

'Womb to five years crucial for growth of children'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From the womb up to five years is a very crucial period for the children as apart from physical growth, their mental growth also takes place very quickly at this time, said the speakers at the launching ceremony of a project yesterday.

They said the foundation of all human qualities is laid in children during this period and what they learn at this time reacts later on the basis of their learning being an adult.

The behaviour of people around the children during this period and the surrounding environment also play a significant role in establishing the base of the children, they added.

The project titled 'Communication Programme on Early Childhood Development (ECD)' was launched at Shishu Academy in the city.

The speakers said a child is born with crores of neuron cells in its head and these cells can't do anything alone, they need to be con-

nected with other cells for mental growth of a child and 80-90 percent connections happen since birth to five years.

They urged parents to pay attention to their children and spend more time with them, answer their questions and inspire them in doing creative things.

Speaking as chief guest, Women and Children Affairs Minister Khurshid Jahan Haque said among all social awareness programmes that the government has taken up, the ECD project is the most important for child welfare.

She also underlined the importance of the period from womb to five years for the total growth of a child.

Terming this period important in terms of economical aspect, Country Representative of Unicef Lui George Asarno said, "We will have a heavy return in future if we invest at this initial time of a child because later on

the child will be fit in physically and mentally and will be able to serve the country, the society and the family."

Director of Bangladesh Shishu Academy MM Niaz Uddin and EEC Project Director Md Mesbahul Islam spoke at the function with academy Chairman Prof Jubaida Gulshan Ara in the chair.

The mass communication

programme includes a drama serial of 13 episodes named Rangdhanu (Rainbow).

Written by Humayun Ahmed and directed by Abul Hayat the serial is already on air in BTV since March 19 after 8:00pm BTV news on every Sunday.

Recital festival begins at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

A five-day long recitation festival titled "6th recitation festival-2006", organised by Dhvani, a recitation group of Jahangirnagar University (JU), began yesterday.

Vice Chancellor Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman inaugurated the festival at the foot of Amar Ekushey, a sculpture, at 11:30am.

A colourful procession was brought out on the campus at noon following poetry recitation by poets themselves.

Agreement with Japan on safe motherhood

The Record of Discussion (RD) was signed between Bangladesh and Japan for "Safe Motherhood Promotion Project" yesterday, says a press release.

Akio Arai, Resident Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and M Emdadul Haque, deputy secretary of Economic Relations Division (ERD) signed the agreement on behalf of their respective side.

The objective of the project is to improve the health status of women of reproductive age and the neonates. The project is designed to improve the availability and utilisation of quality services in Narsingdi for women during their pregnancy and delivery.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will bear the overall responsibility of the project. Considering the health and poverty indicators,

Narsingdi district has been selected as a 'target area' of the project. The total cost of the project will be Tk30 crore. The number of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) will be increased in the district after the project will start. This project will start in July this year and end in June, 2010. JICA has a plan to disseminate the project's experience and lesson learnt to other districts in the future.