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## Knowledge of law among school children stressed

Staff Correspondent

A national workshop on "Protidiner Ain" (street law), the first of its kind in Bangladesh, has highlighted the importance of basic knowledge of law among the common people in general and to the school kids in particular.

The workshop held on Thursday at Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management, New Eskaton was organised by "Empowerment Through Law of the Common People (ELCOP) to encourage the young people gain knowledge on 'Protidiner Ain'.

These include political knowledge about law, the legal system, human rights and the fundamental principles on which a constitutional democracy is based.

Inaugurating the day-long workshop former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court A.T.M. Afzal said although the initiative taken by the law students is insignificant, it will be a tremendous success if sincere efforts are contributed to reach the doorsteps of the common people.

He said man-made laws are not perfect but laws of God and also the laws of all the religions are just to deal with the cause of humanity. "To be just and fair in dealing with others is the cardinal principle of all the religions."

Chaired by Prof. K.A.A. Qamruddin, Chairperson of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (BELA), the inaugural function was also addressed among others by David R. Harden, Regional Legal Adviser of USAID and Dr. Mizanur Rahman Chief Co-ordinator of ELCOP. Justice K.M. Sobhan also attended the inaugural function.

Justice A.T.M. Afzal, who is also the Chairman of the Law Commission, said he was delighted to see that law students have spearheaded to liberate the law from the four walls of the academy to reach it to school kids with a view to making them familiar about the legal education.

Speaking on the occasion David R. Harden of USAID said students have enough scope in Bangladesh to improve their lot through exercising their fundamental rights and take correct decision for the bright prospects of the future generations.

Referring to the political unrest in Gujarat (India), Nepal and Pakistan, the regional Legal Adviser of the USAID said he was happy to see in Bangladesh a peaceful atmosphere was prevailing in comparison with those SAARC countries.

The ELCOP has so far successfully completed the programme in almost eleven schools and one college of Dhaka city and eight schools in Chittagong. On successful completion of the course, 2000 students of these institutions have received certificates, organisers said.

Sixty students who completed the course also participated in the day-long workshop to share their views relating to the street law and its different aspects. Teachers of the respective institutions also accompanied with them.