



Trucks carrying essentials line up a road at Khatunganj, the largest wholesale market of Chittagong, yesterday. The market is now buzzing with lots of activities ahead of Ramadan.

COUNSELLING CENTRE OPENS

'Violence leaves psychological scars in women'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The women and children affairs ministry opened the National Trauma Counselling Centre at the Department of Women Affairs building yesterday to provide counselling to women victims of violence.

The centre was launched under a joint venture project titled 'Multi-sectoral Programme on Violence against Women' undertaken by the Bangladesh government and the Danish government.

Speakers at the launching ceremony said the dismaying variety of violence, including physical, mental and sexual abuses, leaves deep psychological scars in women, causing damage to their mental health.

The women victims require immediate psychological support to reintegrate into society with dignity, they added.

A study conducted in 2007 on the victims who received assistance at the One-stop Crisis Centre under the project shows about 91 percent of victims suffer from clinical anxiety and about 81.4 percent suffer from chronic depression, a mental disorder highly ignored in the country.

Post traumatic stress disorder, suicidal tendency, fear and loss of confidence are also among other psychological scars in women, causing damage to their mental health.

The centre must maintain the quality of its service, she stressed.

Dr Abul Hossain, project director of Multi-sectoral Programme on Violence against Women, said that apart from providing counselling, the centre will also work to create a network among the professionals working on the issue.

However, lack of trained therapists and other experts poses a challenge to the centre, he said.

The centre will also conduct research and organise training sessions for social welfare officers dealing with the issue of violence against women at different levels.

Rokeya Sultana, secretary to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, and Rawshan Ara Begum, director general of the Department of Women Affairs, also spoke.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

FM for working together to resolve their problems

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister (FM) Dipu Moni has called upon all to work together to resolve the problems of indigenous people.

She said difference between Bangalees and indigenous people was created when a quarter deviated itself from the spirit of the liberation war.

The FM was speaking as chief guest at the launching ceremony of a book titled 'The ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Populations 1957 and The Laws of Bangladesh: A Comparative Review' written by Chakma Circle Chief Raja Devasish Roy at the WVA auditorium in the city yesterday.

"The quarter which created gaps between Bangalees and indigenous people are still hatching conspiracy against the establishment of equal rights for all. We should resist them unitedly," she said.

"There are some anomalies in the laws for indigenous people of plain lands and hill areas, Dipu Moni said, adding, "The problems should be removed through discussions."

State Minister for



(From left) Raja Devasish Roy, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, Dipankar Talukder and Panudda Boonpala hold copies of a book titled 'The ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Populations 1957 and The Laws of Bangladesh: A Comparative Review' written by Chakma Circle Chief Raja Devasish Roy at the WVA auditorium in the city yesterday.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Dipankar Talukder said the government is committed to implement the CHT accord.

He said the BNP and its Chairperson Khaleda Zia had opposed the CHT accord as they did not want peace in the region.

The state minister said there is nothing written about full withdrawal of troops in CHT accord except six cantonments will remain there.

The speakers urged the

government to ratify the ILO Convention No 169 which was adopted in 1989.

Chairing the programme CHT Regional Council Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma said the government has taken some initiatives for the development of the indigenous people but it should take more steps.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, and ILO's Country Director Panudda Boonpala also spoke on the occasion.



Construction work progressing with people's contributions. Without your active participation the massive work is quite impossible.

Extend your helping hands.

Rekindle a ray of hope in heart of cancer patients.

Sultana Kamal

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Fill up post of teachers staying abroad: PM

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities to appoint teachers at public universities on an ad hoc basis to the posts of teachers who did not return even after completion of their higher studies abroad.

At a regular cabinet meeting, she also asked the foreign minister to settle the maritime boundary issue with Myanmar through talks.

Hasina told the meeting that as Myanmar is a strategically important neighbour,

the issue should be resolved through talks, sources said.

About the absence of teachers, the meeting observed that a large number of university teachers go abroad for higher studies with foreign scholarships but most of them do not return even after completion of their higher studies abroad.

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