



Abdur Rob rolls his wheelchair to go around from shop to shop in Motijheel area in the city to sell betel leaves yesterday. An unknown disease left him with paralysed legs some 20 years ago. Instead of being a burden on others, Rob, who hails from Faridganj in Chandpur, struggles to earn a living for his family.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

'Maternity allowance scheme plays major role in poverty cut'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women who are receiving maternity allowance under the government's social safety net have a prominent role in decision-making level in the family, revealed a recent study.

The study also said the nutrition required for safe childbirth are being fulfilled.

The number of mothers visiting clinics has also increased as well as the number of pregnant women receiving vaccines, it added.

Conducted on a random sample of 104 extremely poor pregnant women both under the government social safety net of maternity allowance and mothers not receiving the allowance, the study concluded that the maternity allowance scheme would play a major role in eliminating poverty.

Carried out by researchers at Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DORP), the result of the study was revealed at a discussion at the National Press Club yesterday.

The study showed that around 13 percent mothers receiving allowance did heavy work during pregnancy while 83 percent mothers who were not under the social safety net were engaged in heavy work during pregnancy, he added.

DORP Secretary General AHM Nouman said, "We have to make the poor self-sufficient to fulfil the vision 2021."

"We need to put more focus on Public Poor Partnership to mobilise the resources and establish a discrimination-free society and

bring required changes to the lives of the mothers and the newborns," he added.

Lauding the project of maternity allowance, the speakers also stressed the need for bringing more poor mothers under its umbrella.

They proposed that 1 crore mothers can be brought under the social security net in a 20-year scheme that would be possible with an investment of Tk 1,00,000,000.

Speaking as the chief guest, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Ministry Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury said the project has made a notable impact on the overall picture of poverty in its first year.

She added that the government will bring more beneficiaries under the safety net.

Bangladesh Economic Association President Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, lawmaker Advocate Junayed Ahmed Palak, DORP adviser and former additional secretary Abdul Halim, chief reporter of the Daily Jugantor Rafiqul Islam Ratan and Research Director Unnayan Shamannay Prof Tayebur Rahman also spoke.

The government in 2007-08 fiscal set a target of providing 15 expecting mothers of every union with maternity allowance and thus covering some 45,000 mothers from 3,000 unions across the country.

Under the Women and Children Affairs Ministry-led programme, each mother has been receiving a monthly allowance of Tk 300 from the government.

25 injured in N'ganj clash

A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

At least 25 people were injured in a clash between two groups at Chaitonkanda village used to tease Parveen Akhter Khadija, 15, daughter of Hafizuddin of the same village. The two groups had an altercation over the matter yesterday morning. At one stage the two groups locked in clash with lethal weapons.

A relative of Shafiuddin of Chaitonkanda village used to tease Parveen Akhter Khadija, 15, daughter of Hafizuddin of the same village. The two groups had an altercation over the matter yesterday morning. At one stage the two groups locked in clash with lethal weapons.

In the clash, 25 people, including Shafiuddin and Hafizuddin, were injured. The injured were treated at Arahazar health complex.

Police arrested two persons - Nasir and Majeda - in this connection.

Check soaring prices of essentials

Oli urges PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government would lose public support if it fails to improve the deteriorating law and order situation, control soaring prices of essentials and revive jeopardising economy, said Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Col (retd) Oli Ahmed yesterday.

Speaking at a discussion marking the third anniversary of LDP at the auditorium of the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the city, Oli said the law and order situation is deteriorating while the prices of different essen-

tial commodities are soaring.

"Extortion and tender manipulation are going on rampantly in the country. I urge the prime minister to take immediate steps to stop this," he added.

Oli created LDP coming out of BNP on October 26, 2006 alleging that most of the ministers of the then BNP-led government were involved in corruption.

Rejecting different media reports that he would join BNP once again, Oli said he held no meeting with BNP leaders about rejoining the party, rather many BNP leaders

are waiting for joining the LDP.

"It is my good luck that I was not in the cabinet of BNP-led government, otherwise I would have to land in jail with thieves," said the LDP president.

Oli also urged the prime minister to take immediate steps for the welfare of the migrant workers and strengthening the diplomatic activities.

LDP Secretary General Prof Jahanara Begum, presidium members Syed Didar Bakht and Redwan Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

Mobile help desk at Savar Health Complex

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Youth Engagement and Support (YES) group of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday provided general people with necessary information and consultation on different issues by setting up a mobile help desk at Savar Upazila Health Complex.

Sachetan Nagorik Committee, Savar is implementing the project in association with TIB, Savar office.

The YES members provided over hundred people with information about the hospital's free services, how to get passport, process to sell and buy lands, free health and education services, process to file a general diary (GD), land registration and mutation process, recover the land from procoachers, how to apply for credit or loan from bank or NGO and marriage, divorce and labor law related information.



Members of Youth Engagement and Support (YES) group of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday provided general people with necessary information and consultation on different issues by setting up a mobile help desk at Savar Upazila Health Complex.

PHOTO COURTESY

Chinese team calls on air chief

METRO DESK

Chinese PLA National Defence University (NDU) delegation led by its Vice President Lt General Wang Chaotian called on Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman at Air Headquarters, Dhaka Cantonment, yesterday, says an ISPR press release.

During their meeting air chief said, "We honour and respect of our relations with China." He also appreciated the Chinese cooperation in development of Bangladesh Air Force with gratitude.

General Chaotian said that Chinese cooperation in developing Bangladesh Air Force would continue in future also.

Later, Chinese delegates were briefed on different activities of Bangladesh Air Force.



Chinese PLA National Defence University Vice President Lt General Wang Chaotian calls on Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman at Air Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

PHOTO: ISPR

Protest against death threat to student leaders

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri (BCM) yesterday staged a demonstration on Dhaka University (DU) campus protesting death threat to four student leaders, including president of Chhatra Moitri.

An unidentified quarter has issued a death threat through a letter against BCM President Rafiqul Islam Sujan, JSD-Chhatra League President Hossain Ahmed Tafsir, Bangladesh Chhatra Union President Khan Asaduzzaman Masum and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front President Fakhruddin Kabir Atique.

Caterer of Madhu's Canteen on the campus Arun Dey received the letter on Sunday.

Leaders and activists of BCM brought out a procession and held rally on the campus at noon. From the rally, BCM leaders expressed grave concern and demanded security to the four student leaders.

They blamed fundamentalists for sending the threat.

They also demanded that all activities of communal groups and fundamentalists would be declared ban in the country.

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Dairy farm fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court in an anti-adulteration drive yesterday fined Tk 1.25 lakh to a dairy product farm at Adabor in the city for producing and marketing processed milks illegally.

The court accompanied by Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutes (BSTI) officials fined Gram-Bangla Dairy and Milk Product at PC Culture Housing Society Tk 1 lakh for producing and marketing processed milk using fake BSTI seal and Tk 25,000 for not having price label on its products.

Mohammadpur School alumni assoc executives

DU CORRESPONDENT

Nasim Mahmud and Golam Sarwar were selected president and general secretary of the alumni association of Mohammadpur Govt High School, says a press release.

They were selected at a meeting of the association on October 23. The meeting also selected Maj (retd) Dr Zia Uddin Mahmud as its treasurer.

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