

Seven-point Dhaka Resolution adopted Women empowerment called for thru' SAARC Plan

By A Staff Reporter
The two-day SAARC ministerial meeting on 'Women: Towards the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing' concluded on Sunday in Dhaka with adoption of a seven-point Dhaka Resolution by recognising the common socio-economic problems faced by the women in the SAARC region and suggesting upgradation of the status of women and their social, economic and political empowerment through a common platform of action.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated the two-day meeting at the International Conference Centre (ICC) on Saturday. Rethinking the Prime Minister's call for upgrading status of women at the inaugural session, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Sarwat Rahman, who chaired the conference explained the background of the meeting and its impact on regional and global scenario at a press briefing at the end of the concluding session at the ICC on Sunday.

Begum Sarwat Rahman said that the meeting had resolved to forward the text of the resolution to the fourth world conference on women due in Beijing next September. Begum Rahman informed that 48 delegates from the seven SAARC countries participated in the two-day deliberations, split into two working and a concluding session.

Dhaka Resolution also called upon the fourth world conference on women to appropriately reflect the SAARC perspectives on women as reflected in SAARC documents and particularly stated in this resolution. The resolution covered eradication of poverty, women empowerment, national machinery for development of women and girl child, curbing violence against women, their equal access to educational opportunities and healthcare services and nutrition.

The Dhaka Resolution called for strengthening the national effort for eradication of poverty by a favourable international economic environment including access to international market, financial resources and technology on equitable terms. It also emphasised on empowering women at all levels in the economic, political and social process for the upliftment of the status of women. The meeting urged all member states to reiterate their commitment at the highest level to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against girl child and to take all appropriate measures for

7-point Dhaka Resolution

Contd. from page 1

their development, particularly in the fields of education, health and nutrition.

The meeting emphasised the need for further strengthening legal and institutional frameworks at the national level of stop incidence of violence against women and girl child including trafficking in women.

The SAARC ministerial meeting urged all member states to pursue a policy of ensuring universal access to primary education and create a gender-sensitive educational system in order to ensure equal educational and training opportunities.

The meeting said this would require sufficient resources and support to developing countries from the international community and multilateral agencies would be crucial.

The State Minister for Women and Children Affairs was flanked at the press conference by Secretary for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shahadat Hossain, Joint Secretary of the Ministry Mohammad Sirajuddin SAARC Secretary General YK Silwal, the Director-General (SAARC) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Humayun Akhtar Kamal.

S. P. BROGRA
I. BROGRA

FREE FROM PARAMEIERS
BANGLADESH BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION AND