

Concerted efforts needed to stop sexual harassment

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday said concerted efforts of trade unions, employers, law enforcement agencies and media can help stop sexual harassment of women at workplaces.

Alliance for Women and Children Rights (AWWR) with the support of International Labour Organisation (ILO) organised the workshop on "Role of the media to address gender equality and sexual harassment of women at workplaces" at National Press Club in the city.

Prof Ishrat Shamim, chairperson of AWWR, said sexual harassment at workplaces has negative impact on productivity of women workers that ultimately affects adversely the national growth.

She said the concerted efforts of the members of trade union, employers, law

enforcement agencies, representatives of print and electronic media as well as people from all walks of life can prevent sexual harassment from all spheres of social life.

TI M Nurunnabi Khan, programme officer of ILO, said their organisation has been working with the governments, owners and trade unions around the globe to ensure a decent working environment for both men and women.

Abdul Quayum, joint editor of the Prothom Alo, said it is time to turn around and stand together to ensure gender equality and combat sexual harassment at workplaces and also in all spheres of our life.

He said media should play more proactive role in disseminating authentic information in ensuring gender equality and combating sexual harassment at workplaces.

Shah Hussain Imam, associate editor of The Daily Star, said it has been almost a hundred years of observing the International Women's Day and about 25 years has passed after the ratification of CEDAW. But how far the gender equality has been achieved is in question.

He said though quite a number of women are working in various sectors in Bangladesh, it is important to include them in the policy and decision making process. Women will be able to contribute more at home and workplace as well as society if their contribution is recognised.

Farzana Shahnaz Majid, member secretary of AWWR, in her presentation said women's participation in workforce has increased than ever before. But they are still facing discrimination that needs to be addressed collectively.

Accomplished Dermatologist & Venerologist Professor Lt. Col. (Retd.) Dr. Q M Mahabub Ullah now in Apollo Hospitals Dhaka

Professor Lt. Col. (Retd.) Dr. Q M Mahabub Ullah graduated from Sher-e-Bangla Medical College in 1980. He did his Diploma in Dermatology & Venerology (DDV) from BSMMU in 1992 and MCPS in 1994. After that, he did his MD in Dermatology from BSMMU in 1999 and PGT in Laser Therapy from USA in 2004. At the beginning of his career, he joined the Bangladesh Army and worked for twenty five years in Dermatology & Venerology department in different Military Hospitals. Dr. Mahabub Ullah has wide experience in managing different dermatological problems, dermatologic surgery, cosmetic dermatology and laser surgery. He has several National & International publications in reputed journals. He has also attended & presented papers in several National & International Conferences. He has special interest in Laser surgery, Dermatosurgery, PUVA therapy, Electrocautery, Epilation, Cryotherapy, Intralesional Injection, Chemical peeling, Skin biopsy, etc.

Before joining Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, he was working as Professor and Head of the Department of Dermatology & Venerology, Shahabuddin Medical College, Dhaka.

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MBBS, DDV, MCPS, MD, Trained in Laser Surgery (USA)
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Book reading programme, cultural contest launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A book reading programme and cultural competition, 'Citi Agameer Alo-2nd phase', was launched yesterday with a view to improving reading, writing and communication skills of students across the country.

The Bishwa Sahitya Kendra and Citibank NA Bangladesh in association with Citi Foundation have jointly organised the programme.

The programme has been taken to promote reading habits among the children, thereby enlightening them, because without reading books, none can be enlightened, said Bishwa Sahitya Kendra President Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

He also stressed the need to encourage the children to participate in cultural activities to help them grow as big-hearted human beings.

Abbar Anwar, head of Bangladesh Global Corporate of Citibank, NA Bangladesh, formally launched the programme at the press conference and said the bank has undertaken the programme to help foster the talents of the children.

Around 10,000 students from 75 schools in Tangail, Chandpur and Sherpur will take part in the book reading competition and around 3,000 students from 50 schools in Dhaka city will participate in the cultural competition.

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