



PHOTO: STAR

Participants at a roundtable on 'Student politics: How to restore its old glory?' organised by The Daily Star at its office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

## 'Frame effective policy to ensure rights of domestic workers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should formulate an effective policy to ensure rights of the domestic workers and put an end to all forms of discrimination against them, speakers said at a view exchange meeting yesterday.

They also urged the government to include all necessary provisions in the policy to ensure security of the domestic workers.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment and Domestic Workers' Rights Network organised the meeting on 'Domestic workers' protection and welfare policy 2010' at the Biam auditorium in the city.

At the meeting, Sultan Uddin Ahmed, assistant executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), presented a draft copy of the 'Domestic Worker Protection and Welfare Policy-2010'.

Democracy Watch Executive Director Taleya Rahman said domestic workers should be given one day off a week, be entitled to recreation leave and be allowed to make their entertainment.

Deputy Director of Bangladesh Legal Aid

and Service Trust (BLAST) Farida Yasmin stressed the need to make it mandatory for employers and domestic workers to sign a contract with job description.

Prof Atiqur Rahman suggested encouraging domestic workers to maintain their personal hygiene to ensure good health of the family members.

Dr Wazedul Islam, representative of Domestic Workers' Rights Network and general secretary of Trade Union Kendra, said social security should be ensured first for the domestic workers and then financial and health security.

BILS programme officer Najma Yasmin emphasised the need to ensure protection of domestic workers from sexual exploitation and provide all kinds of legal and financial assistance, if anyone becomes victim.

Acting secretary of the Labour and Employment Ministry Nurul Haque said the government officials will consider the recommendations and that the policy will be formulated soon.

Deputy Secretary of the labour ministry Aminul Islam and workers' leader Abul Hossain also spoke.

## 'Ban smoking at working places'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday demanded steps to ban smoking at working places to protect women from passive smoking.

To this end, the definition of public place mentioned in the Tobacco Control Act should include working places, private organisations and restaurants, they added.

They said around 30 percent of women fall victim to passive smoking at their working places and 21 percent in public places. As a result, they are suffering from various tobacco-related diseases.

The National Girl Child Advocacy Forum and WBB Trust organised the seminar on 'Ways to reduce impacts of smoking on women' at Dhaka

Reporters' Unity, said a press release.

WBB Trust programme officer Aminul Islam Sujon said 28 percent of women in the country, on an average, use tobacco products and 1.5 percent of them are used to smoking. Most of them take tobacco in various forms such as jarda, gul and dead leaves.

Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury said women and children are the worst victims of tobacco-related health hazards. Many women and children are also involved in processing of tobacco and they face various health hazards in the tobacco factories.

The government should take steps to raise awareness among the people to protect women from the sever impacts of tobacco use, he

added.

Nasrin Mukti, senior assistant secretary of health ministry, said the government has taken effective measures to strictly implement Tobacco Control Act.

National Girl Child Advocacy Forum secretary Nasima Akhter Jolly observed that spending on tobacco by male members of a family also have an adverse impacts on women and children as they do not get enough money to spend on their education, healthcare and nutritional requirements.

Forum vice president Prof Latifa Akanda presided over the seminar while woman leader Tajia Azim Majumder, Hunger Project Bangladesh programme officer Bidhan Chandra Pal, among others, were also present.

**HBL** HABIB BANK Enriching Life

**"Profit on my savings gives me peace of mind."**

- Up to 2 withdrawals per month
- Profit paid every 3 months
- No hidden charges

- Deposits begin as low as BDT 10,000
- Profit up to **4.5%\***

**For further details, please call or visit:**

<p><b>Country Office/ Gulshan Branch</b> 7, Gulshan Avenue Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212 Tel: 9883305, 9883846 Fax: 9883064 Email: hblgulshan@hblbd.com</p>	<p><b>Motijheel Branch</b> 53, Motijheel C/A Dhaka-1000 Tel: 9563043-5 Fax: 9561784 Email: hblmotijheel@hblbd.com</p>	<p><b>Chittagong Branch</b> 1209, Laidighi East Chittagong Tel: 634111, 611394 Fax: 610434 Email: hblctg@hblbd.com</p>	<p><b>Sylhet Branch</b> 28, Eastern Plaza Amberkhana, Sylhet Tel: 2830580 Fax: 2830579 Email: hblsylhet@hblbd.com</p>
---	---	--	---

[www.hbl.com](http://www.hbl.com)

**HBL ValueAccount**

Naila Afroze

**RAHIMAFROOZ**

**DUNLOP**  
DRIVING TO THE FUTURE

[www.mutualtrustbank.com](http://www.mutualtrustbank.com)

**MTB'S 46<sup>TH</sup> BRANCH**

Grand Opening on May 23, 2010  
**MTB Ramchandrapur Bazar SME/Agri Branch**

To cater to the country's SME entrepreneurs & farmers, we are opening our 2<sup>nd</sup> SME/Agri branch at Ramchandrapur Bazar, Muradnagar, Comilla 3541

Available under one roof:

- Specialized services and financing facilities for SME & Agriculture
- Full service Commercial Banking
- Remittance services for NRB, their families and other beneficiaries

MTB Ramchandrapur Bazar SME/Agri Branch  
Ramchandrapur Bazar, Muradnagar  
Comilla 3541  
Phone: 018 1267 3337

**মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
**Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.**  
*you can bank on us*