



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Zafar Ahmed Hakim, convener of the MDF, speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

# 'Increase male participation in reproductive health'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An awareness campaign to increase male participation in the reproductive health was launched in the city yesterday.

The campaign will concentrate on increasing the role of male to combat sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and motivate the male to adopt contraceptive methods along with their female counterpart.

Male Involvement Forum (MIF), a non-government organisation working with reproductive health, has launched the campaign.

While presenting a paper on 'Male involvement in reproductive health: Perspective Bangladesh' MIF Member Secretary and Managing Director of the Marie Stops Clinic Dr Yasmin H Ahmed said male commu-

nity is unwilling to participate in the family planning control methods.

"About half of the married males are unaware about HIV/ AIDS and 80 percent of married males don't discuss the issue with their spouses," she added.

Dr Yasmin said although about 40 percent of infertility cases are related to disorders in the male partner, women often are blamed for infertility.

She said male partners have a great role to play in reproductive health.

Speaking as chief guest, United Nations Population Fund (Unfpa) Representative Suneeta Mukherjee said the role of male in reproductive health is important, but

the women must have a say in all decision making process including family planning.

Director of Family Planning Dr

Zahiruddin Ahmed said male partners are scared to adopt the contraceptive method.

"Most of the male think that they will have to face various physical problems if permanent contraceptive methods are taken," he added.

Presided over by Dr Zafar Ahmed Hakim, convener of the MDF, the function was also addressed by Dr Shah Nawaz Khan of family planning directorate.

Under the awareness programme, two posters and television spots on family planning methods were screened on this occasion.

The television spots will be aired in different channels and posters will be sent to different government and private clinics across the country for their display.

