



National Human Rights Commission
Bangladesh

NEWSLETTER

Human Rights for All Everywhere Equally

Dhaka | December- 2016 | Issue 5

Human Rights Day 2016 celebration

Human Rights Day, 2016 was duly celebrated on 10 December in Dhaka by the National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh (NHRCB) in a befitting manner. The Human Rights commemorates the day on which, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. In 1950, the Assembly passed resolution 423 (V), inviting all States and interested organizations to observe 10 December of each year as Human Rights Day. The Global theme of the Human Rights Day was set as "Stand up for someone's rights today." The day witnessed a grand rally followed by a seminar by a panel of distinguished discussants and guests.

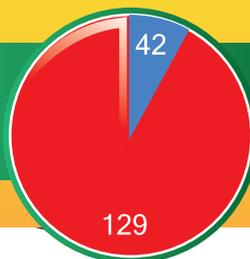


Distinguished Guests at the Seminar



The rally started from TSC, Dhaka University and reached at CIRDAP premise. Following the rally, a seminar was held at CIRDAP auditorium. Advocate Anisul Huq, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs addressed the seminar as the Chief Guest. NHRCB Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque presided over the seminar.

Registered Complaints 171
 Disposed 42
 Under Consideration 129



NHRCB Shifts Office to Karwan Bazar

New Location

*BTMC Building (Level-8),
 7-9 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215*

Md. Nazrul Islam, Full-Time Member, NHRCB delivered welcome speech; Barrister M. Amir-Ul Islam, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh presented the key note paper on "STAND UP FOR SOMEONE'S RIGHT TODAY". Mr. Nick Beresford, Deputy Country Director, UNDP, Bangladesh attended the seminar as special guest.



Human Rights Day 2016 Rally in Rangamati led by NHRCB Member Ms. Banchita Chakma



Human Rights Day 2016 Rally in Khulna led by NHRCB Member Meghna Guhathakurta

Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRCB said in his speech, "though the present government has taken some initiatives to ensure human rights, there are still many challenges to be addressed." He added "common people are still being subjected to violations of human rights as well as fundamental rights." He urged that the government would enact the Anti-Discrimi-

nation Law as soon as possible. In response, Advocate Anisul Huq, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs said that the Anti-Discrimination Law would be passed shortly. Mr. Nick Beresford emphasized on the point that children would have to be taught human rights at schools because they needed to be made aware of human rights at an early age. Nurun Naher Osmani and Enamul Hoque Choudhury, Members of NHRCB had been present at the seminar. Mr. Hiranmaya Barai, Secretary, NHRCB delivered vote of thanks. The seminar encompassed open discussion where representatives from government organizations, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and media participated. NHRCB also celebrated the day in its district offices in Khulna and Rangamati.



Human Rights Day Message

This year marks the 67th anniversary of human rights day. It is the day which commemorates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted to promote and protect human rights in 10 December 1948. Human rights denote the rights of human beings that they enjoy for being humans. These are inalienable rights. In Bangladesh, protection of human rights is a constitutional goal and it is the constitutional obligation of the state to uphold and protect human rights. Thus, the National Human Rights Commission Act was enacted in 2009 in order to demonstrate Bangladesh's commitment to promote and protect human rights in the country.

Like the previous years, National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh celebrated the day in a befitting manner. The day was observed with a grand rally followed by discussion in Dhaka and also in two regional offices in Khulna and Rangamati. As Chairman of NHRCB, before the Human Rights Day, I along with other Commissioners have discussed with a number of NGOs and human rights defenders on how to observe the day. In my opinion, the day was celebrated to create mass awareness. After a series of meetings with human rights defenders, NHRCB finalized the program. On this day, human rights message was delivered to all the mobile phones through sms. Media coverage of the program was also noticeable.

On this day, I expressed my urge to the government to enact Anti-discrimination Act as soon as possible. Though Bangladesh has passed a number of laws to protect human rights, complaints against violation of human rights including discriminations may be lodged directly to the NHRC and cases can also be filed to the court. The Commission is committed to continue its activities for the protection and promotion of human rights of all and raise voice against any human rights violations.

Kazi Reazul Hoque

Chairman

National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh

UN Resident Coordinator Robert Watkins meets NHRCB Chairman & Commissioners

On 08 September 2016, UN Resident Coordinator Robert Watkins visited NHRCB office to meet and share views with the new Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque, Full Time Member Md. Nazrul Islam and the other commissioners. The meeting took place in the conference room of NHRCB office. Commissioners Mr. Enamul Hoque Chowdhury and Mr. Akhter Hussain, Secretary Mr. Hiranmaya Barai and UNDP



representative Ms. Mahmuda were also present at the discussion. Mr. Robert Watkins congratulated new Chairman as well as the commissioners on their appointment by the Honorable President in the dignified statutory posts and expressed his hope that the Commission would play active role and do their best against human rights violations. He said that though NHRCB had been playing a very challenging role in the country, lately, international community had grown concerned about the contemporary human rights situation of Bangladesh. In particular, he mentioned about the recent attacks on foreigners, bloggers and innocent people by the religious extremists. He also appreciated the role of NHRCB in addressing the issues. He pointed out that NHRCB could increase its awareness raising activities on human rights.

Meeting between NHRCB and Dutch Delegation

On 24 October 2016, five member delegation from the Embassy of Netherlands, Bangladesh comprising Leoni Cuelenaere, Ambassador; Kees Van Baar, Human Rights Ambassador; Louise Hujibens, Senior Policy Advisor; Lisette Blum, First Secretary and Nadim Farhad, Political Advisor visited NHRCB and met Honorable Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque. They discussed about human rights situation of



Bangladesh and the role of NHRCB. Md. Nazrul Islam, Full-Time Member of NHRCB also attended the discussion.

European Union Delegation visits NHRCB

On 25 September 2016, Konstantinos Vardakis, Minister Counsellor, Head of Political, Trade, Press and Information, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh met honorable Chairman of NHRCB Kazi Reazul Hoque and Member Md. Nazrul Islam.



Mr. Vardakis informed the Chairman that European Union had wanted to set its Human Rights strategy on Bangladesh consulting with NHRCB and Civil Society organizations. He also expressed his interest of working together with NHRCB for the promotion & protection of human rights in the country.

Honorable Chairman at first briefed Mr. Vardakis about the activities, priorities, goals and previous achievements of the Commission. He mentioned that NHRCB had set its priority to meet up the changing circumstances of social unrest with emergence of religious extremism by enlisting awareness raising activities on extremism in the top of the list. He also categorically informed the visiting delegation of EU that against every case of human rights violation NHRCB had been habitually raising its voice and actively taking necessary actions. Expressing satisfaction on arresting the suspected killer of school girl Risha, Mr. Hoque told that NHRCB had taken the case with strong conviction establishing the fact that cooperation between people and police could improve the condition of law and order situation of the country.

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Meeting with USAID delegates

On 12 December 2016, a two member delegation comprising of Dana Stinson, Division Chief & Kevin Gash, Democracy, Human Rights & Governance Officer of USAID met with NHRCB's Full-Time Member Md. Nazrul Islam. They discussed about present human rights situation in Bangladesh, especially the incidences of Nasirnagar and Gaibandha involving violations of



rights of ethnic minorities and the role of NHRCB in promotion & protection of human rights in Bangladesh & how to strengthen cooperation between NHRCB & USAID.

Highlighting Important NHRCB Interventions

Attack on Khadiza: NHRCB Takes Sue-Moto (Case No. 12/16)

On 03 October 2016, Khadiza Begum, a 19-year old College girl was hacked with a machete by Badrul Alam, a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL) Shahjalal University of Science and Technology unit in Sylhet. He was caught by the people who witnessed the incident and handed over to the police immediately after the attack. The incident created major protest around the country.

NHRCB took Sue Moto (Case No. 12/16) on the case and issued notice to Ministry of Home Affairs to investigate the case and submit report to NHRCB. The Ministry submitted report that IGP is instructed to take legal action against Badrul, the accused perpetrator.

On 05 October 2016, honorable Chairman visited Square Hospital where Khadiza was receiving treatment. The Chairman talked with the doctors and hospital authorities and told them to take special care of the girl. After that, he briefed in media and said, "I hope that the promise of honorable Home Minister to bring the perpetrator under justice and ensure his punishment will come into reality very soon. As the attack was made openly and as it was the people who caught the attacker and handed him to the police, the trial should be carried out in a speedy trial court. We want to see that the police will finish investigation immediately and submit charge sheet accurately within one week." Finally police submitted charge-sheets and the case is going on.

NHRCB stands for the Santal community of Gobindaganj (Case No: 15/16)

A 10-member team consisting of NHRCB Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque, members of the parliamentary caucus on indigenous people and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) visited Gobindaganj, Gaibandha where a clash occurred between Santals and police. Media reported that three Santal men were killed and 27 people, including nine policemen were injured following a clash with law enforcers and workers



of Rangpur Sugar Mills in Gobindaganj upazila on November 6, 2016. The clash broke out when workers of Rangpur Sugar Mills along with police went to Bagda Farm area to reclaim land of the sugar mill allegedly occupied by the Santal community.

Following the visit and talking to the Santal community people NHRCB Chairman informed the media, "The eviction of Santals from their village in Gobindaganj was illegal. No one has the right to forcibly evict people. Whether the Santals settled in the sugar farm legally or illegally,

their eviction required legal process. In primary investigation, we have noticed many evidences of crimes including murder and arson that took place during the eviction."

NHRCB has taken Sue Moto action on the incident and discussed, it in full-bench of the Commission. It is investigating to identify the perpetrators responsible for violating Human Rights of the Santals.

NHRCB Ensures Punishment of a Corrupt Police Constable (Case No: 596/14)

NHRCB received complaints from a Police Constable's wife that he (Police Constable) married her three years ago but had willfully refrained from registering the marriage. He used to torture her and was in the habit of maintaining extra-marital affairs with a number of girls. Even he had been maintaining illicit connection with local terrorists. The Commission took the case with strong conviction and issued notice to the concerned authority to investigate the case and submit report accordingly to the Commission. The authority submitted report mentioning that the allegations against the constable were found genuine and proved and consequently he was placed under suspension from his job. The Commission observed that due to some corrupt police officials/ staff the reputation of the entire police forces had to face lots of criticism in different time. Honorable chairman further added that members of law enforcement agencies might also be called the protectors of human rights as long as they render hazardous and hassle-some services to maintain law and order and discipline in the society. Thus, they should be provided with proper human rights training.

Departmental case filed against Head Master involved in corporal punishment (Case No: 76/16)

NHRCB received a complaint from BLAST that 15 students were beaten by the head master of Bageswari government primary school, Munshiganj. They were severely injured. NHRCB believes that corporal punishment is a form of human rights violation. The Commission issued notice to the Deputy Commissioner of Munshiganj to investigate the allegation and take necessary action against him if the allegation was found established. Deputy Commissioner sent a report to the Commission mentioning that the allegation was proved and departmental case was lodged against the head master. The Commission observed that in 2011, Bangladesh Supreme Court declared all types of corporal punishment in schools 'illegal and unconstitutional'. Bangladesh as a signatory of UN Convention on Children's Rights is under obligation to protect children from being subjected to torture, punishment and any cruel or inhuman or humiliating behavior (article 37) and physical violence (article 19) as children are human beings with the right to dignity and physical integrity. Thus, mass awareness against corporal punishment is needed. The teachers who are involved in corporal punishment should be punished accordingly.

NHRCB's Participation in Regional and International Forum of NHRIs

21st Annual Meeting of the APF

NHRCB delegation attended 21st annual meeting of the APF, held in Bangkok, Thailand on October 26-27. The meeting brought together all 22 APF member institutions including representatives from the NHRIs of Bahrain, Fiji, Iraq and Pakistan.

The NHRCB delegation headed by Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRCB and comprising of Md. Nazrul Islam, Full-Time Member, NHRCB; Ms. Banchita Chakma, Member, NCRCB and Md. Shorif Uddin, Director, NHRCB. During the meeting, NHRCB played very active role. APF members including Bangladesh provided a short overview of their current activities and priorities, as well as participated in an open dialogue with NGOs from the region on issues of shared concern. The two-day meeting also discussed:

- An APF report on the death penalty in the Asia Pacific that members can draw on when advocating with their governments to move towards a de facto moratorium or abolition of the death penalty
- Strategies to build on recent developments that have opened the path for the independent participation of NHRIs in the work of the UN General Assembly and other New-York based UN bodies, including the Commission on the Status of Women
- A proposal to refresh the APF's governance structure to better meet the needs of its growing membership.

65th session of CEDAW Committee

NHRCB delegation attended 65th session of CEDAW Committee held on 24 October- 18 November 2016 at Geneva, Switzerland. The delegation comprised of honorable Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque, Member Md. Nazrul Islam and Nurun Naher Osmani.

The Committee considered the reports of the following States parties during its 65th session: Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus (under the simplified reporting procedure), Bhutan, Burundi, Canada, Estonia, Honduras, Netherlands and Switzerland. The committee held informal meetings with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and national human rights institutions (NHRIs), and also attended several lunchtime briefings organized by nongovernmental organizations. Hon'ble chairman of NHRCB Kazi Reazul Hoque was allocated a slot of 10 minutes and his presentation was appreciated by both UNCEDAW Committee and Bangladeshi NGOs who participated at the event.

Workshop on Promoting and protecting human rights in relation to sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics (SOGISC)

On October Asia Pacific Forum in close collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme Bangkok Regional Hub (UNDP BRH) organized a workshop on Promoting and protecting human rights in relation to sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics (SOGISC) in Sri Lanka. The overall aim was to promote and protect human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in each country.

Upon completion of 4 week online component, NHRCB officers M. Rabiul Islam, Senior Assistant Director and Azahar Hossain, Assistant Director attended the workshop. The course was highly collaborative and encouraged participants to contribute real-life scenarios, stories and examples on SOGISC issues for the collective learning of their colleagues.

Workshop on Worker's rights at Qatar

On 13 November 2016 NHRCB Assistant Director Joydev Chakrabarty attended two-day long National Human Rights Institutions Committees Partnership workshop on Worker's rights at Doha, Qatar organized by Asia Pacific Forum (APF). The workshop discussed about means of cooperation between national institutions and government agencies concerned to protect and promote the rights of workers; international and regional mechanisms for the protection of the rights of workers; national system for the protection of the rights of workers; role of national human rights institutions in the promotion of human Rights; workers' rights in international and regional conventions.

NHRCB Visits

Dhaka Medical College Hospital Visit

On 01 November 2016, NHRCB Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque visited One Stop Crisis Center, Dhaka Medical College hospital to meet Dinajpur and Bhatara rape survivors. He talked to the victims, their relatives and the doctors. After that, He talked to journalists. He said, "In most cases, charge sheets are not well written and offenders use loopholes to escape punishments. Moreover, very often it happens that police themselves manipulate in delaying the submission of charge sheets. For cases like these identifying the criminals, collecting evidence and obtaining medical reports are not difficult. Police need to submit the charge sheet as soon as possible so that the criminals cannot bribe or harass the witnesses." Honorable Chairman urged the prosecutors to move for the victim promptly and asked the local police for encouraging the Bhatara community to support the victim so that they can make a stand against the influential evil-doers. He also said that NHRCB always followed up the sensitive cases such as these.

NHRCB Chairman met the workers burnt in Ashulia Gas Lighter Factory

On 23 November 2016, NHRCB Chairman along with a team visited DMCH to meet the workers those were victims of burn injury in Ashulia Gas Lighter Factory (Color Match BD Ltd) blaze. He talked to the doctors, injured workers and their relatives and came to know about the incident and their ongoing treatment. He instantly sent an investigation team to the spot led by Md. Shorif Uddin, Director (C & I), NHRCB. Following the visit, honorable Chairman briefed the media.



He expressed that severe negligence of the owners of the factory was larking behind the cause of fire and the casualties. He also said that if the workers were provided with special protective gear during work they could at least minimize the extent of injuries. His observation was that there was no arrangement of safety measures such as specific uniforms, masks etc. in the factory. The factory owners, government organizations, fire service and Labor Ministry would have to share responsibilities in the matter.

Visit to Tampaco Foils Industry, Tongi

On 11 September 2016, NHRC Chief Kazi Reazul Hoque along with Full Time Member Md. Nazrul Islam & some other officers visited the factory inferno that occurred at Tampaco Foils Industry, Togi, Gazipur. The NHRCB chief inspected the spot, talked with the family members of victims, inhabitants of the area, Superintendent of Police, Gazipur & the different agencies who were trying to control the fire & finding out the dead bodies of the ill-fated workers from the debris.



NHRCB Chairman said to the media that NHRCB would form a high level inquiry committee consisting of representatives from the relevant agencies. The committee would make spot inquiry & discuss with stakeholders to identify the reasons of such a big incident. The findings of the inquiry committee would be forwarded to the relevant agencies with the view that they would take every step to maintain the safety and security of the workers and ensure the compliance of the labor laws." Meanwhile, a high-level investigation committee led by the Member Md. Nazrul Islam was formed. The committee is instructed to submit report immediately.

Juvenile Correction Center Visit

On 23 November 2016, NHRCB Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque along with a team visited Juvenile Correction Center (Female) in Gazipur. He talked to the authority, local administration, officers and the girls staying in the center. After the visit, he briefed the journalists. He found to his surprise that 54 juveniles were victims of circumstances; 67 were supposed to



be kept in safe custody. But they were staying in the correction center whereas the center itself was built for the purpose of correcting the juveniles who committed crimes. Honorable Chairman added that he would write to the Ministry of Social Welfare regarding governance of safe custody for the juvenile.

Honorable Chairman also observed that majority of the victims got married before 18 fleeing from their home. They wanted to go to their husbands. There were some girls who were above 18 years of age. There were also some missing children and juveniles with disabilities. Victims and criminals were staying together. There were complaints that girls were deprived of privacy and they face sexual harassment. The adolescent girls were subject to be given proper security. Some of the adolescent girls were interviewed by two female members of NHRCB team. In response of the queries they informed that there was an incidence of sexual harassment by a male guard one year ago. The accused guard was dismissed from his job and after that all the male guards were replaced by female guards. Since then there was no such incidence. Honorable Chairman advised the center authority not to employ any male guard, cook or any other service provider. All service providers must be female. He also said that they were already victims of some crimes and NHRCB wanted them not to be victims in the correction center again.

NHRCB Chairman expressed his opinion that basic training could be provided to the girls on computer literacy. The Commission came to know that there were girls who read in school but as the center lacked teachers they were not able to continue their study. Honorable Chairman told that he would write to the government for appointing teachers and psycho social counselors so that those girls could continue their study and get proper counseling. The Chairman advised the center authority so that they produce the inmates before the court in time and the probation officers move the cases for immediate release of the missing girls and the rights to education of the inmates are ensured.

NHRCB Chairman met tortured freedom fighter Imam Uddin

Eighty-eight-year-old freedom fighter was severely beaten up by some of his villagers in Ishwarganj upazila, Mymensingh as he protested assault on his son over a trivial matter. Seeing the media report, on 06 December 2016, NHRCB Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque along with member Enamul Hoque Chowdhury and some other officers went to the local upazila health complex where he was undergoing treatment. The hospital authority shifted him to the freedom fighters' ward immediately after knowing that NHRCB Chairman would visit the hospital.



Honorable Chairman giving fruits to Imam Uddin while went to meet him

During conversation between NHRCB Chairman and Imam Uddin, he (Imam) alleged that the attackers had beaten him over a trifling matter. He demanded justice for the attack. Honorable Chairman condemned the attack on the freedom fighter and talked to the local administration officers including DC, SP as to deal with the case seriously and arrest the perpetrators as quick as possible. He also instructed the hospital authority to take care of him.

Comilla Central Jail Inspection

On 05 October 2016, NHRCB team led by Member Md. Nazrul Islam inspected Comilla Central Jail. During the visit, Md. Nazrul Islam talked to the prisoners and prison officials. After inspection, he briefed the press. He said, "The jail is supposed to accommodate 1,742 inmates but at present, there are 2,989 inmates. Due to the overload, the inmates are suffering from different inconveniences including health



hazard. We have also seen some mismanagement of authority. There is also lack of doctors inside the prison. We will recommend to the government to immediately resolve the problems of this jail."

Seminars in Review

NHRCB organizes Round Table Discussion with Editors of Electronic and Print Media

National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh organized a Round Table Discussion with the editors of print and electronic media at the National Press Club, Dhaka on 29 September 2016. The subject of the discussion was Terrorism and Militancy: A Way Forward. The discussion was designed to seek opinion from the editors and journalists as to how terrorism and militancy could be addressed in NHRCB way. At the out-



set of the discussion, Mr. Enamul Hoque Chowdhury, Member, NHRCB introduced the members of the Commission to the audience.

Mr. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRCB welcomed the editors in his opening remarks. He said to the editors, "We have crafted a strategic plan to work for human rights development. We will even go for revising it after we get your suggestions and inputs." He emphasized on the implementation of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009. He also said, "NHRCB is accountable to the people of Bangladesh and transparent to the media. That is why we have incorporated members from the civil society including media in our nine thematic committees." "Government is countering terrorism and militancy through law enforcement agencies and NHRCB is trying to find out ways as to how the corrupt mindset of militants who are brainwashed in the name of religion can be streamlined to normal course of life," he added.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Media Adviser to the Prime Minister welcomed the new Commission Members. He said that Commission would work independently and without fear. Independence of the Commission would be utilized in full force for the protection of the rights of the people. He added that terrorists and militants were always causing human rights violation in home and abroad. He assured that media would always come forward to support the Commission in addressing the issue.

Mozammel Haque Babu, Chief Editor, 'Ekattor TV urged that NHRCB would take the challenges for working against occasional mal administration or torture of government agencies. He sought a bold step from NHRCB in this regard. Eminent columnist Syed Abul Maksud in his speech urged that he liked to see NHRCB as truly poor-friendly. He also added that the success of the Commission would depend upon how strongly it could respond to the human rights violation cases committed by the powerful persons and rulers. Renowned Columnist Rahat Khan in his speech said that the main task of the Commission was none but awareness building on human rights. He also added that Commission should have taken into consideration why terrorism and militancy would take place.



Abdul Kaiyum, Associate Editor, Prothom Alo thanked NHRCB for organizing such a timely discussion with media. He expressed his optimism that NHRCB would be able to extend its humanitarian campaigns and activities towards greater canvass in future. Kamrul Islam Chowdhury, General Secretary, National Press Club said that people had grown hopeful on the activities of

NHRCB, as far as its involvement with the poor and marginalized people was concerned. Moreover, Muhammad Shafiqur Rahman, Senior journalist and President of the National Press Club expressed his dissatisfaction over the human rights violation in the name of Islam.

Finally, Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRCB thanked all the editors and journalists for joining the discussion. He mentioned that the commitment of media to assist the commission would help him a lot to take courageous steps in future. Md.Nazrul Islam, Full Time Member, NHRCB commented that media worked as a catalyst for NHRCB when it dealt with sue moto cases of human rights violation. It was the media that featured the sensational news and acted as a provider of facts and information for NHRCB in a way that NHRCB could not refrain from starting a sue moto case. He added that NHRCB always cooperated with media as and when situation demanded. The relationship and partnership was always mutual and abiding. He also expressed his thankfulness and gratitude to all concerned and sought cooperation of media for the protection of human rights. Professor Akhter Hussain, Member, NHRCB expressed his happiness that the new Commission was formed in a way that it happened to be very vibrant to work together for the promotion and protection of human rights. Ms. Nurun Naher Osmani, and Meghna Guha-thakurta, Members of the Commission were also present at the discussion.

NHRCB Organizes Seminar on SDGs: Gender Equality

On 02 November 2016, NHRCB organized a seminar on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Gender Equality at Hotel Radisson Blu, Dhaka. Mr. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRCB chaired the seminar. At first, Nurun Naher Osmani, Member, NHRCB and Chair of the Women's Rights Thematic Committee of NHRCB delivered welcome address.

Mr. Akhter Hussain, Member, NHRCB



presented the key note paper on "SDGs: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment". He mentioned that major changes are required to be made in the inheritance law. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Honorable Chairman of NHRCB said "UNCEDAW Committee has identified the most vulnerable areas where we should work and government, NHRCB and CSOs are very active and working hard for the empowerment of women in the country."

He also said, "Bangladesh is growing fast with its Vision-2021 in the path of development. Bangladesh needs to focus concentration on one more thing and that is gender equality. Though our honorable Prime Minister, Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition hail from the female gender it does not mean that we have achieved gender equality. We are still far behind it. In Upazila level we want to see women as UP chairpersons and members."

Mentioning about Government's reservation on Article 2 and 16 of CEDAW, honorable Chairman said that Bangladesh government should have withdrawn the reservations as it was complying with the provisions in other ways. He felt that it was the high time to fully comply with all the provisions of CEDAW. The distinguished guests present in the seminar applauded the strong stance declared by the NHRCB regarding gender equality.

Mizanur Rahman, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs; Sudipto Mukherjee, Country Director, UNDP- Bangladesh; Christine Hunter, Country Representative, UNWOMEN- Bangladesh; His Excellency Johan Frisell, Ambassador, Embassy of Sweden addressed the seminar as Guests of Honor.

Spot Enquiry

Sl. No.	Allegations	Date of visit
01	Allegation of women and children abuse in Turag area of Dhaka	03 September 2016
02	Suicide of a school girl due to being unable to pay examination fees.	04 September 2016
03	Deteriorating working condition in Rahim Steel Mill in Narayanganj area of Dhaka	22 September 2016
04	Police attack on teachers protesting for nationalization of Fulbaria Degree College in Mymensingh	30 September 2016
05	Inferno at Tampaco Foils Industry, Tongi	19 November 2016
06	Attack on minority in Nasirnagar, Brahmanbaria	02 November 2016
07	Santal eviction in Gabindaganj, Gaibandha	14 November 2016
08	Ashulia Gas Lighter Factory (Color Match BD Ltd) blaze in Ashulia area of Dhaka	24 November 2016
09	Corporal Punishment by a School Teacher in Kafrul area of Dhaka	21 December 2016

Chief Patron:

Kazi Reazul Hoque

Patrons

Md. Nazrul Islam

Ms. Nurun Naher Osmani

Enamul Hoque Chowdhury

Akhter Hussain

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