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Stop human trafficking It's a worst kind of slavery



Home Adviser Maj Gen (retd) MA Matin addressing the inaugural function of a new investigation unit of police against human trafficking at a city hotel on Tuesday.

FocusBangla

Staff Reporter

Home Affairs Adviser Maj Gen (retd) MA Matin yesterday urged all to join the fight against human trafficking, as it was a form of modern slavery.

"Organised criminals earn billions of dollars by trading human beings

like merchandise and it's high time that we bring an end to this

gross violation of human rights," he said.

The Home Adviser inaugurated the Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) Investigation Unit of police at Hotel Radisson in the city yesterday. Home Secretary Abdul Karim and Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad, among others, were present at the function.

MA Matin said human trafficking is a serious crime that not only violates the dignity of the individual but also infringes on human rights.



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The impact of trafficking on individuals and on society is destructive and most unacceptable, he said. The UN defines trafficking in person as recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring of persons by means of threat or use of force or by other forms of coercion like abduction, fraud, deception and abuse of power for the purpose of exploitation, he added.

The Home Adviser MA Matin said in the country, poverty, land fragmentation, floods and cyclones, landlessness and demand for dowry, push people to search for opportunities outside the county. With an average per capita income of US\$500, Bangladesh is the one of the largest migrant-exporting countries in Asia.

Trafficking in the country exists for the purpose of forced labour and forced prostitutions. An estimated 90 per cent of trafficked women were forced into rapidly growing prostitutions, he said.

He said 400,000 Bangladeshi women are engaged in forced prostitution in India and 300,000 Bangladeshi boys have been trafficked to India. Every day 50 Bangladeshi girls are lured across the border to India. Bangladeshi girls who are trafficked to India by organised networks usually end up in brothels in Kolkata or Mumbai.

Many victims are raped by their traffickers or by the boarder security guards.

Street children living in the capital are among the prime targets of organised child trafficking, he added.

There are reports of trafficking in organs in Bangladesh, especially Kidney theft, he said. The Government considers it to be its moral duty to fight this scourge because trafficking in person was an affront to the principals of human dignity and liberty, upon which this nation was founded, he added.

Home Secretary Abdul Karim said two million people were trafficked all over the world every year. The government was determined to eliminate human trafficking.

"Human trafficking is a global problem and is a serious crime. The police and NGO's were identifying the traffickers," Nur Mohammad said.

Additional IGP and National Project Director of Police Reform Project NBK Tripura, head of THB Additional DIG of CID Abdul Jalil and Executive Director of BNWLA Salma Ali, among others, addressed the programme.

Development partners, representatives from the NGOs, former senior police officers, civil society members and eminent personalities also attended the function.



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