



National Advocacy Meeting

On

Political Violence and Human Rights

February 16, 2012

Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali, Dhaka

Organised by Odhikar

As part of Odhikar's campaign to stop partisan conflict and violence and concentrate on resolving issues between political parties in a peaceful manner through dialogue and respect for the rights of the citizens, Odhikar organised a National Advocacy Meeting on February 16, 2012 under the topic 'Political Violence and Human Rights'. The meeting was presided over by Farhad Mazhar, advisor of Odhikar. The key note paper¹ of Odhikar was presented by Odhikar's Secretary, Adilur Rahman Khan. In the paper the history of politics and political violence in Bangladesh was described. He also mentioned about the instability and how that affect the educational institutions and also the other sectors of the country. The special guests in the meeting were Rashed Khan Menon, Member of Parliament, Chairman, Workers Party of Bangladesh and Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee of Education; Mr. Moudud Ahmed, Member of Parliament, Member Standing Committee, Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Former Law Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. Yusuf Hussain Humayun, Presidium Member, Bangladesh Awami League and H.E. Mr. Alphons J.A.J.M.G. Hennekens, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands.



At the beginning of the meeting, testimonies² of two victims were presented. Mohua Noor Kochi, wife of deceased Sanauallah Noor Babu, Upazilla Chairman of Banpara, Natore and leader of BNP, the main opposition party, in her statement she described how her husband was brutally killed on October 08, 2010 by armed Awami League activists during a peaceful procession of BNP in broad day light. Another testimony of Sree Prodip Chandra Sarkar described how he and other protesters were injured on August 26, 2006 in police firing when they protested against Asia Energy's open pit process for the coal mine; as the procedures required evicting locals from their lands. Both of them described the story of their misfortune and demanded justice.

¹ The paper is attached in Annex1.

² The testimonies are attached in Annex 2 and Annex 3



H.E. Mr. Alphons J.A.J.M.G. Hennekens, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands thanked Odhikar for organising the event. By observing the paper and statistics placed by Odhikar and by hearing the statements of the speakers, he found this kind of meetings are very effective and should be organised regularly considering the seriousness of this issue. In Bangladesh the key human rights are guaranteed in the constitution but the main challenge is the implementation of the human rights convention. He mentioned that it is very disturbing that killing, torture, violence and enforced disappearance are continuing and protecting human rights and human dignity is of grave concern. Stakeholders like Government, NGOs, and private sectors have to support human rights issues. He emphasised that Netherlands extends full support to Bangladesh at the fighting against Human Rights violation issues. School education can be provided to make an impact in the long term. In his speech, he thanked Odhikar for their efforts to ensure human rights and rule of law.

Mr. Yusuf Hussain Humayun, Presidium Member, Bangladesh Awami League said that such killings cannot be justified or supported. He said that liberty does not mean license of doing anything. A person has his/her right to life which is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution. However, he mentioned that there are also some positive features in Bangladesh such as freedom of speech and expression. People can speak up about the violations of their rights and meetings like these can be organised to speak freely. He strongly stated that political violence can never be supported by any political party.

Mr. Moudud Ahmed, MP, Member Standing Committee, Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Former Law Minister of Bangladesh said that the history of political violence prevails in Bangladesh since its independence, which is a 40 year phenomenon. According to him, the failure of Bangladesh is that it could not lessen or stop it. He said that while everyone is against political violence, no harmony is reflected in the activities in this regard. He said that there is no democracy in practice in Bangladesh. Travelling abroad and returning home are rights of every citizen but many politicians in Bangladesh require court permission for this purpose. He concluded saying that democracy is an environment where people from different political parties and different ideologies can work together. He hoped that a well accepted solution would come out from this meeting.

Mr. Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Chairman, Workers Party of Bangladesh and Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee of Education, said that political violence has always been a part of the history of democratic movement of Bangladesh. The dream that led them to sacrifice their lives in 1971 has not yet come true. He said that this is the duty of the human rights defenders to find out the main grounds of the violence.

He believed because of opposing views of the two leading political parties, they cannot come to a consensus. He suggested a change to this ‘culture, otherwise no solution can be achieved.



The first working session was presided over by the Secretary of Odhikar, Adilur Rahman Khan. He introduced the discussants of this session and invited Asif Ibrahim as the first discussant.



Mr. Asif Ibrahim, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, urged the political parties to increase their level of tolerance to resolve the social and political crisis. He hoped that both the parties would come to a mutual understanding through discussion for the benefit of the mass. The politicians have to sacrifice their own interest for the greater interest of the public and the country.

Mr. Abdus Salam, Member, Central Coordination Council of Gono Shonghoti Andolon, said that the non compliance with the Constitution is at the root of rising problems. The absence of tolerance in politics is leading to violence and as a result making the future of the country unstable. He feared that no solution would be reached unless politicians reach to the root of the problem. The system has to be reformed to protect the rights of the people. He said that accountability is very important in case of ensuring fundamental rights. The government has to be strict to compel the people in the administration to follow laws. Otherwise, it would also fail to make the general people abide by the laws. In such case, the law and order will become ineffective. The state and its law enforcement agencies have to be impartial at establishing rule of law. Political culture itself has to be reformed to bring changes, he added.

Mr. Abdul Qayum, Joint Editor, daily Prothom Alo, emphasised on mass awareness. He said that the criticism has to be so widespread that the change would come through the social movement. He mentioned that a change in the mentality of the politicians and political parties is essential. Like the previous speakers he also observed that tolerance needs to be practiced in our national politics. Media can play a vital role by disclosing non-partisan and the facts of violence.

Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, Acting Editor, daily Amar Desh, expressed his doubts about the freedom of media. He shared his own experience and stated that there were 53 cases against him filed by the government and members of the parliament. He believed that his newspaper was being targeted for the strong stand against the violations of human rights by the government. It is unfortunate that Bangladesh has been historically involved with political violence. He questioned that when the state itself is involved in political violence, where would the general people would go for justice? Mr. Rahman regretted that the political parties do not practice democracy even within their parties and that is why the state acts like an autocrat. He said that the last hope was judiciary but that also is politicised and he doubted the future of it. He firmly stated that the whole system has broken down. The only solution is to rebuild the whole system, otherwise no change is possible, he added.

Mr. Haider Akbar Khan Rano, Presidium Member, Communist Party of Bangladesh, was the last discussant of the first session, who described briefly but clearly about practice of democracy in Bangladesh. He said that article 7(ka) & (kha) of the Constitution has actually taken away the democracy. Also, he mentioned few facts that make Bangladesh undemocratic. He stated that the incidents of remand, crossfire, enforced disappearance are totally in violation of human rights and of course against democracy. There are different examples of false cases: when the state lies, the protector turns into a perpetrator and there nothing is left to talk about, he added.

The first session ended with opening the floor for questions. The second working session was presided over by director of Odhikar, **ASM Nasiruddin Elan**. He invited Khandakar Ashaduzzaman, a Senior Assistant Officer of the Reliance Insurance Company Limited who was arrested and sent to prison by the Mobile Court to present his testimony.



The first discussant, **Kazi Jesin**, CEO, Bioscope, talked about the freedom of printing and electronic media from her own experience. She mentioned that she was performing a popular show at a television channel which the authorities of that channel could not continue due to political pressure. She observed that if violence is part of the movement of political principle, it is understandable but the political parties have a lacking of core principles. She suggested that each person has to come forward to achieve the expected democracy.

Mr. Abu Sayeed Khan, Managing Editor, daily Samakal, said that the political parties have misconception about democracy. He mentioned that violence is a prevalent subject. All the sector, administration, military everything is politicised. He mentioned that this culture needs to be reformed. He added that there is no example of democracy in this country.

Mr. Saiful Huq, General Secretary, Revolutionary Workers' Party of Bangladesh, said that in the last three years, 35 universities were closed for more than once and 25 people were killed in armed clashes. He observed that the law enforcement agencies' allegiance with the government maintains a bias. There are also other practices that are undemocratic like 85% parliament members spent more than 15 lac taka on average last year in election. Many MPs sustained their membership by hiding information. He hoped that the government would acknowledge the problems and only then development through democracy is possible.

Mr. Ikteder Ahmed, Retired District Judge and former Registrar, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, said that there is no example of tolerance in our political culture. He highlighted on the issue of neutrality of the judiciary and the interference of our political parties. He said that judiciary is supposed to be the last resort of the country but now nobody even considers it so. He said that where all appointment is political, how can anyone expect an impartial judgment? He said that it is a matter of analysis that whether the 15th amendment is suitable for this time period. If not then without bringing change, no development is possible, he commented.

Ms. Syeda Ashifa Ashrafi Papia, MP, Bangladesh Nationalist Party, commented that political violence was always there and now the situation is heading towards worst. She added that fair investigation of political violence has never been held because the system is massively politicised. She hoped that if the election is held under the caretaker government, it would be a fair election and ensure overall development for the whole country.

With the speech of Ms. Ashrafi the second session ended. Then the chair opened floor to the audience to ask questions. In the open floor, Mohua Noor Kochi asked about the transparency of our judicial system. She claimed that even after being elected, she could not become the mayor. However, the murderer of her husband became the mayor using his influence. She went to the court to seek justice again and again but nothing happened.

Odhikar's keynote paper in Annex1, Statement of Mohua Nur Kochi, Wife of Deceased Sanaullah Babu in Annex 2, Statement of Sree Prodip Chandra Sarkar in Annex 3, Programme Schedule- Annex4

Annex: 1

Odhikar's Keynote paper

Political Violence in Bangladesh and Human Rights

Bangladesh was liberated in 1971; however, the task of constituting itself into a democratic polity is still incomplete. Equally lagging is the creation of a democratic political environment to ensure civil and human rights and socio-economic rights. It is true that the democratic process for the state of Bangladesh has not yet achieved its goal.

In the absence of ideological struggle, politics in Bangladesh often turns into conflict dictated by personal and partisan gain, although people expect that political parties create an enabling environment through which the people of Bangladesh become aware of the value of democracy and strive to achieve their democratic rights.

In Bangladesh, power is transferred from one party to another, but there is hardly any gain in the process of democratisation. During all elected governments of Bangladesh, there are incidents of political violence and sometimes it becomes so blatant that it even changed the government. Political violence severely violates human rights. Every citizen of the country directly or indirectly becomes the victim of such kind of political violence.

Through the sacrifice of many lives (between 1982 and 1990), in 1990 the autocratic military rule of Lieutenant General Hussain Muhammad Ershad was overthrown. Despite this, the dream of the people of Bangladesh to have a healthy democratic polity in a democratic state could not be fulfilled.

In 1991 under the first caretaker government, national elections were held, through which the Bangladesh Nationalist Party came to power, however, the government got engaged in conflict with the Opposition over various issues. Since March 1994 the Opposition Awami League, along with Jamat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party, started a movement to demand holding elections under a neutral Caretaker Government. During this time, the government showed rigidity in accepting the Opposition demands; it caused massive violence. Violence, bomb blasts, use of lethal weapons and mass arrests took place during this period. At last, in 1996 the Caretaker Government system was introduced and under the Caretaker Government, elections took place and the Awami League came to the power along with its alliances. But even after the election and the new government ascending to power; clashes, violence, repression on Opposition activists and political turmoil continued. In 2001 BNP won the election under the 'Caretaker Government'. Just after the election massive human rights violations took place, especially against the religious minority groups. In 2006 at the time of the preparations for the next Parliamentary Election, a massive conflict erupted between the BNP led Four Party Alliance and the Awami League led Grand Alliance, on the question of selecting the Advisers to the 'Caretaker Government'. During this time, people were beaten to death on the streets of Dhaka.

Due to the volatile regimes of the two major political parties (Awami League and BNP), the incidents of custodial torture, mass arrests and other human rights violations took place, allegedly committed by the law enforcement agencies.

On January 11, 2007, the military, under the mantle of a 'Caretaker Government' came to power by taking advantage of the volatile political scenario of Bangladesh. The unelected 'Caretaker Government' instead of arranging elections within 3 months, remained in power for about two years unconstitutionally; and created a major political crisis. During this period a state of emergency was imposed and all political activities were stopped and massive human rights violations took place, including torture in custody, repression on journalists and political activists etc. At last on December 29, 2008 a general election was held and on January 6, 2009, the Grand Alliance led by Awami League came to power.

Political violence under the present Awami League-led grand alliance government has become severe, just like political violence during the period of BNP led four-party alliance.

Odhikar's documentation since January 2001 to December 2011 shows that during this 11 year period, a total number of 3457 persons were killed and 1, 24, 252 were injured in political violence. Among them during the tenure of BNP led alliance (October 2001 – 2006) a total number of 2216 persons were killed and 52980 were injured. Since 2009-2011, under the present government of Awami League (2009-2011) led Grand Alliance, a total of 595 people were killed and 40599 were injured. Women also became victims due to political violence during this period. Police torture, mass arrests, punishing innocent passersby through mobile courts occurred during this tenure of the present regime. Killings of political persons could not be brought to justice either. A conspicuous culture of impunity prevails in Bangladesh.

Instead of practicing a healthy democratic environment criminal activities under the shade of political power is prevailing, just as it was in the past, in different educational institutions. At present, the activists of the front organisations of the major political parties are engaged in occupying seats in the university and college dormitories without following the rule of the institutions; arranging admission for students who can pay them extra money; are engaged in tender manipulation and other activities. As a result, violent bloodshed occurs in the educational institutions and the general students are becoming the ultimate victims.

However, it is not just the educational institutions that suffer. Due to the confrontational politics and partisan role, virtually all sectors are affected. Institutions cannot run properly. Due to this, the country suffers instability.

By blatantly violating fundamental human and civil rights, the major political parties proved that they do not respect democracy and human dignity. The introduction of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution is a particular example that shows that whatever remained as democratic rights is also in peril. In this case mere elections are not the solution. The people of Bangladesh must be made aware of the necessity for a new democratic constitution. Reconstituting a democratic state, having historical achievements of principles of democracy and respecting internationally accepted norms of human rights as its foundation; is the order of the day. The task of the human rights defenders is to create awareness for this objective. However, the two major political parties are in conflict and clashes over the caretaker government. They are concerned only how they outwit the opponents to win the political power and none is addressing the fundamental issues related to human rights. People have been repeatedly appealing to them not to destabilise the political situation of Bangladesh, but none of the parties are paying any heed to this. Under these circumstances, as citizens of Bangladesh

and as human rights defenders, our duty is to protest violent tactics and and aggressive behaviour and appeal again and again for restraint and refrain from violence.

Odhikar urges the major political parties to stop partisan conflicts and violence and concentrate on resolving the issues between them in a peaceful manner and through dialogue and respect, for the human and civil rights of the citizens.

Recommendations from Odhikar

1. Stop police torture against political activists.
2. The political parties must stop abusive and provocative language against each other and stop all forms of violence.
3. Political parties must find a rational and credible solution to which every one can live with ease.

Party	Head	Year	Killed	Injured	Total	Period
AL	Sheikh Hasina	2009-Present	595	40,599	41,194	(6 Jan 2009 – 31 December 2011)
Caretaker (Army backed)	Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed	2007-2009	91	3,026	3,117	(11 Jan 2007 - 6 Jan 2009)
Caretaker	Iajuddin Ahmed	2006-2007	60	5,058	5,118	(29 Oct 2006 – 11 Jan 2007)
BNP	Khaleda Zia	2001-2006	2,216	52,980	55,196	(10 Oct 2001 - 27 Oct 2006)

February, 16, 2012

Annex 2:

Statement of Mohua Nur Kochi, wife of deceased Sanaullah Babu³

My name is Mohua Nur Kochi. I live in Bonpura village under Boraigram upazila in Natore district. My husband's name is Sanaullah Babu. He was the father of three daughters. My husband was the only son of Dr. Md. Saber Ali, former Director of Rangpur Medical College Hospital. He was elected the first Mayor of Bonpara Municipality while he was the president of Bonpara unit Chhatra Dal⁴. Later, he was elected as the president of Bonpara unit BNP⁵. In response to public demand, my husband resigned from the Mayoral position and contested in the Boraigram Upazila elections and was elected by a huge margin of votes.

On 8 October 2010, Bonpara unit BNP organised a meeting at around 11:30am as part of the BNP's central programme. On that day, advocate M Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu, President of Natore district BNP and former Minister for Land, was supposed to be present as the chief guest

³ The statement has been translated from Bangla by Odhikar.

⁴ Chhatra Dal is the student wing of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

⁵ Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

at the meeting. Approximately one and half thousand activists brought out a procession, led by my husband, upon hearing that Dulu had arrived near Bonpara from Dhaka. After starting from the central point of the Upazila, when the procession reached the Bonpara Bazar, the ruling party (Awami League) activists attacked the procession under the leadership of the former President of the District Chhatra League⁶ and former Information and Research Secretary of District Awami League, Professor Zakir Hossain; General Secretary of Upazila Chatra League, Shafiqul Islam; and Jubo League⁷ activists Rakib, Jamil and Bablu. Most of them were armed with sticks and firearms. They created panic by firing blank shots. A shot hit my husband's head and he fell on the ground. When my husband fell down, they surrounded him from all sides. Then they hit him with iron rods and sticks and stabbed him several times. To ensure his death, they also stabbed him with a spear. While trying to save my husband, around 40 people were injured that day, along with the Mayor of Boraigram Municipality, Ishak Ali; Joint Secretary of Upazila BNP and the Chairman of Boraigram BRDB, Jamal Uddin; President of Upazila Jubo Dal⁸, Rafiq Sarder; Najim Uddin, Abdul Alim and Mojammel Haq. At one stage, the attackers left my husband dead on the Natore-Pabna highway. The local residents rescued him and admitted him to the Bonpara General Hospital in a critical condition. After being informed of the incident, I tried to enter the Hospital but was stopped by everyone present there. When I managed to get close to him, I saw the ward boys of the hospital cut the veins of his hands and legs to confirm his death and then bandage him all over, including his head. I learnt that this was done as per orders from the proprietor of the hospital and local Awami League leader Dr. Siddikur Rahman. I wanted to take my husband to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and asked for a hospital ambulance from Dr. Siddikur Rahman. But he refused to provide.

Sub Inspector Lutfur Rahman, in charge of the Bonpara Police Camp, seized my husband's car and took it to the camp. He refused to return it, despite several requests.

The condition of my husband was deteriorating due to the delay in obtaining police permission. I managed to hire an ambulance from a local clinic named Amena Clinic. But the ruling party activists blocked the route I had to use to take my husband to Rajshahi. As a result, my husband's condition had become critical and uncertain. Finally, we were forced to take a longer route to Rajshahi. My husband died at 3:00pm on way to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. His body was brought back home at 8:00pm after postmortem. His funeral was held at 11:00am on 9 October, 2010 in Bonpara High School field. He was buried at the Sardarpara Jame mosque graveyard. My husband would not have died if the police of Bonpara Police Camp cooperated.

The ruling party activists broke the right leg of Sheikh Tofajjal Hossain, district correspondent of the Daily Destiny, while he was taking pictures of the incident; Naim Uddin, Bangladesh Protidin representative and Rana Ahmed cameraman of ATN Bangla were attacked by the criminals too. They received injuries on head. Limon, cameraman of Diganta TV, was also injured.

On the day of the incident, I filed a case with the Boraigram Police Station accusing 47 people, 20 of them unidentified. As the accused belonged to the ruling party they got bail from the High Court. Later, the accused surrendered at the lower court and came out on bail. The accused did not spend a single day in jail, thanks to political supremacy. I demand justice for killing of my husband.

⁶The Chatra League is the student wing of the Awami League.

⁷ The Jubo League is the youth wing of the Awami League.

⁸ Sub district level youth wing of the BNP.

Annex 3:

Statement of Sree Prodip Chandra Sarkar

My name is Prodip Chandra Sarkar (58), son of late Papu Chandra Sarkar. I live in Dokkhin Shahbaj Hindu Para under Birampur in Dinajpur district. I am a farmer. I have 3 children.

The Government signed a contract with the company Asia Energy for the implementing a open pit coal extraction process. According to the contract, members of the Asia Energy company made a survey by knocking each and every door of the area. They were trying to evict the locals from their land by alluring them with handsome amount of money in exchange of their land in the name of land acquisition. At one stage the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Port was formed for saving their land, Local schools-colleges, madrasas, mosques, graveyard, roads, cultivating lands and natural resources. The Committee's demands were: Not using open coal pit process; coal is our natural resource; it cannot be given to the foreigners; Export of coal must be stopped. These demands were placed in front of the Government several times. But at that time the Four Party Alliance Government was cooperating with the Asia Energy without thinking of public interest. Meanwhile the local inhabitants strengthened their movement for saving coal at Phulbari.

On August 26, 2006 the National committee organised a programme to surround the office of the Asia Energy Company.

Ahead of the programme in the morning we marched with a peaceful procession towards Dhaka Moar at Phulbari. People from four Upazilas gathered in the area, Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, convener of the National Committee and Member Secretary Anu Muhammad were present there with other central members. We stepped towards Nimtoli Moar along with the central members, Phulbari Upazila chairman Aminul Islam Bablu, Convener Shyed Saiful Islam Jewel; and former panel Mayor of Phulbari Municipality SM Abdullah Nuruzzaman. Then, we stepped forward to go to the office of the Asia Energy from west side of the Jamuna Bridge. When the procession reached near the Bridge, the police and the BDR stopped us. Some people stood at the bridge and some were waiting by the other side of the bridge. Professor Anu Muhammad gave a speech standing on vehicle, in presence of people at around 12:30pm. We could not surround the Asia Energy Company office due to police obstruction.

As a result, we had to stop the programme. When people were returning home, the police had deliberated tear gas canisters to disperse the people. At that time, SM Abdullah Nuruzzaman was next to me. When we stepped aside, police and the BDR members opened fire at people. A bullet hit my wrist at that time. I ran away about 100 yards with injuries and became unconscious.

On August 27, 2010 I found myself admitted at the Rangpur Medical College Hospital. My stomach was displaced from my belly due to bullet hit. Doctors were hardly able to stitch the veins to patch up with the stomach. The police insisted me to seek admission at the hospital. After a long time finally I got admitted. I was under treatment there for 14 days. In the meantime, my condition deteriorated. Later the doctors referred me to Dhaka for better treatment. At Dhaka I was admitted to the Ganosasthya Nagar Hospital. I was treated there for another 15 days. After recovering I came back home. My stomach is now divided in to two parts. I have to go for treatment regularly, and am struggling to survive this way with my wife

and three children. Except me there is no one to earn in the family. After the coal mine protest, and three persons were shot dead and many were injured by police and BDR. The then government of the Four Party Alliances signed a 7 point MoU with local people of Phulbari. But the Memorandum of Understanding is yet to be implemented till date.

Annex4: Programme Schedule

<p>National Advocacy Meeting On Political Violence and Human Rights</p> <p>February 16, 2012 Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali, Dhaka</p> <p>Organized by Odhikar</p>

9:00 am – 9:30 am	Registration
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Inaugural Session
Session presided by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Farhad Mazhar Advisor, Odhikar
Presentation of Topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Adilur Rahman Khan Secretary, Odhikar
Testimonies of Two Victims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testimony of Mohua Noor Kochi, wife of deceased Sanauulla Noor Babu of Banpara, Natore who died on October 8, 2010. • Testimony of Prodip Chandra Sarkar of Birampur, Dinajpur who was injured on August 26, 2006.
Special Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rashed Khan Menon, MP Chairman, Workers Party of Bangladesh and Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee of Education • Mr. Moudud Ahmed, MP Member Standing Committee, Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Former Law Minister of Bangladesh • Mr. Yusuf Hussain Humayun Presidium Member, Bangladesh Awami League • H.E. Mr. Alphons J.A.J.M.G. Hennekens Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Tea Break
11:30 am – 1:15 pm	Working Session 1
	<p>Presided by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adilur Rahman Khan Secretary, Odhikar

	<p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Haider Akbar Khan Rono Presidium Member, Communist Party of Bangladesh • Mr. Mahmudur Rahman Acting Editor, daily Amar Desh • Mr. Abdul Qayum Joint Editor, daily Prothom Alo • Mr. Abdus Salam Member, Central Coordination Council of Gono Shonghoti Andolon • Mr. Asif Ibrahim President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry
12:45 pm – 1:15 pm	<p>Open Floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Question & Answer Session
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Lunch
2:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Working Session 2
	<p>Presided by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASM Nasiruddin Elan Director, Odhikar
Testimony of the Victim of Mobile Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khandakar Ashaduzzaman, a Senior Assistant Officer of the Reliance Insurance Company Limited who was arrested and sent to prison by the Mobile Court on July 5, 2011.
	<p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Syeda Ashifa Ashrafi Papia MP Bangladesh Nationalist Party • Mr. Ikteder Ahmed Retired District Judge and former Registrar, Supreme Court of Bangladesh • Mr. Saiful Huq General Secretary, Revolutionary Workers' Party of Bangladesh • Mr. Abu Sayeed Khan Managing Editor, daily Samakal • Kazi Jesin CEO, Bioscope
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<p>Open Floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question & Answer Session
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Closing Session
4:30 pm	Refreshments