25th February 2014

Press Release: ‘Courts are responsible to administer laws justly’

On 24 February, a seminar on “Exchanging experience of promoting justice: the role of lawyers in Bangladesh” was held at the R.C Majumder Auditorium, Lecture Theater, Dhaka University as part of its Law and Practice Seminar Series by Bangladesh Legal Aid & Services Trust (BLAST) with the University of Dhaka. Judicial reforms in international development, judicial reform in the context of Bangladesh, and ways ahead for justice accessible for all were discussed at the seminar.

Dr. Livingston Armytage, Director, Centre for Judicial Studies (Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Sydney, Visiting Fellow of Cambridge University) was the keynote speaker. The discussion was moderated by Ms. Sara Hossain, Honorary Executive Director, BLAST and chaired by Dr. Shahnaz Huda, Chairman, Department of Law, University of Dhaka.

Dr. Armytage said, “The courts are responsible for administering the laws justly.” He added: ‘Justice is fundamental to society and human well-being’. Justice is concerned with fairness and equity. In practice, there are a range of problems such as barriers in accessing justice and delay which impede the delivery of justice, he said. He encouraged the courts to work with the bar and civil society to redress these problems.

Dr. Shahnaz Huda said, “If we can keep the judicial system free from influence, justice will be ensured.”

Dr. Zahidul Islam Biswas, Advisor Research & Publication, BLAST said “Bangladesh has good laws and judicial system. To ensure right to justice accountability of powerful groups must be ensured.”

About Seventy five lawyers, academics and students of University of Dhaka and NGO representatives were present at the seminar.

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