

# Education of Dalits stressed to establish their rights

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday stressed the need for education to empower the Dalits and establish their rights with a view to creating a society free of discrimination.

Jatiya Dalit Sammiloni 2009, a get-together of the oppressed people of the society, was held yesterday on the occasion of World Dignity Day, which is a few days before World Human Rights Day.

Jointly organised by Bangladesh Dalit Forum and Action Aid Bangladesh in association with Bhumijo Foundation, Dharitri Foundation and Research and Development Collective (RDC), the programme was held at the Public Library in the city.

The Dalits are being deprived of their basic human rights for years after years, said Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique while inaugurating the two-day programme.

Education can change the mindset of the people and it is education that can help the Dalits get recognition in the society, he added.

Speaking as the chief guest, Finance and Planning Minister AMA Muhib said a nation cannot attain development until its projects include every backward segment of people.

So, the Dalits, who constitute four percent of the total population, should get due attention, he added.

Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh Farah Kabir declared that her organisation would provide scholarships for the Dalits studying in public universities from next year.

She also urged the private

organisations to help the Dalits regarding small entrepreneurship.

Jannat E Ferdousi, adviser to Bangladesh Dalit Forum, urged the government to formulate a law that would have a provision to hand punishment to the people who show discriminatory mentality and practice racism.

Kanailal Rabi Das, convenor of Bangladesh Dalit Forum, Prof Mesbah Kamal, chief advisor to Bangladesh Dalit Forum, and Manzur Rashid, Theme Leader, Action Aid Bangladesh also spoke at the programme.

## Teachers' registration exams Dec 11, 12

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The fifth Non-government Teachers' Registration Examination will be held on December 11 and 12 at 114

sub-centres in 20 old districts in the country, says an official handout.

Conducted by Non-government Teachers' Registration and Certificate

Authority (NTRCA), the examinations of compulsory subjects of school level will be held from 10:00am to 1:00pm and elective subjects from 3:00pm to 6:00pm on December 11.

Examination of compulsory subject of college level will be held from 10:00am to 1:00pm and elective subjects from 3:00pm to 6:00pm on December 12.

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