

## Enact new law to stop human trafficking

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new law should be enacted to address all forms of human trafficking without hindering safe migration, speakers said at a workshop in the city yesterday. Speaking as chief guest Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed, joint secretary (political) to the home ministry, said the government is working closely with national and international non-governmental organisations and UN agencies to prevent the trafficking. He said the recommendations of the workshop would help the government draft a comprehensive law to deal with all forms of human trafficking. It is not possible to combat

human trafficking without a concerted effort, said Dr Kamal.

With the support of USAID/Winrock International, Dhaka, Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS) organised the programme titled "Assessment workshop to address challenges of national legislation on human trafficking in line with UN Palermo Protocol" at Biam auditorium. Addressing the workshop as a special guest, Advocate Salma Ali said Bangladesh is ahead of many other countries in combating the human trafficking.

She also pointed out the Saarc convention on preventing and combating trafficking

in women and children for prostitution.

"It'll help address the repatriation and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking and prevent the use of women and children in international prostitution networks, particularly where the Saarc members are the countries of origin, transit and destination," she said.

Lisa S Hammond, chief of Party, Winrock International said in recent years the trend of human trafficking has been changing globally.

She appreciated the initiatives taken by the Bangladesh government to make effort in combating human trafficking.

CWCS President Prof Ishrat Shamim said the purpose of

the workshop is to learn the comparative analysis between UN Palermo Protocol and existing national laws and necessity of incorporating relevant articles of Palermo Protocol with our national laws to combat human trafficking effectively.

Mahbuba Nasreen, Vice-President of CWCS, said women and children are comparatively vulnerable during disaster to be trafficked. Therefore, it is important to work more intensively during the time of catastrophe.

About 40 participants including government officials, police, public prosecutors, lawyers, NGOs, INGOs and UN agencies attended the workshop.



A team of DPDC and a mobile court snaps electricity connections during a drive against illegal connections and bill defaulters in the city's Bashabo, Nondipara, Madartek and Goran areas yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA



Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sheikh Hasina attends her office at Armed Forces Division (AFD) at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

PHOTO: ISPR

## One killed in roof collapse in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A construction worker was killed and four others, including a contractor, were injured when the roof of an under-construction building collapsed in Dani Lonkhola area of Bandar upazila yesterday.

Three units of fire service in two-hour effort recovered the body of the worker.

The roof of one storey building collapsed when contractor and mason Liton, 32, workers Feroz Miah, 32, Abdul Jalil, 32, Tara Miah, 26 and Sabuj Miah, 38, went to work on it.

Owner of the building is one Hasina Begum of Lonkhola area.

Sabuj Miah died on the spot and Liton, Feroz Miah, Jalil and Tara Miah were injured. The injured were admitted to Narayanganj Hospital. Jalil was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Deputy Assistant Director of Narayanganj Fire Service and Civil Defence Ahsanul Kabir said the roof collapsed due to fault in the construction work.

## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

# 'Double budgetary allocation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Persons with disabilities (PWD) yesterday demanded double allocation for them in the upcoming national budget.

In the budget for 2009-2010, the government allocated only 0.1 percent for their cause out of the total Tk 1,13,819cr, which they termed too insignificant to ensure their rights.

They were speaking at a press conference jointly organised by Action of Disability and Development (ADD), National Grassroots Disabled Organisation (NGDO) and National Council of Disabled Women (NCDW) at the National Press Club in the capital.

Highlighting the social discrimination against them, Akter Hossain, chairperson of NGDO, said, "Previously many government

announced special benefits for PWDs but it only remained in the talks. We are hoping that this government would work to ensure the rights of the PWDs as announced in its election manifesto."

There is no national census on persons with disability. According to a survey conducted by World Health Organisation in 2000, ten percent of the total population is disabled in Bangladesh. However, only four percent of them receive formal education, speakers at the press conference informed.

Focusing largely on education, they demanded allocation of 10 percent of the educational budget for the PWDs.

Joy Chand Karmoker, deputy capacity building coordinator of ADD, said, "The current government announced that every child with disability will be enrolled

in school by the year 2011. Only enrolment will not educate these children. The government must ensure reading materials such as brails. Teachers must receive training to understand sign language and how to handle disabled student."

Their demands also include allocation of Tk 5 crore in the SME sector for PWDs, Tk 50 crore for production and distribution of assistive technology, Tk 10 crore to provide legal support for women with disability facing various forms of violence, increasing the amount of stipend for disabled students.

Nazrana Yasmin Hira, programme manager of Manusher Jonno Foundation, and Ferdowsy Begum Ruby, Deputy Programme Coordinator of ADD, also spoke.

## SC STAYS HC ORDER

# Mahmudur has to submit wealth info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed for 10 days a High Court (HC) order that stayed the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) notice asking the daily Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman to submit his wealth statement to it (ACC).

After hearing a petition filed by the ACC, chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Muzammel Hossain passed the order.

The chamber judge also asked the ACC to file a regular leave to appeal petition with the apex court against the HC order during this period.

Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan, lawyer for the ACC, told The Daily Star that Mahmudur has to submit his wealth statement to the ACC as per its earlier notice following the chamber judge's order.

The ACC issued the notice on April 13 asking Mahmudur to submit his wealth statement to the commission within seven days. Following a writ petition filed by Mahmudur, the HC on April 27 stayed for three months the ACC notice and issued a rule upon the anti-crime watchdog to explain why its notice should not be declared illegal.

## Trader dies in rooftop fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A businessman died after falling from the rooftop of a four-storied market building at Reazuddin Bazar in the port city yesterday.

The deceased identified as Mohammad Jashim, 25, son of Saleh Ahmad of Sahirpara

under Satkania upazila, was a partner of a video shop Meem Video on the first floor of the market. Police quoting locals said Jashim went to the rooftop of Royal Plaza to have a bath around 6.00am.

Later, he was found lying on an extended portion of the

building on the second floor with half of the body tangled in telephone wires.

Kotwali police recovered the body around 9.30am.

Sub Inspector (SI) Shahidul Islam Chowdhury said they were investigating whether it was an accident or murder.

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