

Poverty caused by diseases major obstacle to economic progress

Mosharraf tells Agra conference

BSS, Agra, India

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain on Tuesday said poverty caused by different diseases is a major hurdle to economic progress of the region.

Addressing the concluding session of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at Agra, he said the health sector needs constant investment to achieve the targets outlined in the MDG.

Dr Mosharraf said health service is a basic requirement of the people and from this point of view, the indicators mentioned in the MDGs are not new. "But, it is very crucial and difficult to make the health services available, provide constant service to people and implement the programmes under MDGs," he said.

He said the indicators mentioned in the MDG are the revised texts of the ICPD goals. "Reduction of mother and child mortality rate" and "Education for All" have been set out as one of the main goals both in ICPD and MDG, he said.

He said meaningful exchange of experiences among the members of Partners in Population and Development (PPD), formed to strengthen the south-south cooperation, may bring fruitful results for development of the sector.

Pointing out the position of Bangladesh so far as mother and child mortality rate is concerned, he said fatality rate of infants has been reduced by 20 percent and below 5-year children by 6 percent over the last five years.

To achieve the target set by the MDG, Bangladesh needs to cut down child mortality rate by 4.3 percent against its existing rate of 4.1 percent.

Dr Mosharraf said Bangladesh has prepared a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in coordina-

tion with its population programmes and poverty alleviation plans. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has come down to 3 percent at present in Bangladesh from 6.3 percent in 1975.

Chairman of PPD and Chinese Planning Minister Zhang Weiging

presided over the concluding session while Indian Health Minister Dr Anbumani Ramadoss and Deputy Director of UNFPA Kunio Waki, spoke.

The conference ended with adoption of Delhi Declaration on HIV/AIDS and reproductive health.



Anwarul Islam, a retired officer of then East Pakistan Civil Service, and his wife Begum Dilrus Islam hand over a cheque for Tk 5 lakh to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, at his office in the city yesterday for the construction of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital.

One gets life for killing college girl in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for killing his girlfriend.

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal also fined the convict, Raihan Sharif Sabuj, Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer one year more in jail.

According to the prosecution, Sabuj, owner of a computer shop, at Lalmai Bazar killed his girlfriend Shamima Akhter, a second year student of Comilla Law College, at his shop on April 14, 2003 as Shamima asked him to marry.

Victim's brother filed a murder case with Kotwali thana against Sabuj.

After examining the records and witnesses, judge Nirmal Kanti Chowdhury, found Sabuj guilty and handed down the punishment.

IBA graduation tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

The Graduation Ceremony for the 9th BBA and 37th MBA batches of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of the University Dhaka will be held at 4:00 pm tomorrow at the TSC auditorium.

A total of 55 BBA and 143 students will be graduated this year, says a DU press release.

Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz will be the chief guest and will distribute certificates among the graduates.

Ms Hua Du, the Country Director of the Asian Development Bank for Bangladesh, will attend it as the guest of honor while Sanjiv Mehta, Managing Director, Unilever Bangladesh Limited, will be the graduation guest.

Prof Ittekkar Ghani Chowdhury, Director, IBA, University of Dhaka will preside.

Couple donate Tk 5 lakh to cancer hospital

Anwarul Islam, a retired officer of then East Pakistan Civil Service, and his wife Begum Dilrus Islam have donated Tk 5 lakh in cheque for the establishment of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH), which is in progress now at Uttara Model Town in the city, says a press release.

Begum Islam handed over the cheque for the amount to President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (Dam) Kazi Rafiqul Alam's office at Dhanmondi.

As recognition of the donation, one of the beds of the general ward of the Hospital will be named after Dr M Daneshuddin and Begum Azizunnesa, parents and in-laws of Mr and Mrs Islam.

On receiving the cheque Dam president thanked the couple and expressed his conviction that with the continued support of the benevolent people, construction of the Hospital will be completed in scheduled three-year period.