

Inequality, violence against women barrier to SDGs

Staff Correspondent

WOMEN rights activists and academics on Tuesday underscored the need for achieving gender equality in the society to ensure a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world by 2030.

Addressing a discussion on women rights at the CIRDAP conference room in Dhaka, they said that the women and girls continued to suffer discrimination and violence despite many laws were being enacted to protect their rights.

Citizen's Platform for Sustainable Development Goals, Bangladesh and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad jointly organised the discussion moderated by Centre for Policy Dialogue distinguished fellow Debapriya Bhattacharya.

State minister for women and children affairs Meher Afroz Chumki said that the government had taken many initiatives, including enacting of laws to ensure the rights of the women and empower them in every sectors.

Economist Wahiduddin Mahmud, also former adviser to the caretaker government, said that Bangladesh had made significant



Nagarik Platform, Bangladesh and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad jointly organise a dialogue on global development agenda and woman's rights at CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka on Tuesday. — New Age photo

achievements in the millennium development goals but lagged behind in many indicators, including child marriage.

He stressed the need for a social movement to stop child marriage and violence against women.

Wahiduddin said that without empowerment of women and ensuring gender equality in every sector it would not be possible to achieve sustainable development goals by 2030.

Member of planning ministry's general economic division Shamsul Alam said that the government was preparing an action plan to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

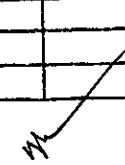
He said that the government was trying to address all the issues, including women empowerment already raised by different quarters in the action plan.

Women rights activist Salma Ali said that many laws were enacted in Bangladesh to give social and economic

protection to women but unfortunately such laws were often not implemented.

She also blamed the lack of government allocation for implementation of the laws related to protection of the rights of women and children.

Mahila Parishad joint secretary Rakhi Das Purkayastha, presenting the keynote, said that providing women and girls with equal access to all state opportunities would help achieve sustainable development goals.

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