

# Change attitude towards women to stop trafficking

Speakers say at advocacy meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an advocacy meeting yesterday stressed the need for ensuring women empowerment, evaluating their contribution to production and changing attitude towards women to stop trafficking of women and children.

At the meeting organised by Mukti Nari O Shishu Unnayan Sangstha at Cirdap auditorium, the speakers said that more information on human trafficking should be disseminated in the media to create awareness.

Coordinated effort of the civil society and non-government organisations with the support of the local government can also play an effective role in preventing trafficking, they said at the meeting titled 'Prevention of human trafficking and reducing violence against women'.

"Information can be the most important tool to prevent trafficking of women and children," said Moniruzzaman, senior assistant editor of The Daily Sangbad.

The media, local government, non-government organisations and law enforcing agencies should work together to combat human trafficking, he said.

He also suggested the NGOs send their recommendations to address trafficking

and violence against women to the Parliamentary Committee on the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation Shaheen Anam stressed the need for implementing Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the National Women Development Policy immediately.

She also said that attitude towards women in the society should be changed and their contribution should be valued.

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Concurrently, raising awareness in family, society and state level is important, while the border guards can also play an important role in combating trafficking.

In the keynote paper, Sanaiya Fahim Ansari said every year around 25,000 women are trafficked to different countries. The rate of trafficking is higher in the border areas like Chuadanga, Kushdia and Meherpur.

Conventional Salish system, non-cooperation of the local government and religious leaders often deprive them of their rights, she said, stressing the need for formulating a law to resist domestic violence against women.

Dr Waliur Rahman, former foreign secretary, also spoke at the meeting while Mohsin Ali, executive director of WAVE Foundation, and representatives from different rights organisations shared their opinion.

Momtaz Rumi, executive director of Mukti Nari O Shishu Unnayan Sangstha, presided over the meeting.



Executive Director of Mukti Nari O Shishu Unnayan Sangstha Momtaz Rumi speaks at an advocacy meeting at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On her right are former foreign secretary Dr Waliur Rahman and advocate Sanaiya Fahim Ansari and on her left is Senior Assistant Editor of The Daily Sangbad Moniruzzaman.

PHOTO: STAR

## Construction of Tipaimukh Dam condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a view exchange meeting on Saturday condemned construction of the Tipaimukh Dam, as the dam will severely affect most of the districts of Sylhet division and Brahmanbaria, Kishoreganj and Narayanganj.

It will certainly turn the eastern part of the country into a desert, they said at the meeting organised by Jalalabad Association, Dhaka at its office, says a press release.

Chaired by Dr CM Delwar Hossain, president of the association, the meeting was also addressed by Maj Gen (retd) Azizur Rahman Bir Uttam, Barrister A Hasib and members of the civil society.

## 'Social security vital for overall dev'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Long and short-term action plans are required to ensure the socio-economic security of the poor, said Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique at a seminar yesterday.

He said Bangladesh is a country ridden with natural disasters where the poverty-stricken people are the worst sufferers. Their socio-economic security should be ensured through substantial support and assistance.

He was addressing a seminar titled 'Social protection' organised by Department of Economics of the university in association with World Bank at

Senate building of the university.

Social security is a vital aspect in the country's overall socio-economic development, he pointed out adding that the government should fulfill its promise of creating a poverty-free, Bangladesh through efficiency, transparency, accountability and adoption of digital technologies.

Dr Abul Barkat, chairman of the department, chaired the event. World Bank Human Development Network's chief economist Ariel Fiszbein, economist for social security Margaret Grosh and Dr

Rushad Faridi, among others, spoke at the seminar.

## Deep convection over Bay

UNB, Dhaka

A deep convection is taking place over north Bay and adjoining coastal areas of the country under the influence of southwest monsoon, a week after cyclone 'Aila' devastated the coastal districts.

"Southwest monsoon is moderate to strong over north Bay," said a Met office warning message yesterday afternoon.

"Squally weather may continue to affect the maritime ports," it also warned.

The maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number three.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay and deep sea have been advised to come close to the coast and proceed with caution until further notice.

Cyclone 'Aila' hit the country on May 25, killing at least 180 people and injuring many others.

## Chhatra Front relief team goes to Satkhira

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, the student wing of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, and Pragatisheel Chikitsak Forum yesterday sent a joint relief and medical team to cyclone Aila-affected Satkhira district.

The team led by Jonardon Dutta Nantu, general secretary of the Front, Dr Joyonto Malakar, joint convener of Pragatisheel Chikitsak Forum, Dr Asif Khan and Dr Samar Pundit will distribute relief and medicines among the people of Asasuni and Shyamnagar in the district, said a press release.

Another medical team led by Dr Mujibul Haque Arju, Dr Ratna Baishnab and Dr Palash Sarkar will provide the Aila-affected people with medical service at Dakop in Khulna on June 3.

The members of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front collected from the people standing at different street of the capital especially of the Dhaka University campus.

In a statement Fakhruddin Kabir Atik, president of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, urged all to stand by the cyclone victims.

## Doa mahfil for Dr Wazed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Mahila Awami League (South) organised a doa and milad mahfil to pray for eternal peace of eminent nuclear scientist Dr Wazed Miah, husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at party office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday, said a press release.

## 36 get Mother Teresa Gold Medals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at the distribution ceremony of Mother Teresa Gold Medal-2009 yesterday said contribution of volunteers should be recognised for the development of the nation.

They called on the government to announce a special day for volunteers to appreciate their contribution to society.

Bangladesh Swachhchasebak Sangathan Federation organised the award handover programme at the Media Centre of Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

The speakers stressed the need to monitor the activities of the welfare and voluntary organisations of the country.

They alleged that many welfare organisations, even some registered ones, are misusing the organisational status for their own interests.

A total of 36 persons won this year's gold medal for their special contribution to the social welfare activities in many areas.

Poet Asad Chowdhury, singer Ferdous Ara, lawmaker Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Privatisation Commission Chairman Mirza Abdul Jalil, DIG (prisons) Golam Haider, Abdul Rob Chowdhury of Rangs Group, ACI Ltd Executive Director Syed Alamgir, BRB Group Chairman Majibur Rahman, Zenith Pharmaceuticals Managing Director Dr Belaluddin Ahmed, BTV Director General Kazi Abu Zafar Siddique and ATN Bangla Director Nesar Ahmed, among others, received the medals.

Speaking as the chief guest, Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid called on the voluntary organisations to work together for the betterment of the nation.

He assured the humanitarian bodies of the government's all-out cooperation in discharging their welfare activities.

Presided over by Justice Habibur Rahman, the programme was also addressed by Adviser of the federation NA Karim Bidyut Chowdhury, Chairman Md Shamsul Haque and Secretary General Mahabub Alam Sheikh.



PHOTO: STAR

Paribesh Andolon Chittagong forms a human chain in front of a centennial rain tree on the DC Hill in the port city as part of its tree nurturing campaign yesterday.

## WAR CRIMINALS

# Trial to be fairer than Nuremberg: Minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the trial of war criminals in Bangladesh will be held in a better and more acceptable, transparent and fair manner than the Nuremberg trials in Germany.

Some war criminals were convicted and sentenced with death penalty in the Nuremberg trials and their sentences were then executed, as the convicts could not appeal with the higher court against their convictions and then questions were raised on the fairness and transparency of the trial, he said.

He said the trial of war criminals committing crimes against the humanity during the country's liberation war in 1971 will be held under the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973 maintaining international standard so that nobody can raise question on the fairness and transparency of the trial.

The convicts will have the scope to appeal with the appellate court against their convictions as per the international crimes (tribunal) act, he added.

The minister told newsmen after holding separate meetings with a four-member delegation of the European Commission (EC) led by David Turr, and with Saudi Ambassador Dr Abdullah Bin Naser Al Busairi at his secretariat office in the afternoon.

The Nuremberg Trials were a series of trials or tribunals, most notable for the prosecution of prominent members of the political, military and economic leadership of Nazi Germany after its defeat in World War II. The trials were held in Nuremberg from 1945 to 1946, according to Wikipedia.

It said the first and best known of these trials was the trial of the major war criminals before the International Military Tribunal, which tried 22 of the most important captured

leaders of Nazi Germany.

The government will appoint the investigation agency and the prosecutors for holding the trial after the passage of the next budget in the parliament, Shafique added.

The minister said he had informed the EC delegation that the judiciary of Bangladesh is now enjoying full independence, as the government has no scope for interference in appointing judges in the lower judiciary.

He told the delegation that the government has taken steps to strengthen Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and to make the parliament more effective.

Saudi Arabia, which is a good friend of Bangladesh, will continue to import labour force from Bangladesh, Shafique also said, quoting the Saudi envoy.



PHOTO: STAR

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia distributes rice among the poor at Keraniganj yesterday on the occasion of the 28th death anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman. (Story on Page 16)

## PROSHIKA CHAIRMANSHIP Qazi Faruque appeals against lower court order

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Qazi Faruque Ahmed, who was recently removed from chairmanship of Proshika, yesterday filed an appeal against the lower court order that had rejected his injunction petition submitted for taking back his previous post.

Judge Mohammad Abdul Gaffur of the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court took the appeal into cognisance and fixed today for full hearing on the issue.

Judge Merina Sultana of the First Assistant Judge's Court on Sunday rejected Qazi Faruque's petition seeking a temporary injunction on the decision of his removal from chairmanship of Proshika.

Earlier on May 24, the governing body of Proshika replaced its chairman Qazi Faruque with advocate Abdul Wadud in the face of an ongoing movement by its employees against Qazi Faruque.

## 'Shun smoking to avoid drug addiction'

METRO DESK

Drug addiction begins with the bad habit of smoking, said the speakers at a programme in the city yesterday.

The programme was organised by Madhumita Drug Addiction and Rehabilitation Centre of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) to mark the World No Tobacco Day, says a press release.

The speakers said about 98 percent of drug addicts are smokers.

So shunning the bad practice of smoking is the first step to stop drug addiction, they added.

Medical Officer Dr Imrul Hasan Warsi, Project Officer Md Arifuzzaman, Md Sakawat Hossain, Counsellor Harun-or-Rahid and Nilufa Yasmin spoke on the occasion.

Held at its Johnson Road Centre the programme included anti-tobacco quiz,

drama competition, discussion and prize distribution ceremony.

Patients who are undergoing treatment at the Amik Madhumita Centre, and those who recovered from drug addiction also took part in the programme.

## Dr Saiful made envoy to Russia

UNB, Dhaka

Dr Saiful Hoque, director of International Programme Development, Human Development Research Centre (HRDC), has been appointed Bangladesh ambassador to the Russian Federation.

Dr Saiful served as the director, International Programme Development of Human Development Research Centre (HDRC) since 1999, said a press release.