

Mosharraf rejects NIPORT report on health sector

It will only serve interest of NGOs

Bss, Dhaka

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday rejected the NIPORT's report on "Newborn care practices in rural Bangladesh," saying it has been prepared to serve the interests of NGOs.

He said the negative recommendations made by NIPORT in its ethnographic case study report suit the NGOs. "By showing the report to the developed countries and the donor agencies, the NGOs would pump huge chunk of money for their own fate instead of serving the rural people," he said.

He was addressing a seminar titled "Mother and newborn care practices in rural Bangladesh: Lessons from community level" at a city hotel.

National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT),

Bureau of Health Education, DGHS, Information, Education and Motivation (IEM), DGFP, and Save the Children, USA jointly organised the seminar.

In one of its recommendations NIPORT suggested special steps for persuading the pregnant women, husbands and mothers-in-law about the need and importance of antenatal check-ups.

The minister said the government has already been working at field level in this respect. "So why this recommendation and in whose interest?" he questioned.

Brushing aside other recommendations of the NIPORT, he said overall progress of Bangladesh towards attaining Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 is satisfactory in most of the cases, especially in health and education sectors.

Quoting Nobel laureate Amartya Sen that "India should

follow Bangladesh's experiences, the way it made progress in education and health services," Mosharraf said the present NIPORT report on the health sector is totally baseless.

Referring to the government's initiatives to reach health facilities to the door steps of the common people, he said 3,500 new posts have been created for doctors, to be appointed at union level soon.

Health Secretary Abu Mohammad Moniruzzaman Khan, Country Representative, Save the Children, USA, Edward Olney, Director General of NIPORT Lokman Hakim and Director General, Family Planning Directorate Professor Dr M Shahadat Hossain also spoke.

NIPORT Director (Research) Dr Ahmed Al Sabeer presented the keynote paper.



Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon inaugurates the Chittagong Workers' Party council at the Central Shaheed Minar in the port city yesterday.

Ruling party activist tortured to death in Natore

BDNEWS, Natore

A ruling BNP activist was killed by his rival at South Bargasa area in the town yesterday over a previous enmity.

The dead was identified as Asadullah Bitaly, 22, son of Abdur Rahman of South Bargasa.

Police and local people said, Bitaly was picked up by the goons of local commissioner from his house at around 10:00am and they took him to the office of ward commissioner Sheikh Rubel. He was tortured indiscriminately in the chamber till 1:00pm. At one stage of torturing they tried to hand him over to the police as snatcher. But police refused to receive injured Bitaly as his condition became critical. Later, he was sent to the Sadar Hospital where the on duty doctor declared him dead.

Family of the dead said associates of rival commissioner picked him up following a previous enmity and tortured him in the

commissioner's chamber. At one stage of torturing he died on the spot. Police could not arrest anybody so far.

JCD factions clash in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

At least 10 people were injured as two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) clashed at Bakalia Shahid MMNJ College in the port city yesterday.

The groups, one loyal to Chittagong city JCD General Secretary Ahmedul Alam Rusel and another led by Senior Vice-President Gazi Siraj Selim Khan, locked in the clash for establishing supremacy over the collage campus.

Of the injured, the collage unit JCD President Parvej, General Secretary Rusel and two other activists - Sahin and Alamgir - were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

3,000 posts created for doctors

Minister tells parliament

UNB, Dhaka

Some 3,000 posts have been created for doctors since the present government assumed the office, Parliament was told yesterday.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has been instructed to take necessary steps for filling up the new posts, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said, replying to a supplementary of Dr Rustam Ali Farazi (BNP-Pirojpur).

In reply to another supplementary from BNP lawmaker Major (Retd) Manjur Kader, he said the government would request the PSC to recruit doctors through special BCS examination.

Dr Mosharraf informed the House that at present, there are 40,210 MBBS doctors in the country. Of them, 13,840 doctors are employed under the Health Ministry.

A total of 1,149 doctors have been working at the union level, he said.

Actor Dilu gets Tk 1 lakh for treatment

UNB, Dhaka

The government has donated Tk 1 lakh from the Prime Minister's Fund for the treatment of eminent actor and freedom fighter Mujibur Rahman Dilu now being treated at the Birdem Hospital in the city.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman handed over a cheque for the money to his family members at the hospital yesterday.

Dilu was admitted to the hospital after being affected by Guillain Bary Syndrome.

Doctors told the State Minister that Dilu's condition is improving slowly.

MUGGING OF TK 18 LAKH

Gang leader arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Double Mooring police yesterday arrested the gang leader of a crime syndicate involved in robbing a businessman of around Tk 18 lakh in Chittagong on May 28.

Md Nasir alias Nasir Dakat, 27, was arrested from Munsef Bazar area in Patiya upazila at around 4:00pm. Police also seized a car, which was purchased with the looted money, sources said.

A police team led by Sub-Inspector Abdus Salam raided the area acting on the confessions made by two of the six muggers held in connection with the mugging incident.

