

Monitor income generating schemes for ultra poor

Speakers tell PKSF seminar

Speakers at a seminar Tuesday laid emphasis on strong monitoring system to the income generating schemes for the ultra poor (poorest of the poor), funded by the micro-finance institutions (MFIs), for their sustainability in the development programme, says a press release.

As the ultra poor belong to a vulnerable group, only financial and technical supports for their employment generation schemes are not enough, consecutive monitoring is a must, they added.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) organised the seminar titled "Innovative Programmes for Ultra Poor" in Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city on the occasion of the five-day Micro-credit Fair 2008.

Presided over by PKSF Deputy General Manager Jashimuddin, the seminar was addressed by Sharif Ahmed Chowdhury and Jebun Nahar of PKSF former secretary

Maksud Ali, Mahbulul Islam Khan of CARE, Shagorika Indu of Brac and Prof Selim Rashid of the University of Illinois, USA.

Sharif Ahmed said technical and financial support to the ultra poor are not enough; proper monitoring to their projects in the post-investment period is very imperative for their sustainability in the schemes.

Suggesting setting up of small poultry and livestock farms, he said MFIs and concerned agencies will have to ensure market linkage for the products of the ultra poor so that they can get fair prices.

PKSF is working to set up goat breeding centres in the 'monga'-affected areas of the northern districts so that the ultra poor can involve themselves with income generating schemes for their development, Sharif Ahmed added.

Mahbulul Islam said the income generation schemes of the ultra poor should be brought under monitoring

for their sustainability.

The PKSF and MFIs should undertake those schemes which can overcome the risk factors for them, he added.

He suggested MFIs to encourage the poor to take homestead-based income generating schemes instead of field-based works which will reduce the risk.

Former secretary Maksud Ali said the government and concerned public and private agencies will have to ensure proper money and resources circulation to the poor for the country's balanced economic growth.

"As around 40 percent people are living under the poverty line, money and resources circulation to this bulk population is a must for the economic growth," he said.

Salim Rashid said MFIs should also work in ensuring housing for the ultra poor for their active participation in development activities.



US Ambassador James F Moriarty calls on Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

We need co-fighters to curb corruption

Says ACC boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Hasan Mashud Chowdhury yesterday said we need co-fighters to curb corruption in the society.

The more the co-fighters will help us, the better we will be able to root out corruption from all sectors, he said this while distributing prizes among the winners of competitions at local Mominunnesa Government Women's College auditorium as chief

guest.

He further said we should work collectively to wipe out corruption from the society as the future of the present generation is under great threat due to widespread corruption. He called on the students to make the anti-corruption slogans effective.

The programmes included an anti-corruption oath for students, essay writing, extempore speech, cartoon and debate competitions.

Earlier, the ACC chairman led an anti-corruption rally that started from the local Circuit House ground

and paraded the town.

Around 30 thousand people, including a large number of students from different educational institutions, lawyers, businessmen, journalists and NGO workers joined the rally with banners, festoons and placards. Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman was present at the programme as the special guest with Principal of the college Faruk Ahmed in the chair.

Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Vice Chancellor Dr Mosharrar Hossain Miah, ACC Director Abu Taleb Miah, Divisional Director Major Md Maksudur Rahman and Concerned Citizens Committee (CCC) Mymensingh unit Convener Prof Mukarram Hossain and Mymensingh District Corruption Prevention Committee President Advocate Anisur Rahman Khan and Secretary Advocate Firoj Uddin Ahmed were also present.

People in their hundreds including women enjoyed the rally standing on both the sides of the main thoroughfare of the town.

AAA celebrates founding anniversary

The American Alumni Association (AAA) celebrated its 10th founding anniversary on April 25 on its office premises, says a press release.

The anniversary programme began welcoming of the Bangla New Year 1415 by opening of 'Haal Khata' that symbolises taking account of past 10 year's performance and renewal of relationship with its patrons and members for the coming years.

First executive committee (EC) member of AAA Sayeeful Islam opened the programme with current EC President M K Aaref and Secretary Nusrat Aman.

A good number of AAA members, former presidents and secretaries, past EC members and well-wishers participated in the programme. American Centre Director Amy Hart Vrapas and Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) founder Valerie Taylor were also present.

The anniversary programmes included honouring pioneers, remembrances and reflections of past 10 years and handing over crests to the newly joined life members.

The programme ended with a musical show by Rabi Raag and performance by local boulds and dhulis.

Window shade falls on city tin-shed house, woman injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

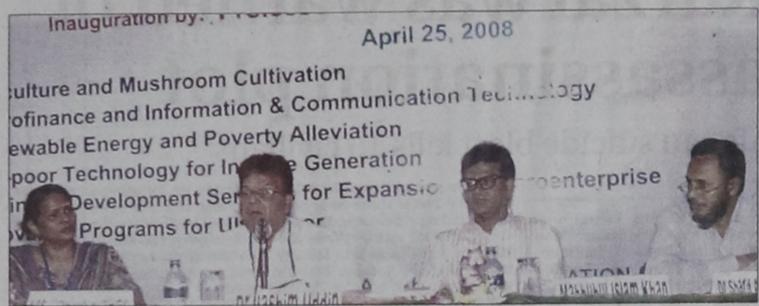
A window shade of an under-construction four-storey building fell on a tin-shed house, leaving an elderly woman injured at Tajmahal Road in the city yesterday.

The injured identified as Rokeya Begum Hamid, 68, was rushed to Chest Disease Hospital at Mohakhali in a critically condition.

Sabiha Afrin, granddaughter of the victim, told The Daily Star that the window shade of the building collapsed at about 8:15am and fell on their tin-shed house and damaged it.

"Rokeya received serious injuries in her chest, backbone, hands and legs as she was working inside the house", Sabiha said, adding that earlier an iron-rod was also fell on their house from the building.

She alleged that the building was being constructed without any protection and the owner did not take any measure despite repeated request in this regard.



PKSF Deputy General Manager Jashimuddin speaks at a seminar titled "Innovative Programmes for Ultra Poor" at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday on the occasion of the five-day Micro-credit Fair 2008. Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation organised the seminar.

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