

## **Book launching ceremony held at BILIA**

Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) organized a launching ceremony of the book titled “Case Management in Reducing Case Backlog: Potential Adaptation from the New South Wales District Court to Bangladesh Civil Trial Courts” written by Ms. Ummey Sharaban Tahura, Joint District & Session Judge, (now PhD candidate, Macquarie University, Australia) on Saturday, April 20, 2019, at BILIA Auditorium in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The said ceremony was chaired by Mr. M.K. Rahman, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Honorary Treasurer, BILIA and Former Additional Attorney General for Bangladesh.

Dr. Shahdeen Malik, an Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Honorary Director of BILIA kicked off the event stating that case backlog is a long due problem, which almost every country of this globe has been through and/or still struggling with. In the United States of America, only 11, 00, 000 asylum cases are pending; Dr. Malik added. However, to his knowledge, the case backlog problem of Bangladesh is decreasing and can be resolved fully with adoption of strategies which were helpful in resolving the same in other countries.

The main essence of the book launched at the event is that the success of case management has already been proved in many countries. Bangladesh, however, has not widely

introduced a case management system despite its being an almost overwhelming necessity due to backlogs and delays.

In this book, the District Court of NSW was chosen as an example of successful use of case management in reducing backlogs and disposal time in civil cases.

Ms. Tahura compared the court system of Bangladesh with that of New South Wales (Australia) concerning the courts' structure, procedures to appoint judges, jurisdiction of the specific court, the separation of the judiciary from the executive, and other institutions relating to the court system in her book. The book aims to show how case management can reduce case backlogs from the civil trial courts of Bangladesh by finding the practical causes through empirical research following grounded theory. Her research findings suggest that excessive workload upon judges and lawyers, low rates of disposal through mediation, uncertain intention of lawyers and clients, insufficient logistic and technical support, frequent involvement of the higher courts in interlocutory matters, and also complex procedural law and its applications placed immense pressure on the courts creating huge backlogs. She recommended that adopting a suitable case management system in Bangladesh, based on that used in NSW, could reduce the backlogs.

Ms. Tahura in her speech at the event expressed her gratitude, inter alia; to her principal supervisor Dr. Margaret R.L.L. Kelly, Senior Lecturer to Macquarie Law School, Macquarie University, Dr. Shawkat Alam, Associate Professor to Macquarie Law School, Macquarie University,

Australian Government for the prestigious Australian Development Scholarship which encouraged her to undertake this research. She also thanked Macquarie Law School that particularly has funded the data collection procedure and participating in international conferences.

She concluded her speech stating that this book is not an end, rather a beginning in resolving the case backlog problem of our country.

Dr. S. M. Masum Billah, Associate Professor, Department of Law, Jagannath University and Dr. AKM Emdadul Haque were the designated discussants at the event. After their discussion, the forum was opened for discussion. The distinguished guests shared their experiences and observations on the case backlog problem as well as on the book at the event. Among them, notable were Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury, a Bangladeshi public health activist, and Judge Mofizur Rahman Bhuiyan of Sylhet Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court. Dr. Chowdhury spoke from the point of view of a victim of this legal system where case backlog is a serious matter of concern. Judge Mofizur Rahman Bhuiyan said that we should increase the number of judges, change our mindset, and put our best effort to resolve this problem.

The event was then ended with the concluding remarks from the chair.

The event was covered by Research Team (Law), BILIA.

The report has been published in the [Daily Star](#) on 30 April 2019.