

Raise social awareness to fight gender violence

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for increasing social awareness to combat gender violence.

They said violence due to gender difference is unacceptable under all circumstances.

The seminar titled 'Gender, household and social dynamics and its linkages to maternal health and low birth weight in Bangladesh and India' was organised by ICDDR,B in collaboration with the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) at Mohakhali in the city.

Speakers at the seminar stressed the need for disseminating the messages targeting the adolescent girls, as they will be the mothers in future.

Dr Ruchira Tabassum Naved of ICDDR,B along with five researchers from India and the USA presented their research papers at the seminar.

They spoke on health service behaviour, care and support, trade-off in education versus marriage among married adolescent girls, experience of physical violence, food intake and maternal care in newly married female adolescents and their relationship with low-birth-weight infants in Bangladesh and India.

Dr Ruchira said in rural Bangladesh many unmarried adolescent girls obtain healthcare through traditional providers than trained health providers.

She suggested formal healthcare services for adolescent girls.

Dr Ruchira said as the girls are not educated properly and become mother in their adolescent period, they are not much aware of their health and the foetus.

Study findings suggested that guidelines from health providers and international agencies should promote more specific recommendation about food intake, appropriate weight gain, workload and rest during pregnancy.

Manisha Khan of the Institute of Health Management, Pachod (IHMP) said newly married adolescents experience three patterns of physical violence. They experience the violence immediately after the marriage, during pregnancy and after the birth of a child, she added.

The findings also suggested interventions to prevent violence at the community level.

Dr Alka Barua of the Foundation for Research in Health Systems (FRHS), Dr Kavita Sethuraman and Saranga Jain of ICRW also spoke on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Parts of the ceiling of a dormitory for women students of Chittagong Medical College break off and fall to the bed of a student on Wednesday night. The student, however, escaped unhurt as she was not in her bed at that time.

Shrimp trader shot by muggers in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Armed snatchers shot a shrimp trader and looted Tk 2 lakh from his possession in the port city's Saraipara area on Port Connecting Road yesterday afternoon.

The injured Abdul Malek, 22, son of Abdul Aziz of village Betakhali at Shyamnagar in Satkhira district, was a shrimp trader of city's Olonkar Intersection.

Sources said Malek along with his fellow Golam Mostafa drew Tk 2 lakh from the Agrabad branch of Agrani Bank and hired a CNG-run autorickshaw to take them to Olonkar Intersection.

When the autorickshaw reached a place near Green View Residential Area on Port Connecting Road at around 2:00pm, nine armed snatchers in three CNG-run autorickshaws intercepted them.

As they victims tried to resist, the snatchers opened fire and made away with the cash.

Malek was shot in his right leg and was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CNCH), sources said.