

'Little progress in eradicating malnutrition'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh achieved very little in eradicating malnutrition compared to its excellent achievement in reducing fertility and under-five mortality rates in the past two decades, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

Immunisation programme, traditional birth attendants (TBAs)

programme, stipends for female students in secondary level, rural electrification and the media's role have contributed to slashing the fertility and under-five mortality rate significantly since 1990, but the malnutrition situation remains almost the same, they said.

Only targeting the mothers who are not often the main decision-makers with regard to nutrition-

related practices and lack of awareness are the major obstacles to implementing nutrition projects successfully, the speakers said.

The Operation Evaluation Department of the World Bank organised the discussion on 'An impact evaluation of interventions to improve maternal and child health and nutrition in Bangladesh' at the Sasakawa auditorium of ICDDR,B

in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, Mizanur Rahman Majumder, additional secretary of the health ministry, called for co-ordinated efforts to solve the nutrition problem.

Stressing the need for making a habit of eating mixed foods, he said that depending on rice only will not solve the problem.

Howard N White, senior evaluation officer of the WB, and Prof M Kabir jointly presented a keynote paper.

Abul Kashem, director general of Niport, Dr Md Jahir Uddin Ahmed, Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, Dr Syed Jagangir Haider and Dr Kees Kostermans took part in the discussion while Abdul Malek, director general of IMED, chaired the session.

2 JU staffs beaten by JCD cadres

JU CORRESPONDENT

Cadres of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of Jahangirnagar University (JU) beat up two fourth-class employees on the campus on Tuesday.

They are Harunur Rashid, a sick boy of Al-Beruni Hall and Abul Kalam, an employee of Engineer's office.

The JCD cadres beat them up for pasting posters at the entrance of Kamal Uddin Hall at around 7:00pm.

The injured were admitted to Enam Medical College and Hospital.

The other employees at a meeting yesterday decided to submit a memorandum to the vice-chancellor today protesting the incident.