

Human Rights for All
Everywhere Equally



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NEWSLETTER

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NHRC celebrates World Day Against Child Labour

NHRC organized a seminar jointly with ILO on World Day Against Child Labour on 20 June 2017 at Pan Pacific Sonargaon. Md. Abdul Hamid, Hon'ble President of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh was kind to join the ceremony as the Chief Guest. In his speech he said, "Child labour has not been eradicated in our country. We need to eradicate child labour and to do it we need to create child friendly environment and utilize children's potentiality to the full. In this struggle parents, teachers, civil society, media, labour organizations and human rights organizations should take part in coordinated efforts". Hon'ble President also said that to eradicate child labour government had enacted National Child Labour Elimination Policy-2010. In addition, provisions were made that poor children would be provided with scholarship so that they would not fall prey to be dropouts and could continue their education.

Mr. Anisul Huq, MP, Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; Mr. Md. Mujibul Hoque Chunnu, State Minister, Ministry of Labour; Barrister M. Amir-ul Islam, Senior Advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court attended the program as Special Guests. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRC presided over the seminar.

Message from the Chairman



NHRC is always vocal against human rights violations and as usual inclined to establishing the rights of the vulnerable

people. But the flagship role of NHRC is that it always endeavors to act as an honest broker and catalyst in promoting human rights from as many ways as possible. One of the means of playing catalyst role is observing the national days with due fervor and grandeur when different stakeholders and stockholders gather round in a center and discuss issues on human rights contributing to awareness building and education of rights and paving the ways for blazing new trends and innovative action plans. During last few months NHRC had arranged many events by way of celebrating the national days. **World Day against Child Labor** was observed on 20 June, **World Day against Trafficking in Person** on 30 July and **Human Rights Day** on 10 December, 2017. In the conference on World Day against Child Labor Honorable President of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh spoke as the chief guest when he echoed the commitment of the government that the child labor would be eliminated by 2025 in line with the SDGs targets.

Recently, NHRC placed special importance on reactivating its

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advocacy mechanism to accelerate the legal aid supports towards the poor and vulnerable groups of the country by launching a new initiative like "Appointment of Panel Lawyers". NHRC upholds and shares the ideals of Honorable Prime Minister of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh with regard to her proclaimed commitment that poor and vulnerable people would be provided with legal aids so that their access to justice is ensured. NHRC believes and hopes that the appointed panel lawyers will work with dedication rising above all commercial instincts and bring out tangible results in providing legal supports to them who need it most. NHRC is also ready to pursue and monitor the progress of legal support scenario from time to time.

Of late, NHRC has made some strong stances in favor of a number of victims of human rights violation incidences. To name one, mention may be made of the rape cases of two female students at Banani, Dhaka. Due to a bold stance from the part of NHRC, all the perpetrators are now in jail. NHRC has been taking strong stands in favor of the ethnic minorities in all their struggles against the perpetrators since its inception. During some days before, among such cases, the remarkable one was forming a probe committee on the case of eviction of Santals; an ethnic community of plain land in Gaibandha. Later on, NHRC also formed a probe committee on the murder of Romel Chakma, an ethnic minority young man of Chittagong Hill Tracts who was allegedly killed by the members of LEAs. Specific recommendations were made and sent to the relevant Ministry on this incidence. In the same period another incidence occurred in Longadu, Rangamati, which also involved murder, attracted full attention of NHRC to form probe committee and make requisite recommendations to the government for immediate and necessary action. Some other sensitive cases of human rights violations were also brought under investigation and active consideration of NHRC.

Human Rights Day was celebrated on 10 Dec 2017; it generated a lot of awareness on human rights among the mass population. This year's key slogan on **Human Rights Day** was "Let's Stand Up for Equality, Justice and Human Rights". The day witnessed a rally followed by a two-day long international conference titled "International Conference on Promoting Equality, Justice and Human Rights." The presence of Honorable Speaker of the National Parliament, Honorable Law Minister and Adviser, Honorable Members of the Parliament, academic researchers, NGO activists, media representatives and Honorable Members of NHRC, Bangladesh, India; SUHAKAM; KOMNAS HAM; NHRC, Philippines in the conference was also encouraging and delightful for all of us.

Kazi Reazul Hoque
Chairman
National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh

Celebration of Human Rights Day 2017

Human Rights Day 2017 was duly celebrated on 10 December 2017 by the National Human Rights Commission, supported by HRP, UNDP in Dhaka and two regional offices of Rangamati and Khulna in a befitting manner. NHRC commemorates the day on which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. The global theme of the Human Rights Day-2017 was set as "Let's Stand Up for Equality, Justice and Human Rights." The celebration included a rally followed by a two-day long international conference titled "International Conference on Promoting Equality, Justice and Human Rights."

To disseminate the messages of Human Rights Day, supplement containing messages of Honorable President of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh; Honorable Prime Minister of the Government of Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh and Chairman of NHRC was published in 04 front line newspapers.

The collage contains the following elements:

- Top Banner:** Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (বিশ্ব মানবাধিকার দিবস ৩০ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৭) with the slogan 'Let's Stand Up for Equality, Justice and Human Rights' (কেন্দ্রোড়পত্র).
- Newspaper Clipping:** A page from a Bengali newspaper with the title 'জাতীয় মানবাধিকার কমিশন, বাংলাদেশ' (National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh). It features a portrait of Kazi Reazul Hoque and text in Bengali, likely a report on the commission's activities or the Human Rights Day celebration.
- Photographs:** Several photos showing officials and participants at the event. One photo shows a group of people at a podium during a ceremony. Another shows a group of people in a meeting or discussion. A third shows a group of people in a discussion.
- Logos:** Logos of the National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh, and other participating organizations like Sida and Roundtable for Rohingya Crisis Call for Action.

The international conference was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC). Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP, Honourable Speaker, Bangladesh Parliament inaugurated the opening session as the Chief Guest. Dr. Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Adviser to the Hon'ble Prime Minister; H.E. René Holenstein, Ambassador, Embassy of Switzerland; Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh attended the inaugural session as Special Guests. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRC presided over the inaugural session.



Hon'ble Speaker
Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP

Eight business sessions were held in the two-day long program on the following titles:

| Business Session | Chair |
|--|--|
| Plight of Rohingyas: Finding Durable Solutions | Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP Chairman, Standing Committee on Ministry of Finance |
| Rights of Religious & Ethnic Minorities and other excluded groups including Dalits and Hijra | Professor Akhter Hussain , Member, National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh |
| Climate change & Human Rights | Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP (Former President of Inter-Parliamentary Union) |
| Deradicalization for Safety from Violent Extremism & Human Rights | Nurun Naher Osmani , Member, National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh |
| Women's Rights in context of changing political economy | Mrs. Jyotika Kalra , Hon'ble Member, National Human Rights Commission, India |
| Promoting Child Rights in a context of sustainable development | Enamul Hoque Chowdhury , Member, National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh |
| Human Rights & SDG's: Links & Co-relations | Kazi Reazul Hoque , Hon'ble Chairman, National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh |
| Business and Human Rights | Md. Nazrul Islam , Full-Time Member, National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh |



Dr. Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Adviser to the Hon'ble Prime Minister



Advocate Anisul Huq, MP, Honourable Minister



Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator

In the closing session, **Advocate Anisul Huq**, MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs was the Chief Guest. **Beate K. Elsässer**, Deputy of Head of Mission and Director, SDC, Embassy of Switzerland, **Sudipto Mukerjee**, Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh were present as Special Guests. **Kazi Reazul Hoque**, Chairman, NHRC delivered closing remarks. In this session **Sharmeela Rassool**, Chief Technical Advisor of the Human Rights Programme, UNDP presented the summary of all the business sessions and highlights of the International conference.

The conference was also attended by the representatives of different NHRIs and international organisations. From NHRIs, **Mrs. Jyotika Kalra**, Hon'ble Member, National Human Rights Commission, India; **Datuk Godfrey Gregory Joitol**, Hon'ble Commissioner, SUHAKAM; **Sri Nur Fathya**, Inter Agency Cooperation, KOMNAS HAM; **Gemma Falloran Parojinog**, Attorney, NHRC, Philippines participated and added value to the conference.

NHRC engaged civil society organizations, NGOs, media and students in this celebration. The programs arranged in Dhaka and two regional offices at Rangamati and Khulna also gained huge media coverage. In addition, NHRC also published advertisement conveying greetings to people on Human Rights Day in a number of daily newspapers.

NHRC Launches Legal Aid services to the victims of Human Rights Violations

The National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh was reconstituted by the enactment of the National Human Rights Commission Act (NHRC) 2009 in light of the 'Paris Principles' with the aim of promoting and protecting human rights in Bangladesh. As per the legislation the key functions of the NHRC include raising awareness and providing human rights education, training along with undertaking research on human rights and policy advocacy, monitoring and investigation of human rights violations. In addition to that Section 19(6) of the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009 provides the Commission with the right to compete as a party to any case or legal proceeding involving allegation of violation of human rights.

Accordingly, in May 2017 NHRC has appointed 100 Panel lawyers in 40 districts for providing legal aid to the victims of human rights violation. The Commission organized an orientation programme for all the panel lawyers along with the relevant stakeholders and organizations on 19th August 2017 at CIRDAP Auditorium. Amidst discussions in a congenial atmosphere on creating a wide range of connectivity

among the panel lawyers and local human rights defenders with NHRC the day-long programme mainly focused on the key considerations in handling cases on human rights violations, ethics and standard operating procedure (SOP) applicable to the panel lawyers. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Honorable Chairman, NHRC presided over the program. In his speech, he said, "NHRC will always support the people who are unable to fight in the courts due to poverty and other socio-economic constrains. This free legal aid support will help the victims of human rights violations in the process of getting justice."

Mr. M A Mannan MP, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Planning, Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh attended the program as the Chief Guest. Justice Mr. M. Enayetur Rahim, Hon'ble Justice, High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee; Mr. Abdul Baset Majumder, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Vice-Chairman, Bangladesh Bar Council, Mr. A.S.S.M Zahirul Haque, Secretary, Law and Justice Division, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Ms. Sharmeela Rassool, CTA-HRP, UNDP graced the program as the Special Guests. Md. Nazrul Islam, Full Time Member, NHRC delivered welcome speech.

Highlighting Important Interventions

Imposing ban on use of children during election campaign

On 27th August 2017, NHRC and Child Rights Advocacy Coalition organized a roundtable discussion titled "**Be alert to bring an end to violence against children**". In the discussion, honorable Chairman, NHRC, Kazi Reazul Hoque mentioned, "there are about 60 million children in Bangladesh. They are the future architects of our country. Many of the poor children grow up facing lots of hurdles and challenges. Most of the poor children those who live in slums and roam around the streets are very often being misused as human shield at the forefront of politically carried out processions. They are being vilely utilized for picketing and other unruly activities. As a result, they are losing their softer identity of early life and becoming accustomed to harsh realities and violent activities." Honorable chairman further said, "Children should not be used in any unbecoming activities or illicit connections in the name of politics. Each and every political leader and all the persons related to the system of election must be made aware

of this.” He also mentioned, “Bangladesh has ratified the International Convention on Child Rights and ILO Convention 182 on Worst forms of Child Labour. The country, therefore, should follow the provisions of those Conventions”.

Honorable chairman of NHRC expressed his commitment in the program that he would discuss the matter with Honorable CEC and send him an official letter on the issue. Accordingly, he sent a DO letter to Honorable CEC and afterwards held an official meeting with him at the Election Bhaban, Agargaon and discussed the matter thoroughly. During the meeting, Honorable CEC took the point positively and assured honorable chairman that he would do the needful as to how the mal-use of children as picketers or in election campaigns can be stopped. It is learnt from CEC that all concerned including the district and upazilla level Election officers had been advised to ensure it so that children would not be used in election campaigns.

Dr. Mubashar Hasan’s Abduction: NHRC asks report from Ministry of Home Affairs

The missing report about Dr. Mubashar Hasan, a teacher of Political Science Department at North South University (NSU), Dhaka was published in media on 10 November 2017 that drew the attention of National Human Rights Commission and instantly NHRC took a *Suo Moto* in this regard.

NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque expressed his deep concern on this incident and termed it as serious human rights violation. He also mentioned, “freedom of movement is one of the constitutional rights of citizens and it is the duty of the state to ensure it along with other rights and above all the safety and security of people”.

NHRC instantly asked for a quick investigation report on this incident from Secretary, Public Security Division, Ministry of Home Affairs. In addition to that NHRC raised voice and made constant pressure to Government along with Civil Society organizations and media so that Mubashar Hasan would be found out without much delay.

After 44 days of missing Mubashar Hasan returned home safely. Officer-in-charge (investigation) of Khilgaon Police Station, Dhaka said that they would submit a report before the court as Mubashar’s family filed a general diary after he went missing.

Banani Rape Case: NHRC Advocates for Justice

Media reported that two female students of a private university were raped at the Raintree Dhaka Hotel at Banani in the city on March 28, 2017. One of the victims went to Banani Police Station to file a case on May 6 over the incidence. But Banani Police did not receive their complaints on the first day, they accepted it one day later.

National Human Rights Commission took a *Suo Moto* on this incidence after being informed from media. NHRC formed a probe committee over the sensational incidence of rape of two University girls. And the committee was instructed to conduct prompt investigation and submit report within 15 working days.

Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRC said in Media that the Commission would fight for the Banani Rape victims. He added that a five-member probe body was formed headed by Commission’s Full Time Member Md. Nazrul Islam to investigate the incidence, including what role the Banani Police Station officers actually played. The Chairman also expressed that the Commission would recommend due punishment for the responsible persons.

The probe committee visited the place of occurrence Raintree Dhaka hotel and talked to the Hotel Management. The Committee summoned the Managing Director of the hotel Adnan Harun and General Manager Franc Forget and made queries on relevant aspects on the incidence and collected evidences and testimonies.

Later on, the probe committee also summoned the Deputy Commissioner, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Gulshan Division and Officer-in-charge, Banani Police Station. They came to NHRC office and talked to the probe committee on this incidence. Committee also listened to the victims and took testimonies they provided. NHRC’s panel lawyer was advised to give legal aid to the victims. At present, the case is under trial in lower Court and all the perpetrators are in jail.

Suo Moto Cognizance

NHRC has taken a remarkable number of *Suo Moto* cases into consideration after seeing media reports during this period as part of its regular activities. Some such cases are given below:

Torture on a Rape Victim and her Mother (Case No. 36/17)

Media reported that a teenage girl from Namazgar, Bogura was raped by an influential labor-league leader named Tufan Sarkar. After the occurrence of the incidence, Mst Asha, wife of Tufan Sarkar and her elder sister Marzia Hasan Rumki, ward councilor of Bagura city council called the victimin their home with the promise

of arranging for justice. When the victim and her mother went to their home with the hope of getting justice, Mst. Asha and Rumki detained them and tortured them severely. After getting news from local people police went there and rescued them and admitted them to hospital. Afterwards, the mother of the victim filed two cases against the perpetrators in Bogra Thana. NHRC took the case with strong conviction and issued notice to Deputy Commissioner of Bagura asking for quick report mentioning progress of the cases. Hon'ble Chairman of NHRC visited Bogra and discussed with all stakeholders to ensure punishment of perpetrators and also to create awareness to stop violence against women and girls.

Allegation of Torture by Police (Case No. 32/17)

Media reported that a young man, named Shajalal was arrested and tortured by the police on the basis of fake suspicion of hijacking. His one eye was uprooted before establishing the conjectured allegation. Police demanded that he had hijacked a woman's bag and public caught him red-handed. Police rescued him from public and took him to the police station. But Shajalal's family claimed that when he had gone out of home at night, police arrested him and took him to custody without assigning any reason. The family members were also reminded by police not to try to meet him under police custody. The next day they had heard that Shajalal was admitted to hospital. NHRC took *Suo Moto* case of this sensational incidence and asked for quick investigation report from the Deputy Commissioner of Khulna.

Mother Begg though Three Sons are Police Officer (Case No. 55/17)

It is reported by mass media that Monwara Begum, wife of late Ayub Ali of Barisal has been earning her livelihood by begging from door to door although among her six off-springs three sons are police officers and one daughter is a primary school teacher. Because of severe illness now she cannot go outside and is passing her life through great misery and hardships without treatment and food. Her sons and daughter don't look after her. NHRC takes the news seriously and files a *Suo Moto* case and issues notices to her five sons and one daughter asking for their individual statement on this context. NHRC also refers that what they have done to their mother is human rights violation and with consent from the victim, NHRC is ready to file maintenance case on behalf of their mother.

Death of a Student by Corporal Punishment (Case No. 154/17)

From BLAST, NHRC came to know that a school boy of class six died because of corporal punishment given by a school teacher of Monosha School and College, Potia, Chittagong. School teacher, Tahera Akter ordered the boy for standing up and sitting down fifty times at a stretch by holding his ears with hands. Instantly he began executing the teacher's order but no sooner than he had finished 18 sit-ups he fell sick and wanted to drink water. Tahera Akter allowed him leave but he became senseless in the school field on the way to home. He was taken to Upazila Health Complex instantly but the duty doctor declared him dead. NHRC took the case with strong conviction and issued notice to Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong asking for investigation and report. Later on, the DC of Chittagong sent report to NHRC that the allegation against the teacher was found proved that she gave corporal punishment to the student. In the report it was also mentioned that the teacher was ignorant of the child's suffering from incurable disease but it did not stand as an excuse, she was placed under suspension by the authority.

Death of Romel Chakma (Case No. 47/17)

Father of Romel Chakma, an inhabitant of Rangamati, CHT, lodged complaint in NHRC against members of law enforcement agency. He complained that his HSC examinee son Romel was abducted by some members of law enforcement agency from Naniachr Bazar. They tortured on Romel severely and at one point of torturing he became senseless. After that incidence the members of law enforcement agency took him to local hospital but due to his worsening health condition his treatment was not possible there; then they took him to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and after 12 days Romel Chakma died. And after his death the members of law enforcement agency did not return his dead body to his parents, instead, they burnt the dead body by patrolling fire. NHRC took the case with strong conviction and formed a three-member probe committee. The committee was instructed to submit report within fifteen working days. The Committee submitted the report and the Commission sent its observation to the government for further disciplinary action from their end.

Abuse and attempt to kill of a Child worker (Case No. 75/17)

Media reported that a 12-year old child who was a domestic worker was abused and tried to be killed by his house master. NHRC took *Suo Moto* of this case. According to the report, a poor farmer's son, named Al Amin had been working there for about six months and he was regularly subjected to physical torture even for the slightest mistakes. He had been kept

confined into a toilet and was supplied with scanty and sub-standard foods. They also attempted to kill him. NHRC formed a three-member probe committee to investigate the case. They were asked to visit the incident spot and submit a report within 15 working days.

Longdu Incidence, Rangamati: (Case No. 25/17)

Media's report on imposition of section 144 at Longdu, Rangamati for ongoing clashes and violence between Bangali settlers and ethnic minority people with the issue of Jubo league leader Nurul Islam Nayon's murder case drew special attention of NHRC. Nurul Islam Nayon used to earn money by driving motorcycle. On the day of his murder he carried two ethnic young boys in his motorcycle. After crossing the area of Khagrachori the two boys randomly attacked Nayon with Knife and killed him. Then they fled away with his bike. When the news spread over the whole area the Bangali settlers launched attack on the ethnic people and set their houses in fire. Many fled from their houses at night. NHRC took *Suo Moto* and formed a three-member probe committee to investigate the incident and submit report within 4 working days.

Complaint against some doctors of M.A.G. Osmani Medical College, Sylhet: (Case No. 580/16)

Mr. X lodged complaint against some doctors of M.A.G. Osmani Medical College, Sylhet for false treatment and negligence of duty. His wife was admitted there for delivery issue who afterwards gave birth to a baby girl there through scissors operation. On the next day of this operation the doctors conducted two other surgeries which caused extra complications needing her life support. NHRC took *Suo Moto* for the complaint and issued notice to Director of M.A.G. Osmani Medical College. The Director sent report mentioning that the hospital had formed inquiry committee and the matter had been mediated between the complainant and accused doctor in presence of the committee at the room of Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

Consultation with CSOs

NHRC organized a consultation jointly with HRP-UNDP titled "Human Rights Up Front: Exploring Collaborations to Promote Human Rights in Bangladesh" on 15 May 2017.

NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque said, "If we can combine our institutional strength and legal power endowed by NHRC Act 2009 with the knowledge and resources of different rights bodies we will be able to reach our strategic goals and targets."



He further said, "NHRC has formed 10 thematic committees headed by Commission Members to address various rights issues. The committees are formed comprehensively with inclusions of different representatives from both state and non-state actors."

Welcoming the initiative, Rasheda K Chowdhury, Executive Director, CAMPE said, "NHRC's collaboration will help the rights bodies strengthen their voices". Salma Ali, Executive Director, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association; Khushi Kabir, Coordinator, Nijera Kori; Zakir Hossain, Executive Director, Nagorik Uddyog and Sanjeeb Drong, Executive Director, Bangladesh Adibasi Forum, among others, spoke in the seminar.

Conference on World Day Against Trafficking in Person

NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque attended a Conference on World Day against Trafficking in Person on 30 July 2017 in National Press Club. The Program was organized by 17 organizations including INCIDIN, BRAC, BNWLA etc. In the conference, human rights activists demanded exemplary punishment for the godfathers of human trafficking that include different influential persons like lawmakers and recruiting agents.

Kazi Reazul Hoque said, "The real godfathers of human trafficking need to be found out with enforcement of law in full force and to be brought before justice ensuring exemplary punishment". Referring to police report, he further said, "Only 30 convicts have been given life imprisonment so far out of 3,500 human trafficking cases which indicates slow pace of justice delivery". "Moreover, those who are working behind Yaba business, human trafficking and arms smuggling should be identified and brought to justice on priority basis", he added.

Consultation with stakeholders on National Action Plan for Persons with Disability

NHRC in partnership with HRP-UNDP organized a consultation with stakeholders on National Action Plan for Persons with Disability (PWDs) on 26 July 2017 at BRAC Center.

Speaking as the Chief Guest, Kazi Reazul Hoque, Hon'ble Chairman, NHRC said, "Bangladesh has achieved most of the goals of MDGs which has been praised by international community. There has been a number of positive initiatives for the promotion and protection of the rights of PWDs but much remains to be done. All stakeholders and duty-bearers should come forward to ensure the rights of PWDs because many targets of SDGs involve welfare of these people".

Participants recommended that people with disabilities should be integrated into the mainstream of society by involving their participations in various economic and social activities through social protection programs or other available means for realizing their rights in the society. Inclusive education, adequate transport facilities and increased budget for the persons with special needs are recommended.

Roundtable Discussion on SDGs and Human Rights

NHRC in partnership with the Daily Sun organized a roundtable discussion on SDGs and Human Rights on 08 July 2017 at the conference room of East West Media Group Ltd. in Bashundhara R/A. Key Speaker of the Roundtable Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Coordinator of SDG Affairs, Prime Minister's Office said, "Let's work together to bring down hunger to zero level. If we work together, we are confident of achieving the SDGs." He further said, "Government is moving forward involving relevant stakeholders, public and private, development partners, civil society, underprivileged groups and communities, ministries and other entities to achieve the SDGs in a coordinated way".



"In line with the MDGs the SDGs have been formulated in a more comprehensive way encompassing all the important aspects of human development with distinct 17 goals and 169 targets. The key focuses of SDGs include eradicating poverty, sustainable production and responsible and prudent consumption, conservation of nature, life below water and life on land, bringing equality in all sectors, establishing an inclusive and peaceful society and ensuring quality education and human rights," said NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque.

Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member, General Economic Division, Planning Commission said, "In recognition of the success in achieving MDGs, Bangladesh was an important part of formulating the SDGs where 10 goals out of Bangladesh's 11 proposals were accommodated, which reveals that global concerns coincided with that of Bangladesh." Other distinguished discussants were Md. Nazrul Islam, Full Time Member, NHRC; Nasima Begum, Ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs; Enamul Hoque Chowdhury, Member, NHRC and Editor, The Daily Sun; Nurun Naher Osmani, Member, NHRC; Akhter Hussain, Member, NHRC; Meghna Guhathakurta, Member, NHRC; Prof. Dr. Mesbah Kamal, Chairperson, Research & Development Collective; Prof. Dr. Hamidul Huq, Dept. of Economics, United International University; Fred Witteven, Country Director, World Vision Bangladesh; Faruque Hassan, Senior Vice President, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association; Aroma Dutta, Former Member, NHRC; Ms. Nahida Sobhan, Director General, Economic Affairs Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ms. Rama Rani Roy, Additional Secretary, Ministry of CHT Affairs; Mr. Subhash Chandra Sarkar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Ms. Tahmina Rahman, Director, Article 19; Mr. Sanjeeb Drong, General Secretary, Indigenous Peoples Development Services; Mr. Shiabur Rahman, Executive Editor, The Daily Sun; Mr. Aziz Rahman, Executive Director, Center for Governance Studies.

National Mourning Day observation



National Human Rights Commission Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque along with Members and officials placed floral wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi 32, Dhaka on 15 August 2017. Later, Members and officials took part in a milad mahfil and a discussion at NHRC office. NHRC chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque narrated the biography of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from 'Unfinished Memoirs of Bangabandhu'. He said, "The sacrifice and contribution of Bangabandhu to the country's independence is one of the rarest instances in the history of human civilization. He had to go to jail for many times due to his protest against all exploitations, maladministration, persecutions, misdeeds and injustices done by the then Pakistani rulers". Citing Fidel Castro's observation on Bangabandhu that he had not seen the Himalayas, but he had seen Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. NHRC Chairman further wanted to evaluate the high stature of Bangabandhu as a man and as a global leader including the 7th March historic speech of Bangabandhu and our liberation war movement. He also dwelt on the dimension of Bangabandhu's human rights philosophy in his deliberation.

Launching ceremony of Right Here Rights Now (RHRN)

NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque graced the Chair of the Chief Guest in the launching ceremony of Right Here Rights Now (RHRN), a strategic global partnership that bring together ten organizations and an alliance working in Bangladesh to ensure meaningful and inclusive youth participation in SRHR intervention. The ceremony was organized by Bandhu Social Welfare Society and held at Lakeshore hotel, Gulshan, Dhaka on 18 October 2017. H. E. Leoni Margaret Cuelenaere, Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh attended the program as the Special Guest. The ceremony began with welcome remarks by Barrister Sara Hossain, Honorary Executive Director, BLAST.



Organizers honored distinguished Guests including NHRC Chairman showing token of appreciation

In his speech, Kazi Reazul Hoque said, "It is my great pleasure to be present at this august gathering. The issue on which the 11 organizations have become united is very important to address now. Our youths are not empowered to take their decision because they are not informed about Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Thus, without right education, they become prone to be prey to the situations involving HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancy and other related health problems. We need to aware family members and youths on these issues." He also urged the government to identify the actual numbers of the third gender so that they would not experience the hassle of going through the physical test every time when they counter any transaction with a GOB agency.

Highlighting NHRC's Intervention in Rohingya Crisis

Throughout the year 2017, NHRC's advocacy campaign on Rohingya crisis had been carried out tirelessly with multipronged attempts. NHRC had organized several consultations, dialogues with stakeholders, national and international, fact finding missions, documentary showcasing, presenting evidences to international People's Tribunal, making correspondences to different organizations focusing on Myanmar's ruthless atrocities and demanding to take strong diplomatic stance in favor of Rohingya against Myanmar so that collective pressure can force Myanmar government to stop torture and killing of Rohingyas and take them back to their ancestral land and ensure their basic rights. NHRC Chairman also wrote letters and made Call for Action to different international bodies like UN, UNHCR, NHRIs of APF region, including NHRC, Myanmar, ASEAN, OIC, APF, etc. in this regard.

On 06 September 2017, NHRC organized a dialogue with civil society on how to address Rohingya crisis and after the dialogue NHRC chairman held a press conference where he placed seven-point recommendations of NHRC to be taken into account by the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar as well as by the international community with a view to solving the ongoing Rohingya crisis. **In the press conference**, NHRC Chairman further urged that the UN Security Council could take initiatives to try the Myanmar army in the International Criminal Court for committing genocide and atrocities and snatching the Rohingya's citizenship and depriving them of their basic rights.



NHRC Chairman with team visited the Rohingyas on 09-11 September 2017 at registered and unregistered camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf, Cox's Bazar. Later, he shared his experience at a press conference at DC Office, Cox's Bazar. **He expressed deep concern over the horrendous war crimes and genocide committed by Myanmar.** He called for immediate international pressure on Myanmar to stop persecution of Rohingyas and take back its people from Bangladesh. He also mentioned that OIC and ASEAN countries should come forward to create pressure on Myanmar government. "Bangladesh has given shelter to Myanmar refugees on humanitarian ground and global leaders should come forward to extend financial and other logistic supports," he added.

NHRC team comprised of Full Time Member Md. Nazrul Islam; Member Prof. Akhter Hussain; UNDP Country Director Mr. Sudipto Mukerji, UNDP Chief Technical Adviser Sharmeela Rassool and other officials visited Kutupalong Rohingya Camp on 08-09 October 2017.

On 21-22 October 2017, a three-member committee of National Human Rights Commission led by NHRC Member Banchita Chakma also visited Kutupalong and Balukhali camp.

A high level delegation from UNHCR led by Mr. George-Okoth-Obbo, Assistant High Commissioner, UNHCR, met NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque and Members on 14 September 2017. Mr. George-Okoth-Obbo praised Bangladesh for extending support to the Rohingyas. Hon'ble Chairman shared his experience of visiting Rohingya camps and said that Rohingya community had been deprived of their human rights in Myanmar and faced crime against humanity there. He also told that the Prime Minister of Bangladesh was very kind to give them shelter. The Chairman called upon UNHCR to play strong role in repatriating Rohingyas in their ancestral land.

NHRC Chairman, attended International Ombudsman Conference in Istanbul, Turkey organized by the grand National Assembly of Turkey on 25-26 September 2017. The conference aimed at providing common understanding on the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in protection of human rights and promoting good governance principles through different perspectives and to strengthen cooperation by bringing together the Ombudsmen of East & West.

The Conference was inaugurated by **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, Hon'ble President, Republic of Turkey and attended by the Heads of Ombudsman institutions and Human Rights Commissions of more than 30 countries, mostly from Europe and Asia. Bangladesh Consul General in Istanbul, Dr. Mohammad Monirul Islam accompanied the NHRC Chairman in the Conference.

Hon'ble Chairman of NHRC delivered speech on **"Fights against Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Speech: A Case Study of Rohingyas"**.

The active participation of NHRC Chairman has not only provided a first-hand account of events but also helped to mobilize international support to put pressure on Myanmar to immediately stop violence and create enabling environment for the return of Rohingyas to their homeland in a safe, secured and dignified way.

The NHRC chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque also spoke before a Rome-based Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT), an international public opinion tribunal that operates independent of state authority. The purpose of the tribunal



was to "expose" the alleged inhuman treatment to Rohingyas and push to stop the crimes. It had been hearing victims from the Myanmar ethnic communities, recording their testimonies on their experiences in a court-like setting.

He called for immediate and unhindered access to humanitarian aid from the international community. "Unless a sustainable solution is found there is a possibility that the entire Rohingya community from Myanmar may flee to Bangladesh to escape this ongoing grave violation of human rights," NHRC Chairman said, seeking help of the international community to come forward to resolve the crisis.

The UN Human Rights Council's Fact-Finding Mission visited NHRC in October 2017 to have NHRC's view and experience on dealing with Rohingya crisis. NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque, Member Md. Nazrul Islam and Meghna Guhathakurta, Secretary Hiranmaya Barai attended meeting with the mission. Hon'ble Chairman said that **Myanmar's persecution was tantamount to genocide**. This genocide needed to be tried at international court. He added that UN could have created pressure on Myanmar to stop this heinous crime against Rohingyas.

On 26 October 2017, NHRC organized a Roundtable jointly with HRP-UNDP on "Rohingya Crisis: Call for Action". Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRC moderated the discussion. NHRC Members Md. Nazrul Islam, Prof. Meghna Guhathakurta, Nurun Naher Osmani, Prof. Akhter Hussain took part in the discussion.



Among the key discussants were Md. Shah Kamal, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief; Brig. Gen. M. Sakhawat Hussain, Former Election Commissioner; Ms. Sadia Faizunnesa, DG(UN), Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Rasheda K. Choudhury, Executive Director, CAMPE; Sheeba Hafiza, Executive Director, Ain o Shalish Kendra; Ms. Wahida Banu, Executive Director, Aparajeo Bangladesh; Ms. Momtaz Begum, Chairman, Jatio Mahila Sangstha; Dr. Mesbah Kamal, Chairperson, Research and development Collective (RDC);



Ambassador Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Anup Kumar Chakma; Ambassador Mr. Muhammad Azizul Haque; UNHCR Country Representative Mr. Kube; Shabnam Azim, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mass Communication & Journalism, University of Dhaka; Sharmeela Rassool, CTA, HRP-UNDP and other dignitaries of government, NGOs and UN agencies.

NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque said that the implementation of the **five point recommendation from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and recommendation from The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State might pave the way for desired solution to Rohingya repatriation**. Bilateral efforts alone would not be sufficient to make this happen and hence the international community could have extended their support towards Bangladesh, he further mentioned. He also said that the oppression made by Myanmar had encompassed all criteria of genocide and on that ground they should have been taken to the International Court.

United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Ms. Pramila Patten met NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque on 11 November 2017. The UN special envoy had come to Bangladesh with the purpose of having a clearer and better understanding of the patterns and trends of the sexual violence related to the conflict in Myanmar. During the meeting she said that they consistently heard about sexual violence from Rohingya survivors, including gang-rape of women by multiple soldiers. Appreciating the role of the government, Patten said Bangladesh not only opened borders for Rohingyas but also opened their homes and hearts. She urged NHRC to play leadership role in documenting sexual violence on Rohingya women & girls in Myanmar. NHRC Chairman said that the Commission had planned to study the issue and conduct a survey on Sexual violence against Rohingya girls and women.



From time to time members of different UN missions, UN agencies and international experts on issues related to genocide met NHRC Chairman and Members during their visit. They discussed about the atrocities done by Myanmar against Rohingyas. They wanted to know what NHRC as an independent institution was going to do in this regard. NHRC Chairman informed them that Commission was going to do an independent investigation on the atrocities. They also shared their experiences on their work in different international tribunals and ICC. Based on their inputs a detailed questionnaire was structured with support from Bangladesh Liberation War Museum and HRP-UNDP. The non-disclosure form for the investigators and consent form for the interviewees/survivors were also prepared.

The aim of the investigation was to collect testimonies of Rohingya women and girls who were raped and sexually abused in Myanmar. For the purpose of data collection in February 2018 NHRC officers jointly with research team of Liberation War Museum and HRP-UNDP visited Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. Hon'ble Chairman also visited the camps during that period. The research team were divided into four teams and all teams were composed of female interviewer, note-taker, interpreter and psychosocial counselor. Altogether 53 Rohingya women were interviewed as a part of documentation process NHRC will continue its effort in collecting more testimonies with a view to ensuring justice for the survivors.

NHRC hosts APF Communications Workshop

NHRC in partnership with Asia Pacific Forum organized APF Communications Workshop in October 2017 at Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka. The workshop was attended by participants from 20 countries of Asia Pacific region. NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque inaugurated the workshop.

With social media and video becoming an ever more important tool for education and advocacy, participants from 20 national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in the region have had opportunities to learn practical skills in making digital stories to support their work.

Participants of the APF Communications Network workshop also had the opportunity to learn about the basic elements of video production, including how to edit interviews they had filmed on a smart phone, and add overlay footage and mix in music.

By the end of the session, all participants had created a short video on what gender equality means to women and girls in their respective countries.



"Honest and authentic stories have always been powerful tools for human rights advocacy," said APF Communications Expert James Illiffe, who led the workshop for three days.

Consultation on National Action Plan for PWDs held

NHRC organized a consultation titled "Consultation on the National Action Plan for the PWDs: National & International Perspective" at BRAC Inn on June 15, 2017. The consultation was divided into two sessions i.e. Inaugural Session & Business Session. In the Inaugural Session Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman NHRC graced the Chair as the Chief Guest and Md. Zillar Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare was present as Guest of Honor. Mr. Zahidul Kabir, from World Vision Bangladesh presented a paper on the draft National Action Plan for the PWDs.



Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRC stated that achievement of GOB with regard to the rights of the children & PWDs were remarkable. NHRC gave a wakeup call to all secretaries regarding UPR. NHRC chair demanded immediate activation of all committees regarding PWDs & immediate adoption of NAP for the PWDs.

Mr. Zillar Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare, stated that government had always been very much positive for the protection & promotion of the rights of PWDs. "Our progress is good albeit huge limitations"- he said. The law relating to the inheritance of PWDs should be stringent and amendment should be brought in the Trust Act relating to the rights of the PWDs.

In the Business Session there was vibrant open discussion which was moderated by Md. Nazrul Islam, Full Time Member of NHRC.

Key Recommendations

- Confusions regarding role-play as focal ministry between MDWCA and MO Social Welfare when dealing with violence against disabled women be outlined in the NAP;
- NHRC role as a bridge between GOB & other Organizations dealing with the rights of the PWDs be strengthened;
- National Building Code needs to be reviewed and made disable friendly;
- All relevant Ministries are to be included in the NAP;
- The road-map for future of parentless disabled children be indicated in the NAP;
- In formulating laws and policies representations of PWDs be ensured;
- The right of PWDs in appearing at the judicial service exam be ensured;
- All forms of transportations (Air, Water and Land) be made disable friendly;
- Provision of "First Aid Box" in the Public Transport Act be inserted;

Consultation on Challenges Faced by Women in Work Places: Way Forward and Role of Stakeholders

In Bangladesh, empowerment of women has taken place in multiple ways, greatly and noticeably. The number of working women has been increased, not only in lower tiers of work-fields but also in the upper positions of decision making. But, as a matter of fact, the challenges faced by women in the workplaces are still many and need to be addressed properly. With the aim of stock taking on women's challenges by engaging cross sectors women professionals in dialogues and having shared their experiences in this regard, NHRC jointly with HRP-UNDP organized a consultation titled "**Challenges Faced by Women in Workplaces: Way Forward and Role of Stakeholders.**" Ms Meher Afroze Chumki, honorable State Minister, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs attended the consultation as the Chief Guest. Honorable Chairman of NHRC Kazi Reazul Hoque chaired the event. Suraiya Begum, NDC, Senior Secretary, Prime Minister's Office; Nasima Begum NDC, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Tanjina

Ismail, Senior District & Session Judge (Nari o Shishu Nirjatan Daman Special Tribunal-5) and Shaila Khan, Deputy Country Director of UNDP were present as Special Guests. Sharmeela Rassoool, Chief Technical Advisor, HRP shared the objectives of the Consultation.



Ms Meher Afroze Chumki said, "though the maternity leave covers 06 months, the time is still short for a pregnant woman to be settled with her child. A woman passes a very difficult time during her advanced stage. So, colleagues of pregnant women need to be more cooperative during this period."

In his speech Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRC said, "The number of women in workplaces has definitely increased but their challenges in personal and service life have also increased". He pointed out, "government's initiatives including social protection programs like Safety Net, Allowances for Widow / Elderly women, Stipend for Girls etc. for ensuring women's rights are ofcourse praiseworthy but still much remain to be done to address the myriad of challenges of women in workplaces".

The Consultation was started with the welcome address by Nurun Naher Osmani, Member of NHRC and Chair of the Women's Rights Thematic Committee. She shared that NHRC had grown very keen, since the inception of the thematic committee, on the issue of women's rights. She also said that from time to time NHRC had organized workshop, seminar, consultation, dialogues on different rights issues relating to women. NHRC played a vital role during enacting the Child Marriage Restraint Act and also drafted a separate rule on Child Marriage Restraint Act and submitted it to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA). As part of their continuous intervention on women's rights issues NHRC hosted the ongoing consultation.

Representatives from different professional women network i.e. Women Judges Association, Women Police Network, BCS Women Cadre Network, Women Lawyers Association, Women Journalists Network, CSOs Representatives, Corporate Representatives, Academics took part in discussions and added value to the program.

Seminar on Business and Human Rights

A seminar titled "Business and Human Rights" was jointly organized by National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh and HRP UNDP on 11 October 2017 at Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka. The seminar was attended by government officials, representatives from business sectors, NGOs and media.



MA Mannan, State Minister for Finance Division and Planning Division was present in the seminar as the Chief Guest. He said, "Human rights have direct relation with business in both the local and global context" "Necessary legal framework is required for protecting the human rights at industries". Md. Nojibur Rahman, Chairman, NBR, attended the seminar as Special Guest. In his speech he urged that business community could have come forward to ensure the rights of workers and employees. The Chairman of NHRC said, "Government needs to protect the rights of migrant workers who send billions of dollars in remittances every year and the garment workers who are driving major export earnings." He also mentioned, "though the rights of workers are somehow protected in the formal sector, it is totally absent in the informal sector in spite of its' big size and contribution to economy". "The existing labor laws are not being properly implemented", he added.

Sheepa Hafiza, Executive Director, Ain O Salish Kendra, pointed out "In the area of domestic services exploitation is being made for excessive labor in exchange of a very nominal payment violating human rights".

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Executive Director of Bangladesh Institute of Labor studies stated that the country's Laws and regulations related to human rights could have been reassessed as around 80 percent of workers engaged in both formal and informal sectors would not have been benefited by the Law.

Consultation Meeting on Voluntary National Review on SDGs

To ensure the complete participation and ownership of the civil society in the VNR, the National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with World Vision Bangladesh (WVB) has organized one divisional consultation meeting on 9th May, 2017 in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner's office, Khulna. The program was supported by the district administration, Khulna. The Chief Guest of the program was Chairman of National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh, Mr. Kazi Reazul Hoque. The program was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner of Khulna, Md. Moniruzzaman. The Special Guests of the program was Md. Fayekuzzaman, Vice-chancellor, Khulna University; Md. Shorif Uddin, Director, National Human Rights Commission; S M Habib, President, Khulna Press Club; Chandan Z Gomes, Director, Strategic Program Support & Advisory Services and Buli Hagidok, Regional Field Director, Southern Bangladesh Region, World Vision Bangladesh.



Kazi Reazul Hoque said, "Human Rights Commission is working for every inequality and injustice prevailing in this society. We have to ensure birth registration of every child in order to stop child marriage. Child Participation in decision making is also necessary and establishment of child rights is a must.

Md. Fayekuzzaman, Vice-chancellor, Khulna University said, "Every single citizen has the responsibility of building an ideal world and if everyone is interested in fulfilling one's responsibility and do so, we can change the world and establish every right for all human beings. If we want to achieve the goal by 2030 then we need to focus on our own responsibility and need the contribution from every sector".

S.M. Habib, President, Khulna Press Club said, "We have to keep in our mind that the goals are not only for the government rather these are for us. So, we have to take the responsibility to fulfill the goal." When people from every sector will take the ownership to create an ideal world then it is possible for us to achieve the goals.

Md. Moniruzzaman, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Khulna said, "Representatives from different sector of this society can be the major agents of change and we can reach the goals with a collaborative effort".

Participation in International Forum

Learning Visit to NHRIs of Thailand, India and Nepal

Experience sharing among different NHRIs creates opportunities to learn good practices. As a part of it National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh sent 03 teams to NHRIs of India, Nepal and Thailand.

NHRC delegation Led by Members Prof. Akhter Hussain and Banchita Chakma visited NHRC, Thailand in June 2017. The delegation also included Md. Shorif Uddin, Director (Complaint & Inquiry); Md. Israt Hossain Khan, Director (Admin & Finance); Farhana Syead, PRO and Azahar Hossain, Assistant Director (Training).

Another delegation from NHRC led by Member Nurun Naher Osmani visited NHRC, India in June 2017. Md. Shorif Uddin, Director (Complaint & Inquiry); Gaji Salauddin, Deputy Director (CC) (Complaint & Inquiry); Susmita Paik, Deputy Director (CC) (Complaint & Inquiry); Nayeema Prodhon, Assistant Director (Admin & Finance); Jumman Hossain, Superintendent also accompanied the delegation.



Delegation in Thailand

In June 2017, another team led by Prof. Meghna Guhatrhakurta visited NHRC, Nepal. The team included Hiranmaya Barai, Secretary; Farjana Najneen Tultul, Assistant Director (Social Service & Counseling); Md. Sazzatur Rahman, Assistant Director (Research); Md. Touhid Khan, Assistant Director (IT).

Regional Expert Group Meeting in Srilanka

Hon'ble Chairman of NHRC Kazi Reazul Hoque attended Regional Expert Group meeting to review the Draft Regional Strategy on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation including Online Safety. The meeting was



Delegation in Nepal



Delegation in India

organized jointly by the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children, Global Fund and Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of Srilanka in August 2017 in Colombo, Srilanka. Hon'ble Chairman shared the developments regarding promotion and protection of child rights in Bangladesh as well as other South Asian countries as Chair of the session.

22nd Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference of the APF

A delegation from NHR C comprising of hon'ble Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque, Full Time Member Md. Nazrul Islam and Deputy Director Kazi Arfan Ashik attended 22nd Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference of the APF.

The meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2017. The meeting discussed issues of joint common concern as well as a range of business related issues. The



one-day conference brought together APF members, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, civil society and UN agencies to consider issues relating to conflict, human rights and the role of NHRIs. Hon'ble Chairman also attended experience sharing on "Global Trends on Human Rights and Role of NHRIs" organized by UNDP, Thailand on 30 November 2017. NHRC Full Time Member Md. Nazrul Islam, Members Nurun Naher Osmani, Enamul Hoque Chowdhury, Secretary Hiranmaya Barai and three officers attended the program.

Conference on "Using Interactive Technology for Police Training and Public Engagement: Showcasing the Virtual Police Station" in Nepal

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), an international non-government organization based in New Delhi working on improving policing standards in India and South Asia for nearly a decade organized a conference on the mentioned topic. The conference was organized in October 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Md. Shorif Uddin, Director (Complaint & Inquiry) of NHRC joined the program. The objective of the conference was to demonstrate an e-learning tool called the Virtual Police Station (VPS) which CHRI has developed with the help of the Rajasthan Police in India.

Workshop on Indigenous Navigator in Thailand

A delegation consisting Members Prof. Akhter Hussain and Banchita Chakma attended workshop titled "Indigenous Navigator" organized by the Danish Institute for Human Rights in June 2017. The workshop was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The objective was to share experiences and lessons learned among NHRIs and enhance their capacity to protect and promote indigenous peoples' rights including within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Fellowship Program on "Human Rights Policy Development" in South Korea

In June 2017 Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) organized fellowship program on "Human Rights Policy Development" in South Korea.



Hiranmaya Barai, Secretary and Kazi Arfan Ashik, Deputy Director (Admin & Finance) joined the program. The program was intended to increase capacities for planning and implementing various strategic policies with regard to education.

Senior Executive Officer (SEO) Network Meeting

Hiranmaya Barai, Secretary of NHRC attended Senior Executive Officer (SEO) Network Meeting of APF in August 2017. The meeting intended to bring together SEOs from across the APF member network in a peer supported environment to share expertise and best practices in the context of the promotion and protection of human rights and the administration of national institutions.

Seminar on 'The administration of justice and law enforcement: international cooperation and sharing experiences' in Morocco

Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) is a global initiative led by the governments of Chile, Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco with the aim of promoting universal ratification and improved implementation of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Core members of CTI the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, Government of Indonesia and Wilton Park jointly organized a seminar titled "The administration of justice and law enforcement: international cooperation and sharing experiences" in October 2017 in Fes, Morocco. M. Rabiul Islam, Deputy Director-CC (Complaint & Inquiry) attended the seminar.

The seminar aimed to explore experiences and approaches to implementing safeguards in relation to arrest and detention of suspects; exchange the latest techniques of questioning and interviewing suspects, witnesses and victims; and share good management approaches in relation to police services and law enforcement.

Total Complaints

Registered Complaints 610
Disposed 216
Under consideration 394



Patrons

Chief Patron:

Kazi Reazul Hoque

Patrons:

Md. Nazrul Islam

Begum Nurun Naher Osmani

Mr. Enamul Hoque Chowdhury

Professor Akhter Hussain

Professor Meghna Guhathakurta

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