

'Micro-credit programme to be expanded to cut poverty'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the micro-credit programme will be further expanded in rural areas to alleviate poverty.

Addressing the annual award giving ceremony of Palli Daridro Bimochon Foundation (PDBF) in the city, he said the programme has been found successful in poverty-trodden areas.

Bhuiyan said the government has given top priority to poverty alleviation as it is the precondition for national progress.

Lauding the contribution of PDBF in alleviating rural poverty, the minister asked the founda-

tion to take up expansion plan in poverty- stricken areas.

Secretary of the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury said the micro-credit programme and skill development training have together made significant contribution to the socio-economic advancement of the rural people.

He said the programme has also brightened the image of the country abroad.

Head of the Aid of Canadian High Commission in Dhaka Robert Beadle praised the role and performance of PDBF.

He said the foundation has achieved tremendous success

in the elimination of rural poverty and empowerment of rural people.

PDBF Vice- Chairman AFM Matiur Rahman, Board Member Prof Momtaz Ahmed, Managing Director Mohammad Mortuza and Director Fazlul Haq Khan also spoke.

Certificate and special bonus were awarded among the 50 field-level personnel of PDBF for their outstanding contribution to rural poverty alleviation during the last one year.

Special prizes were also distributed among the PDBF staff children who obtained A+ in 2004 SSC examination, said a press release.

Shop owner murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A shop owner was stabbed to death by his elder brother following a feud over property at Tejgaon in the city yesterday.

He was identified asAbul Hossain, 33, a resident of 250, Tejkunipara and an owner of a CD shop.

Abul entered into an altercation with his elder brother Akhtar Hossain who, out of anger, stabbed him with a knife at 9:00am, said their younger brotherMokhtar Hossain.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead after an hour.

Change negative attitude towards women: Moyeen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan yesterday called for effective participation of women in politics to strengthen democratic process in the country.

He stressed the need for changing negative attitude towards women to ensure their political empowerment, rather than providing them with

mere reserve seats in parliament.

The minister was inaugurating a five-day-long workshop on 'Women in Parliament: Empowerment and Effective Participation' at a city hotel.

The British Council and Khan Foundation have jointly organised the workshop.

He said although the prime minister as well as the opposition leader are women in the country, women

empowerment is yet to be achieved.

Dr Moyeen Khan laid emphasis on female education for effective participation of women in the political process.

He hoped that the workshop would explore potentials of our women to become active politicians.

UK resource person Marry-Anne Stephenson and Deputy British High Commissioner Robert Gibson also

spoke at the inaugural secession.

About 40 women politicians across the country are taking part in the workshop.

It has been designed to develop a suitable strategy for Bangladeshi women politicians to cope with future challenges through case studies of several countries around the world.