

Metropolitan

Ministers at opening function of breast-feeding week
Maternity leave to be 4 months

Two government ministers yesterday pleaded for extension of the maternity leave to four months from the current provision of three months, reports BSS.

They observed that mothers too have to ensure their rights prior to ensuring breast-feeding of their children as only sound mothers can help build worthy citizens for future.

"The mothers should get four months of maternity leave officially," State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof. Dr M Amanullah, told the inaugural function of World Breast-feeding Week 2000 held at Osmani Memorial Hall in the city.

He added that the government was considering to make an official announcement regarding four months maternity leave.

Prof Amanullah said there is no alternative to breast-feeding if we really want to build a meritorious nation. Massive campaign would be launched to motivate mothers in breast-feeding which has been reduced alarmingly due to misconception created by attractive advertisements on imported powder milk and other artificial baby foods, he said.

He said the rate of breast-feeding reached 22 per cent from 10 per cent which remained almost static for several years. "It's good sign," Prof.

Amanullah said. He said regular breast-feeding not only protects infants from various diseases, it also protects mothers from breast and ovary cancer, anemia, and high blood pressure. He said the government has already been

successful in reducing child mortality rate to 57 in each thousand from previous record of 134.

The 18,000 community clinics will be set up across the country by next 2002. It will help reduce child and mother mortality rate and help increase the standard of health services of the rural poor.

Echoing similar views, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Zinatunnesa Talukder said "For the sake of rights of mothers, the maternity leave must be four months."

"She said breast feeding is a blessing of the Almighty for the newborn children, but at the same time rights of mothers have to be ensured so that they could really save their infants from malnutrition."

In his presidential speech Health Secretary Syed Alamgir Farruk Chowdhury said the government is going to undertake a 650-crore nutrition project soon. He urged all to inform law enforcers if the importers try to influence people with artificial infant foods ignoring government restrictions.

Among others, the inaugural function was also addressed, by Chairperson of Bangladesh Breast-feeding Foundation Prof M Q K Talukder, WHO Country Representative W. Haridjo Tanejo and UNICEF Country Representative Shahida Azfar.

Ministers visit dengue patients at DMCH

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Civil Aviation Minister Engineer Mosharruf Hossain and Deputy Minister for Health Prof Amanullah visited Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday to see the condition of patients suffering from dengue fever, reports UNB.

They talked to patients at the emergency ward and ward 3 and 4 of the DMCH and inquired of their treatment.

Doctors told the ministers that only three people were admitted yesterday in the DMCH suspecting the fever, but it would be determined whether they are affected with dengue or not after proper diagnosis.

The ministers also visited the coronary unit of the DMCH and inquired about treatments of the patients there.



Mother's Milk is the Best
Members of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry and the Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation hold colourful banners proclaiming the benefits of breastfeeding during a colourful rally they held to mark the beginning of World Breastfeeding Week 2000.
— Star photo

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Death anniversary of Justice Abu Sayeed Chy today

The thirteenth death anniversary of the leading organizer of War of Liberation and former President Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury will be observed today across the country, says a press release.

Qurankhawari and milad mahfil will be held beside his mazar at Nagbari in Tangail district in observance of the day.

Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury National Memorial Council has arranged a memorial lecture titled "Civil Society in the 21st Century: Bangladesh Perspective" at National Museum on August 7 at 4:30 pm.

Chaired by Justice Kamaluddin Hossain, the function will be attended by LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman as the chief guest.

Dr M Farash Uddin, Prof Anisuzzaman and Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique will take part in the discussion as special guest.

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Announcement
In compliance with Rule 13 of the Securities and Exchange Rules, 1987 as amended to date, half yearly unaudited financial statements as at 30th June 2000 of above named Company have been despatched to the shareholders on 30 July 2000. Copies have also been despatched to the Securities and Exchange Commission and Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd.
August 1, 2000 Sarwar A. Khan Director & Company Secretary

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