreement between Bangladesh and these countries on getting back siphoned off money, the government is trying to have their cooperation in this regard.

Moreover, Salehuddin said yesterday the government has got information about laundered money from UK and Hong Kong. Both the countries provided the information voluntarily.

Following a meeting with the chief executives of financial institutions, the BB governor told reporters that Malaysia has also given some information about laundered money. He however did not give details.

He pointed out there is a condition tagged with provid-

ing such information that it has to be kept secret.

The finance minister told reporters that the government might seek cooperation from the UN to get back the siphoned off money, if necessary. "We have understanding with different countries on bringing back these money and more understanding is in process."

Muhtib also said information regarding corruption lies with Bangladesh Bank, National Board of Revenue and Anti-Corruption Commission. "We have opened up the information to foreign countries concerned for their cooperation."

Replying to queries, he said, "They (foreign countries) will be given information for the sake of investigation. I don't believe this information will be leaked. If any leakage occurs, it will be from here."

Bangladesh Power Development Board Invitation for International Re-Tender			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Power Division.	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).	
3	Procuring entity name	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.	
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Caustic Soda (Flakes) for Ghorasal Thermal Power Station, BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi.	
7	Invitation Ref. No.	Pur-334/2004.	
8	Date	Date: 08-02-2009.	
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>			
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.	
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>			
10	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (Cash Foreign Exchange Allocation) of BPDB.	
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>			
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
14	Tender package No.	08 (FY 2008-2009).	
15	Tender package name	Procurement of Caustic Soda (Flakes) for Ghorasal Thermal Power Station, BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi.	
16	Tender publication date	Date: 08-02-2009.	
17	Tender last selling date	15-03-2009 during office hours.	
18	Tender closing date and time	16-03-2009 at 11.00 am (BST).	
19	Tender opening date and time	16-03-2009 at 11.30am (BST).	
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 12, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
	Selling tender document (principal)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 12, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
	Selling tender document (others)	Not applicable.	
	Receiving tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 12, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
	Opening tender document	Directorate of Purchase BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 12, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Not applicable.	
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>			
22	Eligibility of tenderer	As per tender document.	
23	Brief description of goods or works	Procurement of Caustic Soda (Flakes) for Ghorasal Thermal Power Station, BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi.	
24	Brief description of related services	As per tender document.	
25	Price of tender documents (BDT)	Non-refundable BDT Taka 3,000/- (three thousand) only in the form of Pay-Order in favour of Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
26	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount
Lot-1	Procurement of Caustic Soda (Flakes)	Ghorasal Thermal Power Station, BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi	USD 6,500.00 or BDT 4,55,000/-
27	Validity of tender and tender security	As per tender document.	
28	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Abduhu Ruhullah.	
29	Designation of official inviting tender	Director	
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>			
30	Address of official inviting tender	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 12, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
31	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. 7126144 Fax 7126151.	
32	Special instruction	Any tender received by the purchaser after the deadline for submission of tenders shall be declared late, will be rejected and returned unopened to the tenderer. The purchaser reserves the right to accept any tender to annul the tender process, or to reject any or all tenders, at any time prior to contact award.	
33	This tender will be performed according to	"The Public Procurement Rules-2008."	
Biddyt/Jan-901(4)/12-2-09 GD-876		Director Directorate of Purchase BPDB, Dhaka	

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Project Director Reaching Out of School Children (ROSC) Project Directorate of Primary Education Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216 Memo No. DPE/ROSC/Consultant(Local)/Part-1/65/2005/3996 Date: 15/02/2009 Request for Expressions of Interest for Selection of Procurement Consultant (Time Based)

The Project Director, Reaching Out-of-School Children Project has been allocated public funds from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) toward the cost of the Reaching Out-of-School Children Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these funds to payments under the contract for the provision of consultancy services for the project by an individual consultant (National).

### The Services Include:

**Procurement Consultant (S 3.1) :** (a) Provide support for procurement of goods and services following the PPR 2008 and the World Bank's guidelines where necessary, (b) Assist in preparation of bidding documents and evaluation, (c) Train the project personnel for handling the procurement arrangements.

The qualification and experience required for the assignment is at least post graduate degree with 10 years professional experience.

The Project Director, Reaching Out-of-School Children Project now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Applicants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (complete CV with other details as required as per the application forms).

01 (one) consultant will be selected using the selection of individual consultant, sub-method in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules (PPR, 2008) and Public Procurement Procedures issued by the GoB. It is expected that (S 3.1) will be commenced on April 2009 at Procurement Consultant and shall be completed September 2009.

Interested applicants are required submit their expressions of interest in accordance with the application forms and may obtain the request for application document from the office the undersigned during the normal office hours.

Expression of interest shall be submitted by 12.30pm on 05/03/2009 in sealed envelope delivered to Project Director, and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for Procurement Consultant (Time-based)".

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

**Md Ataul Haque**  
Project Director  
Directorate of Primary Education  
Reaching Out-of-School Children (ROSC) Project  
Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216  
Tel No: 9009230, 8034061  
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GD-914

Bangladesh Power Development Board Invitation for International Re-Tender			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Power Division.	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).	
3	Procuring entity name	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.	
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Tri-Sodium Phosphate for Ghorasal Thermal Power Station, BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi.	
7	Invitation Ref. No.	Pur-326/2007	
8	Date	Date: 08-02-2009.	
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>			
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.	
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>			
10	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (cash foreign exchange allocation) of BPDB.	
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>			
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
14	Tender Package No.	02 (FY 2008-2009).	
15	Tender package name	Procurement of Tri-Sodium Phosphate for Ghorasal Thermal Power Station, BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi.	
16	Tender publication date	Date: 08-02-2009.	
17	Tender last selling date	15-03-2009 during office hours.	
18	Tender closing date and time	16-03-2009 at 11.00AM (BST).	
19	Tender opening date and time	16-03-2009 at 11.30AM (BST).	
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> floor), 12-Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
	Selling tender document (Principal)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA building (9 <sup>th</sup> floor), 12-Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
	Selling tender document (Others)	Not applicable.	
	Receiving tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> floor), 12-Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
	Opening tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> floor), 12-Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Not applicable.	
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>			
22	Eligibility of tenderer	As per tender document.	
23	Brief description of goods or works	Procurement of Tri-Sodium Phosphate for Ghorasal Thermal Power Station, BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi.	
24	Brief description of related services	As per tender document.	
25	Price of tender documents (BDT)	Non-refundable BDT Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) only in the form of Pay Order in favour of Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
26	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender security amount
Lot-1	Procurement of Tri-Sodium Phosphate	Ghorasal Thermal Power Station, PDB, Palash, Narsingdi	US\$ 700.00 or BDTK 50,000.00
27	Validity of tender and tender security	As per tender document.	
28	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Abduhu Ruhullah.	
29	Designation of official inviting tender	Director.	
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>			
30	Address of official inviting tender	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> floor), 12-Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	
31	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. 7126144 Fax: 7126151	
32	Special instruction	Any tender received by the purchaser after the deadline for submission of tenders shall be declared late, will be rejected and returned unopened to the tenderer. The purchaser reserves the right to accept any tender to annul the tender process, or to reject any or all tenders, at any time prior to contact award.	
33	This tender will be performed according to	"The Public Procurement Rules-2008"	
Biddyt/Jan-902(4)/12-2-09 GD-875		Director Directorate of Purchase BPDB, Dhaka	