

'More coordination needed to combat HIV/AIDS'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day workshop on 'HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming at NGOs in Bangladesh' began in the city yesterday with a view to combating HIV/AIDS in a coordinated way to yield better results.

Around 17 organisations including Brac, HKI Bangladesh, Bela, GUK Gaibandha, Ashrai, GKS Sirajganj, Shakti Foundation and Proshika are taking part in the

workshop at IDB Bhaban.

The aim of the workshop is to realise the disease as a reality of life and its link to gender and poverty including its impact on individual, familial and community life.

Implemented by HASAB and supported by Oxfam Novib, the workshop will also discuss global as well as Bangladesh situation of HIV/AIDS.

It will also impart practical knowledge on the prevention and

control of HIV/AIDS and how to integrate this knowledge with the existing programmes of NGOs besides undertaking a coordinated and mutual supportive effort to combat the disease.

HASAB Executive Director Nazneen Akhter said though activities have been going on since last 15 years to combat HIV/AIDS, it needs more coordination among the organisations and the government.

"We are talking about stigmati-

sation and human rights issues of those living with HIV/AIDS which was not seen in the case of people affected with Leprosy or Tuberculosis," said Prof Nazrul Islam, chairperson of the executive committee of Hasab and chairman of virology department of Bangabandhu Shiekh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Terming it a positive sign, he said people's mindset has also been changed by this time.

Line Director of National AIDS and STD Programme (NASP) Dr SM Mustafa Anwar spoke at the inaugural session as chief guest

while NASP Programme Manager Dr Hanif Uddin, Country Coordinator of UNAIDS Bangladesh Dan Odallo, Country Director of Family Health International Robert James Kelly, and Country Director of Terre des Hommes-Netherlands Mahmudul Kabir spoke as special guests.

At the workshop, experts presented papers on 'HIV and AIDS: Global and National Scenario and its Impact', 'Gender and Human Rights in HIV/AIDS Perspective' and 'Case Study Analysis on Gender and Human Rights in HIV/AIDS Perspective'.

Gaibandha road crash kills one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A rickshawpuller was killed and two others were injured when a speedy truck dashed his rickshaw from behind at Dhanghara on Gaibandha-Palashbari highway yesterday.

Police said the rickshaw skidded off the road, leaving Nurul Islam, 45, a rickshawpuller and inhabitant of village Ramchandrapur under Gaibandha Sadar upazila dead on the spot and two passengers injured seriously. The injured were rushed to hospital.

AMCH gets Tk 29.66 lakh in donation in April

Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) has received about Tk 29.66 lakh as donation in April, says a press release.

The donors are Nizam-uddin Ahmed (Tk 20 lakh), Prof MA Sobhan (Tk five lakh), Dr Md Abdul Bashar, Feroza Mahmud and an anonymous person (Tk one lakh each), Nazneen Elahi (Tk 60000), Nazma Islam (Tk 50000), Yasmine Shakur and Afroza Haider (Tk 10000 each in the names of late Noor Ali Mollick, late Karimunnessa & late Alhaj Dr

Anwar Ali Mollick), Mabud Hossain and Savitri D Persand (Tk 7000), Umme Saima and Eng AJSM Khaled (Tk 5000 each), Halima Begum (Tk 4000), Tasneem Towhid (Tk 3000) and Nusrat Parveen (Tk 2000).

Meanwhile, construction work of the 500-bed hospital is going on in full swing at Uttara in the city.

Slab casting of the two basements and eight floors, including the ground floor have been completed while the work for the eighth floor is progressing fast.